
THE GOLDFINCH

DAVIESS COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY'S NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2005

MEETINGS 2ND MONDAYS SEPT-JUNE AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 7TH & J.R. MILLER BLVD

GREAT THINGS IN SMALL PACKAGES



The hobby of gardening runs neck and neck in popularity with interest in bird watching. Whether it is a half whiskey barrel planted with tomatoes or marigolds, or a quarter-acre back killer, gardening is marvelous. March 14th's program will feature Jim Glover of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture speaking about gardening, the kind that almost anyone with a patio, balcony, or window box can do. His topic will be *Gardening by the Square Foot*. Everyone is welcome to meet Jim for a no-host supper at the MoonLite at 5:30 before the meeting.

March Field Trip

The Saturday before Easter is planned for the chapter's first wildflower walk/field trip this year. It is possible that there will be some early migrating birds waiting out there as a fringe benefit of the outing. We will meet at the GRADD parking lot next to the Joe Ford Nature Center at 9 AM on the 26th to carpool and caravan to Audubon State Park in Henderson, KY. Anyone who wishes may meet our group at the park entrance between 9:45 and 10:00 AM. The staff at the park is marking a map to show us where they have seen the early bloomers. As is our field trip tradition, the weather will determine whether we picnic outdoors or head for Shoney's breakfast buffet around noon.

Sometime between now and March 18th, both the House and the Senate are expected to vote on the U.S. budget. Congressional leaders plan to sneak drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge into the budget in spite of the public outcry against it a few years ago. Let's tell them again

<http://SaveArcticRefuge.org>

How Was It?

Great Backyard Bird Count 2005

From 9 to 90, people of all ages are exuberant about GBBC!



The first report came from Beattyville, KY where Bert Powell began early on day # 1, February 18th, to take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count. There, seated in the warmth of the sunroom where he and Millie watch birds at their feeders, Bert began to make marks on the tally sheet that his daughter, Bonnie, downloaded and printed for him. At days end, Bonnie brought Bert the early returns from areas of the state that are vivid in the memory of this lifelong bird watcher. Bert poured over the numbers wondering who might be those first two people to submit their counts from Owensboro? Why had no one from

Maceo, his old home place, not yet turned-in any reports? Why were there so few House finches being reported this year? The veteran birder relished taking part in this massive annual citizen science project through the 4th and final day of the Great Backyard Bird Count on Monday. Bird watching never grows old.

The next report came-in from Ms. Lellie's 5th graders at Wayland Alexander Elementary in Hartford, KY. The weather cooperated with her lesson plan to use the GBBC as an avian pep rally

The children and their faculty leaders were high as kites as they shouted their favorite sighting: "**We saw Bluebirds!**" It appears that Ms. Lellie's idea about using the GBBC as a springboard really worked.

Rose Ann Radzelovage had an impromptu visit from her neighbors, a mom and the youngsters that she home-schools, during her tallying of the birds feeding and flitting around her patio and backyard. It was hard for Rose Ann to decide whether she was happier about the 22 species she was able to identify in such

Rob Rold, the President of Daviess County Audubon Society, is recuperating at home following major surgery last month to remove a section of his intestinal tract that was making him seriously ill with diverticulitis. Throughout all the pain, the IV's, and the needles, Rob maintained a good attitude. He took the teasing that Daviess County Audubon Society members sent his way very well and only shied away when he feared that he might start to laugh and therefore double over in pain. He and Durinda send their thanks to everyone who cheered Rob along the path to better health. He's on the way to being hale and hearty once again.

oving teacher felt after reading 4 entire class groups outside over the rolling hills of their school grounds to count birds.

It appears that those who took part greatly enjoyed the experience. This program has something for everyone, young and old, skilled and not.

Church. 7:00 PM Happy Half Hour with Refreshments. 7:30 PM Jim Glover Presents Square Foot Gardening

Saturday 11 AM-2 PM March 19th
Kentucky Audubon Council will meet at Nolan Electric Co-op on Ring Road in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Plans are to announce Kentucky's first Important Bird Area. Lunch will be

It's time to **brush the collie** and hang a mesh bag of her hair on a limb for the birds to use in lining their nests.

It's time to **fly a red flag** or put out the pot of artificial poinsettias to catch the eye of the



GET

SEE

BAAAAA!



Brrrrd Box Trail

About 50 fourth graders at Southern Elementary School, located south of Beaver Dam, installed a trail of 6 nest boxes around their campus on February 25th. The youngsters selected the location for each box by following majority opinion about the best placement for the health and safety of cavity-nesting birds, by using a compass, and by stepping-off a distance of 75 to 100 meters between boxes.

The students cooperated beautifully with the task of pounding the metal post supports into the ground by assigning the roles of placing the post driver over the top of the post, holding the post straight, and counting the rhythm of the boom, boom, boom until the post was secure and ready for another youthful team to wire the box in place. The teachers and mentor from Daviess County Audubon Society just stood back and watched the future environmentalists go at it. What a sight! Now it is up to the birds to look over the real estate.

www.daviessaudubon.org

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