
THE GOLDFINCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DAVIESS COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2004

MEETINGS EACH 2ND MONDAY SEPTEMBER THRU JUNE
AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 7TH & J.R. MILLER BOULEVARD

DAVID ROEMER WILL SPEAK AT THE NOVEMBER 8TH MEETING

THE FOLLOWING EXCERPTS WRITTEN BY JAMES NOLD, JR. ARE
REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM *KENTUCKY LIVING MAGAZINE* JUNE 2003.

A TRIM, VITAL 48-YEAR-OLD, ROEMER IS A CAPTAIN IN THE BOWLING GREEN FIRE DEPARTMENT; BEFORE THAT, HE WAS A TAXIDERMIST; BEFORE THAT, HE RAN A BOWLING GREEN RECORD SHOP. HE PLAYS GUITAR AND MANDOLIN IN A BLUEGRASS GROUP CALLED THE LOWDOWN PESKY BUZZARDS. AND HE RANKS AS THE ONE OF THE STATE'S CHAMPION BIRD-WATCHERS.

ROEMER BIRDED 200 DAYS LAST YEAR, AND DROVE 80,000 MILES--INSIDE KENTUCKY. OF KENTUCKY'S 363 BIRDS, ROEMER SAW 299 OF THEM IN 2002. "IT WOULD BE 301," HE SAYS, "BUT I COULDN'T GET DEFINITIVE LOOKS ON TWO OF THEM." ("IT TOOK ME 20 YEARS TO SEE THAT MANY," PALMER-BALL TOLD A JANUARY MEETING OF LOUISVILLE'S BECKHAM BIRD CLUB.)

EACH YEAR, BIRDERS VIE ON THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY (KOS) WEB SITE TO SEE WHO HAS SEEN THE MOST BIRDS THAT YEAR. "DAVE ALWAYS WINS--IT'S NOT A FAIR COMPETITION WITH DAVE OUT THERE," LAUGHS WEB MASTER RITCHISON. "EVERYBODY ELSE IS COMPETING FOR SECOND PLACE." (ROEMER RANKS SECOND ON THE KOS KENTUCKY LIFE LISTS, WITH 330 TO PALMER-BALL'S 335.)

ROEMER HAS LIKED BIRDS SINCE HE WAS A TODDLER, WHEN HE'D RUN AT A FLOCK OF MALLARDS ON HIS GRANDPARENT'S FARM TO WATCH THEM FLY. HE STARTED BIRDING SERIOUSLY, HE SAYS, WHEN HE WAS 7 YEARS OLD AND AN AUNT GAVE HIM AN EXTREMELY POWERFUL ZEISS BINOCULAR. FOR THE PAST SEVEN OR EIGHT YEARS, HOWEVER, HE'S SPENT MORE TIME PURSUING RARE BIRDS--IN PARTICULAR, ONES THAT HAVEN'T BEEN SEEN BEFORE IN KENTUCKY.

HE HAS RECORDED SEVERAL FIRSTS FOR THE STATE--THE FIRST KENTUCKY SIGHTING OF A LITTLE GULL, THE WORLD'S SMALLEST GULL; A PAIR OF SOOTY TERNS, A TROPICAL SPECIES TYPICALLY FOUND IN THE DRY TORTUGAS, WHICH HAD BLOWN IN WITH THE REMNANTS OF HURRICANE LILY; AND A LONG-BILLED MURRELET, A RELATIVE OF THE PUFFIN, WHICH HE OBSERVED LAST OCTOBER AT THE WATER TOWER IN LOUISVILLE. THE BIRD MAKES ITS HOME MUCH FARTHER NORTH.

"YOU JUST CAN'T DESCRIBE IT, SEEING A BIRD FROM SIBERIA," HE SAYS, CHUCKLING AND BACKHANDING MY FOREARM. "THAT BIRD WAS FROM *SIBERIA!*" "FOR ONE OF THOSE, YOU BIRD-WATCH A WHOLE YEAR--MAYBE EVEN SEVERAL YEARS," SAYS PALMER-BALL. "SOMETHING LIKE THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN FOR A LONG TIME." BUT THE CHARACTERISTIC BIRDER BEHAVIOR IS WHAT ROEMER DID NEXT: HE CALLED A FELLOW BIRDER, WHO PUT THE WORD OUT ON BIRDKY, AND SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE CAME FROM SEVERAL STATES TO SEE IT.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO A NO-HOST SUPPER WITH THE SPEAKER AT 5:30 PM AT THE MOONLITE BEFORE THE MEETING.

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The Daviess County Audubon Society
306 Hoover Hill Road
Hartford, KY 42347-9522

The Goldfinch
November 2004

November Field Trip

At the November meeting, we will discuss plans for our outing to Steve Anderson's farm. The farm is located on Highway 81 near Calhoun, KY (just across the road from the offices of Kentucky Dept. of Fish & Wildlife).

The field trip is expected to be on a Sunday afternoon, likely from 2 to 4 PM. Steve has made a great effort to enhance the natural habitat for birds on the acreage surrounding his home. He will lead us to some of his favorite bird watching spots and will show us where he did and what he did to attract birds to his property.

If you are unable to attend the meeting on Monday the 8th when the exact details of day and time will be decided, you may contact Field Trip Chairman, Charles Morris at 926-8803 or wanderingtattler@yahoo.com

Even though Steve's farm is not far from Owensboro, anyone is welcome to share a ride.

