
THE GOLDFINCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DAVIESS COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2004

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

The Magic of Hummingbirds

If you have a conflict with our meeting time on October 11th, Monday night at 7 o'clock, then scratch whatever it is that might cause you to skip this program. Sharon Sorenson is a nature columnist with the Evansville Courier and Press. She will cross the river to present a program to our club about Hummingbird's. Kentucky's summer resident, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird will be the species featured in the program. However some rarities and a first hummer sighting in Evansville this year will also be described for us. The 'hummer' is fascinating in and of itself and Ms. Sorenson uses marvelous photography and graphics in her presentation to add even more intrigue to this flying jewel.

You can do a kindness for your friends and neighbors by inviting them to join you at the meeting. Everyone loves watching the antics of hummingbirds. The more you know about this beautiful bird the more you can enjoy its fascinating behaviors.



Everyone is invited to have one-on-one time with the speaker at the Moonlite before the meeting. We are hosting Ms. Sorenson at 5:30 PM and you are welcome to gather with friends and our guest.

OCTOBER 22ND-23RD TRIP

Plans for visiting Mammoth Cave National Park are like a create-your-own field trip. Each of us can decide what activities appeal and which ones do not. Each of us can choose the day of the trip and the duration. Michelle Webber, a botanist who spoke to our club last March, will lead the trip. Activities will begin on Friday afternoon at Maple Springs Research Center where there is very affordable lodging to accommodate up to 12 people with bunk beds, kitchen and bathroom facilities. October 22nd, Friday afternoon and evening will offer free time for birding, cave touring, as well as discussion of Saturday's activities. Saturday morning beginning about 8 AM we can work with volunteers and interns from Western Kentucky University in native seed gathering and prairie restoration. Each individual is free to do no work, watch the others, go birding, go caving, or sleep-in. Anybody who does not like this field trip just doesn't like anything because there is something for everybody. Car Pool/caravan will depart from OCC's south lot at noon the 22nd. Driving directions will be posted on our Website, will be handed out at the monthly meeting, and more information can be provided by Charles Morris, Field Trip Chair by phone 926-8803 or

wanderingtattler@yahoo.com

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Toiletology 101

2000 Flushing Cha chings!

It started mysteriously. Usually heard late, late at night. Water was running somewhere in the house while the family snoozed away. Finally, it happened coincidentally before dawn while one of them was half asleep, but semi-conscious, on a trip to the bedroom bath. Still, all that registered was a, 'That's strange? Why is water running?'

The water bill did not show anything out of the ordinary for several months. By that time, the sound of running water was being heard during the day maybe when one of them was brushing his teeth or the other was putting away clean linens in the bedroom adjacent to the bath. Again, 'That's really strange? Maybe it's the ice maker in the kitchen?' vaguely registered in the homeowners' minds.

With time, the running water was heard frequently, once while the commode was being cleaned. That time there was an, 'Aha! so **that** is where the water is running, but why?' By this time the water bills were showing a higher than normal usage and the two incidents were linked in the minds of the homeowners. A decision was made to turn off the water supply to the commode while a do-it-yourself repair VS a call to the plumber was thought through.

The family fixer of things decided to research the problem on a handy Website,

www.repairclinic.com

This Website had served her well with advice about how to repair the refrigerator leak by unstopping the defrost drain herself and how to get their paper shredder replaced because thousands of them had defective sensors.

www.repairclinic.com linked the family fixer to an article about the corrosive nature of in-tank sterilization tablets. You know, the 2000 Flushes type of chemical cake that slowly dissolves in the tank and "keeps cleaning

every flush". What the manufacturer of cake of chemicals doesn't tell the consumer is that it is quite likely eating up the mechanisms that operate the flushing and filling of the toilet's tank, such as the flapper and the seal. Toiletology 101's Website describes *Vacation Syndrome* as what happens when a commode is not flushed daily. The chemicals leaching into the water day after day make the potency so strong that the rubber and plastic parts such as the flapper melt away and the toilet leaks. This website also recommends that this kind of cleaning not be used because it is dangerous to pets that sneak drinks out of the chemical-laced bowl and also because they give a false sense of sanitization.

If the consumer would just stop to think, he never touches where the water sets in the bowl. So the chlorine that flushes out of the tank into the bowl doesn't touch a lot of the areas where germs are the worst. The truth is that to sanitize a toilet, the cleaning solution must set on the surfaces, inside and out, for 10 full minutes. The water level has to be lowered in the bowl and then brushed/rinsed after the cleaner has had time to work. Nothing that is put into the tank can do this sanitizing.

A lot of the need for cleaning inside a toilet bowl is to loosen the build-up of minerals from hard water and scale. There is nothing that takes care of this build-up better than regular brushing of the bowl's interior and up under the rim. A general purpose cleaner works just fine.

Many chemicals are harmful, often deadly, to birds and other wildlife as well as flappers. It takes some time to learn how to use the least harmful which usually are the least expensive. The end result is a house that is just as clean, or cleaner, a wallet that is a bit fatter, a healthier pet, less wasted water and a flapper that lives to flap another day.

October Calendar

Friday & Saturday 1st & 2nd
10 AM to 2 PM Western Kentucky
Botanical Garden Fall Festival at 25 Carter
Road

Monday 7 PM October 11th
Monthly meeting featuring Sharon Sorenson
and Hummingbirds

Wednesday October 13th
9AM-2PM Birding 101 for Deer Park
Elementary School at the Powell Bird
Viewing Blind

Saturday October 16th
Beginning Birding for Families of
Owensboro Christian Church.
2 to 5 PM at Powell Bird Blind, Pennyroyal
Girl Scout Camp.

Date? Time? For Ben Hawes
Count Contact Steve Hahus or Rob Rold

Monday October 18th
Beginning Birding with the Boy
Scout Bears at St. Pius X 6:30PM

Friday &/or Saturday 22-23rd
Field trip to Mammoth Cave for caving,
hiking, birding, native plant volunteer work,
all or none of the above.

Friday October 29th
9 Am to 2 PM Beginning Birding for Deer
Park Elementary Students at the Powell Bird
Bird Viewing Blind



Brescia's Birders

8 hardy Vertebrate Biology students along with Professor Conrad Toepfer threw back the covers and left their nice soft beds to join Mary Kissel and Carolyn Williams early one day in late September for a birding study along the GreenBelt Park near Highway 231. This was the first opportunity that our club's education committee has had for interaction with college level students. It was a red-letter day for us when Dr. Toepfer phoned to ask if we might have someone to assist with his class **if he could talk any of them into such an early morning outing.**

For some young adults a class such as this is their first exposure to birding except for their notice of the loudest, brightest colored, and those that make a mess on their cars.

Some students know right away how much their lives have been enriched by exposure to the wonderful world of Ornithology. For others it might be many years before the realization of the impact hits home. Whenever or if ever, Daviess County Audubon Society is grateful to have the chance to expand our education outreach to another age group. For us education is from the cradle to the grave, and it is fun almost every day in between.

The Daviess County Audubon Society
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