
THE GOLDFINCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DAVIESS COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY

JANUARY 2005

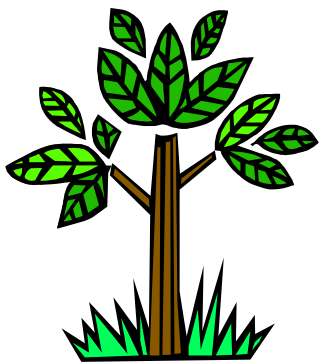
MEETINGS EACH 2ND MONDAY SEPTEMBER THRU JUNE

AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 7TH & J.R. MILLER BOULEVARD

PLANT A TREE. YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT WILL GROW

The speaker for our January meeting had no idea back in 2001 what an enormous impact he would have on our Audubon chapter when he oversaw the planting of some tree seedlings in Ohio County. It was after Tornado 2000 hit Owensboro, under the auspices of RSVP, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, that *Breathe Easy* recruited Tim Crowell, a forester, to coach seniors and children about how to pot and plant tiny trees in nursery-type settings all around the Owensboro area. Crowell's expertise and enthusiasm was sorely needed after the baby trees were potted and the pots were sunk into the ground.

He taught legions of senior volunteers, some with absolutely no gardening skills, how to care for the young trees until they grew large enough to transplant around the region. Like ripples on a pond, one person after another became involved in an ever-widening circle of environmental education efforts.



One of the tree nurseries planted under Tim Crowell's tutelage was at Wayland Alexander Elementary School in Hartford. It was there during the tending of the tiny trees by a Master Gardener that the idea was born to set up a trail of nest boxes around the school grounds' perimeter. Very soon the nest boxes were attracting Eastern Bluebirds, and another idea was born. DCAS installed two nest box cameras and was blessed when a pair of Bluebirds chose one of the camera boxes as home to two broods in 2004.

700 students and staff watched on their TV monitors as Blueboy and his missus raised their babies. Daviess County Audubon Society is now installing another nest cam at Southern Elementary in Cromwell where Classroom Birdwatch is in its infancy.... and all this began with Tim Crowell's 50 seedlings in the nursery tucked away at the back edge of the Wayland campus. Several were mowed down but some grew into nest cams. What a difference a tree makes!

Jim Bryan, a forester who joined the forestry service in August, will join Crowell in presenting the program. Meet them both at the MoonLite at 5:30 PM before the meeting to "talk trees".

www.daviessaudubon.org

Adversity Brings out The Birds & The Birders

The horrors on the television screen showing hundreds of cars and tractor trailers stranded by the snow last week was in diametrical contrast to the scenes that many of us saw outside our windows. THE BIRDS WERE MARVELOUS. Some of us ran out of black oil sunflower seed before we could dig out to restock. More than one of us counted a dozen or more Purple Finches at one feeder. It was a winter wonderland for our pet cats as well as they gazed through the windows for hour after hour almost mesmerized by all the activity around the feeders.



Tyson, Doralee St. Clair's indoor cat, was in Seventh Heaven with the blizzard's birds for hours of entertainment.

The weather for the CBC this year was extremely mild, overcast, and nothing like the state of emergency that was in place just a week before when over a foot of snow crippled thousands. Seventeen people turned out to count birds this year.

We lost Brenda and Tony Eaden, two of our CBC volunteer bird counters this year when Tony's dad, Cecil, passed away shortly before the big day of the Christmas Bird Count. Then on the eve of the count, President Rob Rold took an ambulance ride to the hospital with a very serious attack of Diverticulitis; almost a déjà vu of 6 months prior when we feared for his life. We feared that we would not be able to entice the minimum 10 people that are required for the National Audubon Society to accept count results.

There are clubs that invite only "good birders", people with rather advanced skills to participate in the Christmas Bird Count. That is not the philosophy in our chapter. We invite everyone. If someone wants to participate, but feels inadequate in identifying a lot of birds or birdcalls, then we just place them with a team where the skills are stronger. We also encourage people to join us to help with all the support services such as food, driving, compiling and such that are vital to the success of the effort.

The Christmas Bird Count is a great deal of fun. For several of us, it just would not be Christmas without the Christmas Bird Count. Of the 17 counters who volunteered this year, only 3, Joe Ford, Janet Howard and Joyce Porter, had worked with the CBC farther back than about 5 years ago. That is a clear indication that we need new people all the time.

Thanks, from our hearts, stomachs, and bladders go to Mike and Sherry Henshaw for opening their home to us as a staging and refueling area. 30 muddy feet would not be welcome in a lot of homes. Sherry cooks soup, chili, cookies and cake for the hungry hordes, Oh! Boy! Does she!

Calendar of Events

Monday, January 10th

Jim Bryan and Tim Crowell will present a program about forestry projects at Green River and Pennyriple State Forests. There is a half hour social hour beginning at 7 PM and the program begins at 7:30.

Saturday, the 15th

Ken Hurm will lead a field trip to the Saurheber Slough near Henderson for viewing winter waterfowl. The target birds are the Tundra Swans that have been in residence there for several weeks. Meet at the GRADD parking lot, next to the Joe Ford Center, at 9 AM to carpool or caravan. Anyone wishing to meet the group closer to the Slough should contact Charles Morris at 270-926-8803 also wanderingtattler@yahoo.com , Brenda Little littlefizgig@starband.net , or Ken Hurm 270-389-2533 or khurm@adelphia.net to arrange to be picked-up at the Henderson Community College's parking lot closest to the traffic light.

It's Time to Schedule Time for Schedule A

During the next couple of weeks we will be sending written acknowledgements and thank you's to the generous people who have made donations to our club during 2004. Without their gifts we would be unable to sponsor many of the educational programs we offer at no charge to the public. If you provided refreshments for the meetings last year, our Treasurer, Charles Morris will provide you with a written statement so that you may deduct your non-cash donation to the group on Schedule A of the 1040 Personal Income Tax Form. We value the food, drinks, and serving pieces for each meeting at \$50. Remember that you may also deduct your mileage to and from the meeting, the grocery, and any other related shopping in your preparations of the refreshments. Don't forget to list food brought to the CBC.

Also remember to list the use you made of your personal automobile for the benefit of our chapter. For example if you attended a Director's meeting, drove to pick-up supplies at the Joe Ford Center, to pick-up a check from the Treasurer, volunteered at the Christmas Bird Count, or any such travel, those miles driven are deductible at the rate of \$.12 per mile, plus any toll or parking fees you paid. If you incur costs to clean your vehicle after using it for an outing such as providing transportation for a field trip, that too is deductible. Think about the supplies such as paper and crayons that you provided for educational programs as you make your list of non-cash donations. Audubon people are among the most generous on earth, but they tend to forget or simply not to realize the value of their non-cash donations to our organization. Also deductible are:

**Collectible Stamps donated to: Audubon National Center for Birds of Prey
1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL 32751.
Phone 407-644-01**

We're Selling Real Estate

KENTUCKY FOUR SEASON BLUEBIRD NESTBOX
\$20 EACH

FEATURES OF THIS NESTBOX BUILT BY BILL FREELS ARE:

1. Large roof overhang for shade
2. White fiberglass roof over wood roof for protection from heat and rain
3. Drip edge routed under roof overhang for rain runoff diversion
4. Good interior height for air circulation
5. Large adjustable vents that open & close
6. 4" X 5.5" floor to avoid overcrowding chicks
7. Large corner floor openings for a clean & dry nest.

Box will be displayed at the meeting January 10th.

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The Daviess County Audubon Society
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*Printed on
100% post-consumer
recycled paper*

Please check the address label above to determine the expiration date of your membership. To renew your membership, please send a check for \$10 to Charles Morris, Treasurer 1400 Woodbridge Trail, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301. Include this page with your check so that your old address label can be used to update your newsletter subscription which is part of your local membership dues. Thank you.

No longer does a portion of the dues you pay to the National Audubon Society either as a new member or as a renewing member come to our chapter. Therefore we strongly urge you first to keep your membership current on the local level and then if you wish you may renew your membership in The National Audubon Society as well. Our chapter is actively conducting fundraisers to maintain our treasury, but we need the income of local dues in order to finance the printing and mailing of The Goldfinch. Thank you.

Officers 2003-2005

President	Rob Rold 684-3209
Vice President	Carolyn Williams 683-5863
2 nd Vice President	Steve Hahus
Secretary/Treasurer	Charles Morris
