



Audubon Leaves

A Publication of the South Bend - Elkhart Audubon Society

September 2023

Volume 75, Number 6

Serving St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties Since 1944

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

[Bruce Cates](#), Program Chair

Our September membership meeting is on Sunday, September 10th at 2:00 p.m. at Rum Village Park's nature center in South Bend. Our speaker will be Mr. Alex Bazán. Alex is a Sustainability Project Manager for the City of South Bend within the Department of Community Investment. He started working for the City of South Bend in January 2022. Alex grew up in northwest Indiana. He has studied various aspects of sustainability, earning an undergraduate degree from Purdue University and two Master's degrees from the University of Michigan. As a Sustainability Project Manager, Alex manages various programs and initiatives which assist nonprofits to complete energy efficiency and solar projects. He is also leading the city's first Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment and will touch on recent public workshops involving this assessment. We hope you'll join us to hear Alex discuss what South Bend is doing to promote sustainability.

Want to recycle your Styrofoam?

**If you have excess polystyrene
(the kind used in packaging, not for food),
bring it to our meetings so our members can
transport it to a company that will
recycle it.**

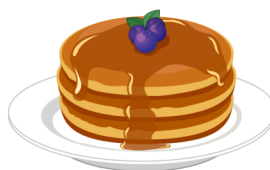
SANCTUARY WORK DAY

[Doug and Heidi Gray](#), Sanctuary Co-Chairs

In preparation for our Labor Day Pancake Breakfast on September 4th, we'll have a work day at the Sanctuary to clean the summer quarters and trim the trails. We'll meet on Saturday, September 2nd, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. If the cleaning and trimming get done early, we'll head out and remove some invasive plants. Tools and supplies for working are available, but if you prefer to bring your own gloves or loppers, please do. Refreshments will be provided. Dress for the weather and working outside.

LABOR DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST, SEPTEMBER 4, 2023

[Doug and Heidi Gray](#), Sanctuary Co-Chairs



The last days of summer are here and with it comes our last holiday pancake breakfast of the season.

Come join us at the Sanctuary (59395 Clover Road, Mishawaka) on Monday, September 4th, from 7:30 to 10:00 a.m. for the Labor Day Pancake Breakfast. We'll be serving plain, blueberry, and pecan pancakes. Top them off with butter and syrup. Coffee, tea, and milk will help wash them down. Afterwards, stretch your legs with a stroll along the trails. Autumn is in the air and meals taste so much better outside. So, bring your family and friends to enjoy some pancakes. Don't forget to bring a table service for each of you. Pancakes are free, but a good will offering is appreciated.

***Volunteers are needed for this event. If you would like to help with set-up and/or serving pancakes, please contact Heidi or Doug at sanctuary@sbeaudubon.org.



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 2 Sanctuary Work Day, 8:30 AM
- 4 Labor Day Pancake Breakfast at the Sanctuary, 7:30 AM
- 9 Field Trip to Potato Creek State Park, 8 AM
- 10 Membership Meeting and Program at Rum Village Nature Center, 2 PM
- 13 Meet the Naturalist at the Sanctuary, 6 PM
- 13 October *Audubon Leaves* Articles Due

Check www.sbeaudubon.org and our Facebook page for field trip announcements, updates, and cancelations.

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP

[Carol Goodall](#), *Field Trip Chair*

Join us on September 9th at 8:00 a.m. at Potato Creek State Park, 25601 IN 4 in North Liberty, Indiana to look for fall migrants.

Where to meet:

After entering the park, take a left past the gatehouse and continue on the main road to the first right at the sign for Deer Meadows Picnic Area. Go straight on this road past the restroom and we will gather in this parking area. There is a gate fee to get into the park.

Dropped pin:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/DqC48XGtDzLrKaEg7>

Wear appropriate clothing for the weather and comfortable shoes. Walking will be flat but we may walk in some wet grass.

Bring insect repellent, water, and binoculars (if you have them). I will have extra binoculars if you don't have your own.

You need not be a member to attend our field trips and they are free. All are welcome.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

[Jude Keltner](#), *Membership Chair*

We welcome the following new and returning members:

Duane Anderson, Anna M. Anderson, Berkey Family, William B. Berry, Jay Bowers Jr., Thomas Brainerd, Marlene Brown, Susan Chiappetta, Linda Evans, Danny K. Gann, Laura Happ, Mary A. Hardy, Andrea Harness, Elizabeth Hesburgh, Sandra Hite, Timothy Hittle, Kathy Horn, Jerald Janicki, Stacie Jeffers, Kathleen Kish, Patrick Lee, Debra Ludlow, Bob Mayernick, Terry Meredith, Keith Miller, Sandra Miller, Deborah Mixell, James Rubleske, Julie Seese, Sheila Sheridan, Ruth Sinclair, Monica Tetzlaff, Joan Walter, William Wigoda, Theodore Yost, Leslie Zegiob, and Olive Ziegert.

We look forward to seeing you at an activity soon. See the calendar in this newsletter and also check our Facebook page for updates.

Should you have any questions about your membership, please email us at membership@sbeaudubon.org. If you would like to renew your South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society membership online, you can do so at www.sbeaudubon.org.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

[Tai Gunter](#), *President*

We currently have two open positions on our Board in need of volunteers. Volunteering with SBEAS allows us to further our mission of conservation in our region while working alongside other passionate people who care about birds as much as you do.

The Sanctuary Chair position entails overseeing the upkeep of our wildlife sanctuary property. Responsibilities encompass various maintenance tasks, including leading sanctuary work days with other volunteers, hosting pancake breakfasts, managing the removal of invasive species, and ensuring the sanctuary's grounds remain well-maintained through snow removal and mowing. This position could be split between a couple of volunteers.

The Red Barn Sale Chair position involves coordinating the logistics of our annual "Red Barn" rummage sale. This annual event raises money for the Society through the sale of donations from our membership. Duties include volunteer coordination, overseeing donation management in the lead-up to the sale, and managing the sale's operations on the designated day.

Each of these positions is well supported by the rest of our Board and other volunteers that have helped out over the years. They offer a unique opportunity to help out the Society and work with others who share your passion for birds. If you have any questions about the positions or you are interested in volunteering, please contact me at tai.gunter@sbeaudubon.org.

MEET THE NATURALIST

[Carol Goodall](#), *Field Trip Chair*

Take a mid-week nature break! Join me on September 13th at 6:00 p.m. for a relaxing walk around our wildlife sanctuary. You never know what interesting things we might find. Our wildlife sanctuary is located at 59395 Clover Rd., Mishawaka, Indiana.

REMINDER:

SANCTUARY WORK DAY



**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 2, 2023,
8:30 A.M.**



**SOUTH BEND-ELKHART AUDUBON SOCIETY
2023-2024 DIRECTORY**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND VOTING CHAIRS

Position	Officer	Phone	Email Address
President	Tai Gunter	(574) 453-6475	tai.gunter@sbeaudubon.org
Vice President	Carol Goodall	(574) 276-7249	fieldtrips@sbeaudubon.org
Secretary	John Bentley	(574) 289-3932	secretary@sbeaudubon.org
Treasurer	Martha Kummerer	(574) 360-7983	treasurer@sbeaudubon.org
Past President	Heidi Gray	(574) 339-2675	heidi.gray@sbeaudubon.org
Director-2024	Vicky Rydzynski	(574) 315-1877	vicky.rydzynski@sbeaudubon.org
Director-2024	Jeet Raval	(778) 594-4073	jeet.raval@sbeaudubon.org
Director-2025	Becky Parker	(574) 229-8091	rebecca.parker@sbeaudubon.org
Director-2025	Jim Fuehrmeyer	(574) 440-4378	jim.fuehrmeyer@sbeaudubon.org
Director-2026	Mark Gidley	(574) 780-0889	mark.gidley@sbeaudubon.org
Director-2026	Lindsay Grossmann	(574) 807-4443	lindsay.grossmann@sbeaudubon.org
Conservation	Jen Betz	(810) 986-6990	jen.betz@sbeaudubon.org
Editor "Leaves"	Scott/Lindsay Namestnik	(574) 656-3511	leaves@sbeaudubon.org
Education	Melissa Gunter	(574) 371-6282	education@sbeaudubon.org
Membership	Jude Keltner	(574) 276-6348	membership@sbeaudubon.org
Sanctuary	Open		

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Position	Chair	Email Address
Christmas Count - St. Joseph County	Lindsay Grossmann	lindsay.grossmann@sbeaudubon.org
Christmas Count - Elkhart County	Ronda DeCaire	rdecaire@elkhartcounty.com
Bendix Meadows	Trice Berkeley	cellistharpsichordist@yahoo.ca
Field Trips	Carol Goodall	fieldtrips@sbeaudubon.org
Programs	Bruce Cates	bruce.cates@sbeaudubon.org
Hospitality	Alice Bentley	abentley@nd.edu
Publicity/Social Media	Carol Goodall	fieldtrips@sbeaudubon.org
Website	Jeet Raval	jeet.raval@sbeaudubon.org
Endowment	Vicky Rydzynski	vicky.rydzynski@sbeaudubon.org
Red Barn Sale	Open	
SBEAS Website	www.sbeaudubon.org	
SBEAS Facebook	www.facebook.com/SouthBendElkhartAudubon/	
SBEAS Mailing Address	P.O. Box 581 Mishawaka IN 46546	
SBEAS Wildlife Sanctuary Address*	59395 Clover Road, Mishawaka, IN 46544	

*A key is needed to enter except during scheduled events.

**SOUTH BEND-ELKHART AUDUBON SOCIETY
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: 2023-2024**

Month	Date/Day	Time	Event	Location	
September	2	Saturday	8:30-noon	Sanctuary Work Day	SBEAS Sanctuary
	4	Monday	7:30-10 am	Labor Day Pancake Breakfast	SBEAS Sanctuary
	10	Sunday	2:00 pm	Membership Meeting & Program	Rum Village Nature Center
	13	Wednesday		October <i>Audubon Leaves</i> Articles Due	
October	7	Saturday	9am-noon	Sanctuary Work Day	SBEAS Sanctuary
	8	Sunday	1:00 pm	Board Meeting	Rum Village Nature Center
	8	Sunday	2:00 pm	Membership Meeting & Program	Rum Village Nature Center
	11	Wednesday		November <i>Audubon Leaves</i> Articles Due	
November	11	Saturday	9am-noon	Sanctuary Work Day	SBEAS Sanctuary
	12	Sunday	1:00 pm	Board Meeting	Elkhart Conservation Club
	12	Sunday	2:00 pm	Membership Meeting & Program	Elkhart Conservation Club
	15	Wednesday		December/January <i>Leaves</i> Articles Due	
December	2	Saturday	2:00 pm	Budget & Board Meeting	Gunter Home
	10	Sunday	1:00 pm	Potluck, Meeting & Slide Show	Elkhart Conservation Club
	16	Saturday		Christmas Bird Count	St. Joseph County
	30	Saturday		Christmas Bird Count	Elkhart County
January	14	Sunday	1:00 pm	Board Meeting	Rum Village Nature Center
	14	Sunday	2:00 pm	Membership Meeting & Program	Rum Village Nature Center
	17	Wednesday		February <i>Audubon Leaves</i> Articles Due	
February	11	Sunday	1:00 pm	Board Meeting	Rum Village Nature Center
	11	Sunday	2:00 pm	Membership Meeting & Program	Rum Village Nature Center
	14	Wednesday		March <i>Audubon Leaves</i> Articles Due	
	16-19			Great Backyard Bird Count	
March	9	Saturday	9am-noon	Sanctuary Work Day	SBEAS Sanctuary
	10	Sunday	1:00 pm	Board Meeting	Elkhart Conservation Club
	10	Sunday	2:00 pm	Membership Meeting & Program	Elkhart Conservation Club
	13	Wednesday		April <i>Audubon Leaves</i> Articles Due	
April	13	Saturday	8:30-noon	Sanctuary Work Day	SBEAS Sanctuary
	14	Sunday	1:00 pm	Board Meeting	Rum Village Nature Center
	14	Sunday	2:00 pm	Election, Membership, & Program	Rum Village Nature Center
	17	Wednesday		May <i>Audubon Leaves</i> Articles Due	
	TBD	Saturday	8:00-1:00	Red Barn Sale	St. Patrick's County Park
May	16-19			Indiana Dunes Birding Festival	Indiana Dunes State Park
	15	Wednesday		Summer <i>Audubon Leaves</i> Due	
	25	Saturday	8am-noon	Sanctuary Work Day	SBEAS Sanctuary
	27	Monday	7:30-10 am	Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast	SBEAS Sanctuary
June	29	Saturday	8am-noon	Sanctuary Work Day	SBEAS Sanctuary
July	4	Thursday	7:30-10 am	4 th of July Pancake Breakfast	SBEAS Sanctuary

Please check our website or Facebook page for information about monthly field trips.

PHOTO QUIZ!

There were three correct responses to the Summer photo quiz. The winner was Timothy Clark II, who correctly identified the bird in the Summer *Audubon Leaves* as a Blue Grosbeak. Timothy was awarded a \$20 gift card to the South Bend Farmer's Market. Congratulations, Timothy! Read about the Blue Grosbeak in the article to the right.



© Dmitry Mozzherin

The September *Audubon Leaves* Photo Quiz is shown above. All correct answers will be entered in a drawing, and the winner will receive a \$20 gift card. Send responses along with your mailing address to Leaves@sbeaudubon.org with PHOTO QUIZ in the subject line. You can also send a response in the mail to:

Lindsay and Scott Namestnik
26568 SR 4
North Liberty, Indiana 46554

Good luck!

BLUE GROSBEAK (*PASSERINA CAERULEA*)

[Lindsay Grossmann](#)

Perhaps the best description of the Blue Grosbeak is a "jumbo-sized Indigo Bunting." The males are mostly blue, but have an orangy-brown pair of wingbars. The females are primarily brown, but also sport the large triangular-shaped bill that is responsible for half the bird's name.

Blue Grosbeaks are mostly a southern species, but are expanding their range northward where there is suitable habitat. They prefer old fields and forest edges - where you'll find a mixture of grasses, shrubs, and occasional trees. There they forage on a mixture of invertebrates and seeds. They'll often perch up high to sing their warbly song. Their population could be deemed "uncommon" but stable and they can be found reliably in certain areas around the state. In our area, places to look include Beverly Crone and Boot Lake. They will be leaving shortly for their overwintering grounds in Central America and the Caribbean.

Source:

Cornell University, All About Birds, accessed online 10 August 2023. https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/blue_grosbeak.

For those of you not on Facebook, to view pictures of our recent events, you may visit our Facebook page via the internet at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthBendElkhartAudubon/>.

For those of you on Facebook please like our page: South Bend Elkhart Audubon.

Follow us on Instagram [@sbeaudubon](#).

NEW OR RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP FORM: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY OR CHAPTER ONLY

(For a renewal, only include your address if it has changed)

NAME: _____
FULL ADDRESS: _____

____ I want to join or renew my membership in National Audubon Society. I will receive the AUDUBON magazine plus membership in the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society. Make check payable to National Audubon Society for \$20.00.

____ I want to join or renew my membership in the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society only. Make check payable to South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society for \$20.00 (all the money goes to our local Society). I will not receive the AUDUBON magazine.

All memberships will receive the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society newsletter, *Audubon Leaves*. Please send the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society newsletter by:

____ mail _____ email _____ email address _____

Can we contact you via email when necessary (such as to notify you of meeting cancellations)? _____ yes _____ no

MAIL THIS FORM AND CHECK TO: SBEAS MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, PO BOX 581, MISHAWAKA, IN 46546.

Audubon Leaves

South Bend - Elkhart Audubon Society
Membership Chair - Jude Keltner
PO Box 581
Mishawaka, Indiana 46546

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South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Officers

President: Tai Gunter

(574) 453-6475

Vice President: Carol Goodall

(574) 276-7249

Editor: Lindsay and Scott Namestnik

(574) 656-3511

Membership: Jude Keltner

(574) 276-6348

The South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society publishes the *Audubon Leaves*

nine times a year: February, March, April, May, Summer, September, October, November, and December-January. Comments and members' articles are welcome; deadline for the October issue is **September 13th**. Send comments or articles to:

Lindsay and Scott Namestnik
26568 State Road 4
North Liberty, Indiana 46554;

or email to: Leaves@sbeaudubon.org.

GO PAPERLESS!

E-subscribe to the *Audubon Leaves*
at Leaves@sbeaudubon.org.

Include your present mailing address,
and put "Leaves" in the subject line.

We'll do the rest!

The South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society is on the web at www.sbeaudubon.org



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FOR THE
PLANET