

April 2012



# The Goldfinch

Daviess County  
Audubon Society

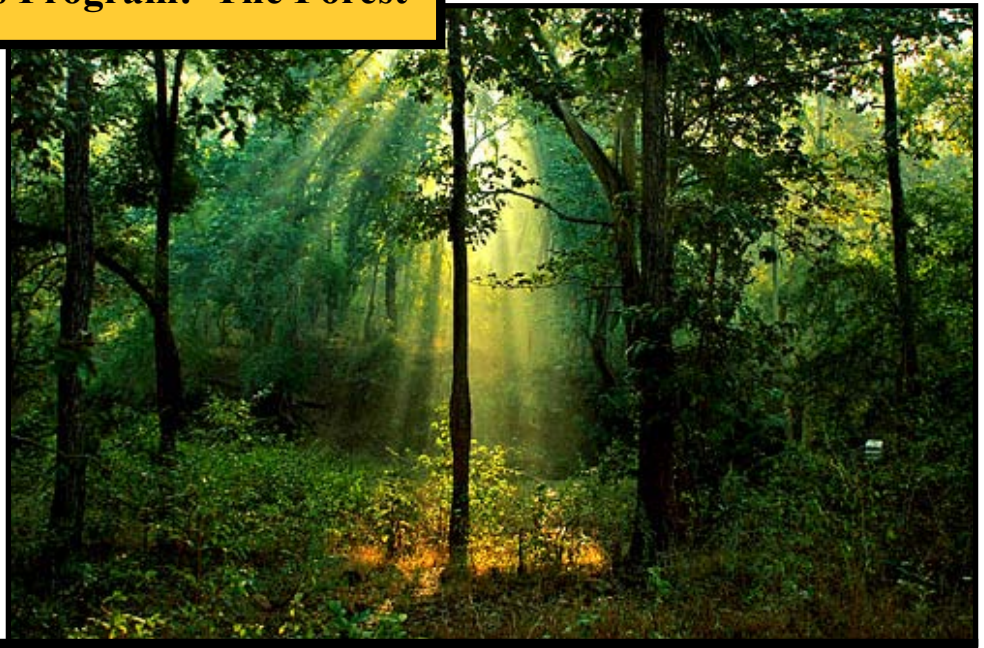
www.daviessaudubon.net

## HOW HEALTHY ARE OUR FORESTS?

Is it time for a check-up? We've all heard about controlled burns, invasive insects, plant diseases, loss of habitat and the effects of air and water pollution. On Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, we'll welcome Brice Leech, Natural Resources specialist for Mammoth Cave National Park. He'll share with us some of the challenges and rewards of his career. He is a graduate of Western Kentucky University (class of '85) and began his park service at Mammoth Cave in 1991, after a stint in the U.S. Navy. He's been back at Mammoth Cave since 2002 and is involved in exotic plants and animals monitoring, early detection, control and eradication of invasive plants and insects, seed banking plant species for future regeneration, water collection and analysis, bird monitoring, monitoring of chestnut and butternut trees and lady slipper orchids! And if that's not enough to keep him busy, he assists with fire management, prairie reintroduction and maintains a database of abandoned oil wells in the park!

Bring those questions you've always wanted to ask about the impact of healthy forests and the costs/benefits to our personal and national ecosystems. And don't forget to join Brice and his wife at "Supper with the Speaker" at Moon-lite BBQ at 5:30...we promise that if you pace yourself at the buffet, you'll be finished in plenty of time for the meeting.

### April's Program: The Forest



## TEAM PROVIDES A "TASTE OF COSTA RICA"

The ten DCAS travelers provided both the program and the refreshments for our March meeting...and a good time was had by all. We sampled gallo pinto (the Costa Rican beans and rice staple), fresh fruits and juices, banana bread, salsa and Costa Rican coffee. The power point presentation represented 47 of the 146 bird species that were spotted during the January 2012 eight night trip. From the Costa Rican national bird (Clay Colored Robin) to the Resplendant Quetzal with its "streamers"

(uppertail coverts) extending up to 30 inches and a variety of hummingbirds and tanagers, the photography was impressive. Bob Adams' and Tony Eaden's videos added to the presentation. Still shots were culled from over 2000 images taken by the team. They'll miss their Saturday morning work sessions now that the presentation is complete and are already fantasizing about another trip! It was good to see so many faces new to DCAS in the crowd and we hope that these folks liked what they saw and will join us for more programs and field trips.

### March's Calendar:

**Apr. 3rd-** DCAS meeting: 7 p.m., First Christian Church

(- Don't forget-- at 5:30 p.m., "Moonlite supper with the speaker" where that evening's speaker, guests and audubon members meet at the Moonlite to eat, talk, and eat some more.)

**Apr. 5-** Work day at Girl scout Camp

**Apr. 14-** Field Trip to Perry County, IN

**Apr. 23rd-** DCAS Board Meeting, 11:30, Judy's House

# WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY

by Robbie Williams

Here's what Mother Goose can tell us about the importance of the Wetlands becoming part of Audubon State Park with handicap accessible features:

Sunday afternoon along Stratman Road, we stopped to view the Bald Eagles. There were several other cars at the overlook and we did indeed see one eagle fly into the nest.

While there, there was some movement spotted near a dead tree not too far from the road.



It turned out to be a mother goose sitting on a nest.

*Now for the rest of the story.....*

The goose was spotted and photographed by one of the Audubon Wetlands investors, Will Esche.

Photo taken from electric wheelchair with infrared remote control.

Soil conditions were dry enough to drive an accessible van to the other end of the field.

Eagle returning to nest as seen from the crop field near the Twin Bridges.

Accessible Outdoors..... make experiences like this possible for everyone.

(Robbie Williams is one of the 5 Audubon Wetlands investors who uses his photography hobby to share good news from Henderson, KY)



# IS THIS THE BACKYARD?



Pictured in their beautiful sun room are the 6 cheerful residents of Dogwood Estates located in Beaver Dam, KY where they submitted **THE ONE AND ONLY** list of Beaver Dam birds during the 4-day Great Backyard Bird Count.

## Great Backyard Bird Count Was Gr-r-r-r-eat in Ohio County

Only 2 or 3 people were expected to show-up for DCAS' first sponsored event in Ohio County since our membership territory was expanded. We've provided programs and field trips for Ohio Countians for years, but now we are the local chapter for that very large county with hundreds of birders and nature lovers just south of Owensboro.

There was more fun to be had than simply noticing and counting the birds out on the lawn that Sunday morning. The residents spoke of their favorite birds, how they love the call of the Whip-poor-will, and how natural and easy it is to smile for the camera when doing the Towhee's call, 'Sip your teeeeeaaaaaa'.

A very special participant in this year's GBBC is Ida Magan who is seated to the far right in the photo above. Ida's love of birds is so strong that now, after she has lost her sight, she still loves the sounds, the memories of the beautiful music birds make, and wants a feeder outside the window of her apartment. There is no greater compliment that can be paid to DCAS than Ida's attendance at our first sponsored outreach event in Ohio County. Do you think we should give Ida a gift of a one-year membership?

# It's That Time!



I've had a lot of good volunteer help in my years as Site Manager at Pennyroyal Girl Scout Camp, but there is only one group that has never failed year after year to hang in there, to do whatever needs doing, to roll up their sleeves and Git 'er done! And that group is Daviess County Audubon Society.

Almost every year I've been able to pitch-in and do my share with the needed chores at the Powell Bird Blind even if it meant being a go'er for you all. This year, I think I will only be able to run errands and cheer you on from the sidelines. I broke my ankle the last week of January carrying tables and I am slowly healing. There are chores for all skill and strength levels. Please come and help us get ready for environmental education at summer

1. Leaf blowing from paths, sweeping blind & shelter, and leaves off of roof.
2. Weed eat briars back from paths, path to bird box. Use loppers to cut saplings.
3. Paint pastel highlights on blind's wall relief sculpture, brighten text on signs, paint frogs to look natural colors
4. Level shelf feeder & stabilize. Level free standing shelf feeder. Repair clothesline thistle feeder support.
5. Dip out frog pond, replace leaky liner with new liner, replace rocks and fill pond.
6. Wash windows, remove paint from glass, wash folding chairs.
7. Retrieve borrowed benches and place inside blind.
8. Rebuild brush piles
9. Plant wildflowers
10. Use landscape timbers to build steps down path. Haul wood chips to new steps.
11. Rebuildd brush piles
12. Feed the hungry workers.

If you want to help but cannot make it on the work days with the group, call me, Lisa Leonard, at 929-2642 and I'll set you up with some pre-date chores.

**Thursday April 5th 1 PM**  
**Rain date Sat Apr 7, 10 AM**



# OHIO VALLEY BIRDING FESTIVAL ABOUNDS WITH CHOICES

The schedule for the Ohio Valley Birding Festival is filled with options for birders of every stripe. From a 5:00 A.M. trip to Goose Pond to a more civilized 10:30 A.M. Bluebird Walk with Bob and Judy Peak, there's something for everyone. Just a few of the choices on the menu are:

Sat. April 21

8:00 A.M.\* Inaugural North Cypress Sloughs Bird Walk with Alan Gehret

10:30 A.M. Bluebird Walk with Bob and Judy Peak

1:00 P.M. Birding Cuba with Chuck Mills

Sun. April 22

2:00 P.M. \* Birding 101 with Tim Griffith

4:30 P.M. Hands-on Bird Banding with Scott Kramer

Thur. April 26\* Big Day of Birding 12-14 hours of competitive birding!

Fri. April 27

7:00 A.M.\* Birding the Bottomlands at Patoka River NWR

7:00 P.M. "But That's Not In My Peterson Field Guide" with Alan Gehret

Sat. April 28

10:00-3:30 Family Day at Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve

7:00 P.M. Keynote: The Birds of Cane Ridge and Surrounding Areas with Chuck Mills

This is just a sampling! For details and the full schedule, go to [www.ohiovalleybirdingfestival.org](http://www.ohiovalleybirdingfestival.org), make your choices and support your fellow birding organizations.

\*Preregistration required.

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## URBAN BIRDS

The Urban Girls/Urban Birds program at Girls Inc. is well underway, with two teams helping third grade girls as they sharpen their birding skills through a variety of hands-on activities. Bill and Brenda Little have the Wednesday afternoon class while Mike Henshaw, Carolyn Williams, Lisa Leonard and Judy Adams work a Thursday class. The girls are focusing on the most common birds found in urban areas, such as the American Robin, Northern Cardinal, Carolina Chickadee, Mourning Dove, Rock Pigeon and Blue Jay.

The feeders are up and Girls Inc. is providing seed for the birds while trying to keep ahead of the squirrels! The Master Gardeners have plans to create a more bird-friendly habitat to complement the feeders at the Rolling Heights property. There are a total of about 30 girls participating, learning to use binoculars, identify species by color, size and shape. We hope to top off the program with a Greenbelt Bird Walk on the final day in mid-April.

The Budding Biotech program at Western Kentucky Botanical Garden will begin in April. DCAS is committed to basic birding classes on April 10, 17, and 30th as well as May 4, 7, 8, 9 and 15th. There are six 20 minute sessions with elementary school children each day.

Let Judy Adams know if you can help one of these mornings. The team so far consists of Mary Kissel, Jan Howard, Carolyn Williams, Judy Adams and Ken Hurm. You don't have to be an expert...we can always use an extra pair of hands to give out binoculars, hand out

# BIRDING CLASSES UNDERWAY

Steve Hahus showed us the May apples, and Mike Henshaw found a surprise on the side of the road--- a turtle. It was a beautiful glorious sunny day, perfect for the spring hiking!



## **BEN HAWES WITH HAHUS**

During Daviess County Audubon Society (DCAS) March field trip, Steve Hahus pointed out all the wildflowers along the new hiking trail in Ben Hawes City Park and led the group to spot and listen to the birds in the woods. The DCAS members who joined on the hiking are Brenda and Tony Eaden, Mike Henshaw, Janet Howard, Mary Kissel, Winny Lin, Marilee Thompson, Madeline Oetinger and Carolyn Williams .



# MEMBER PROFILE

**NAME:** Carolyn Williams

**Occupation:** Retired Grade 4-5 Science Teacher

**How Has DCAS Impacted Your Life?** I've made a lot of great friends and I get to be outside, which is one of my favorite things.

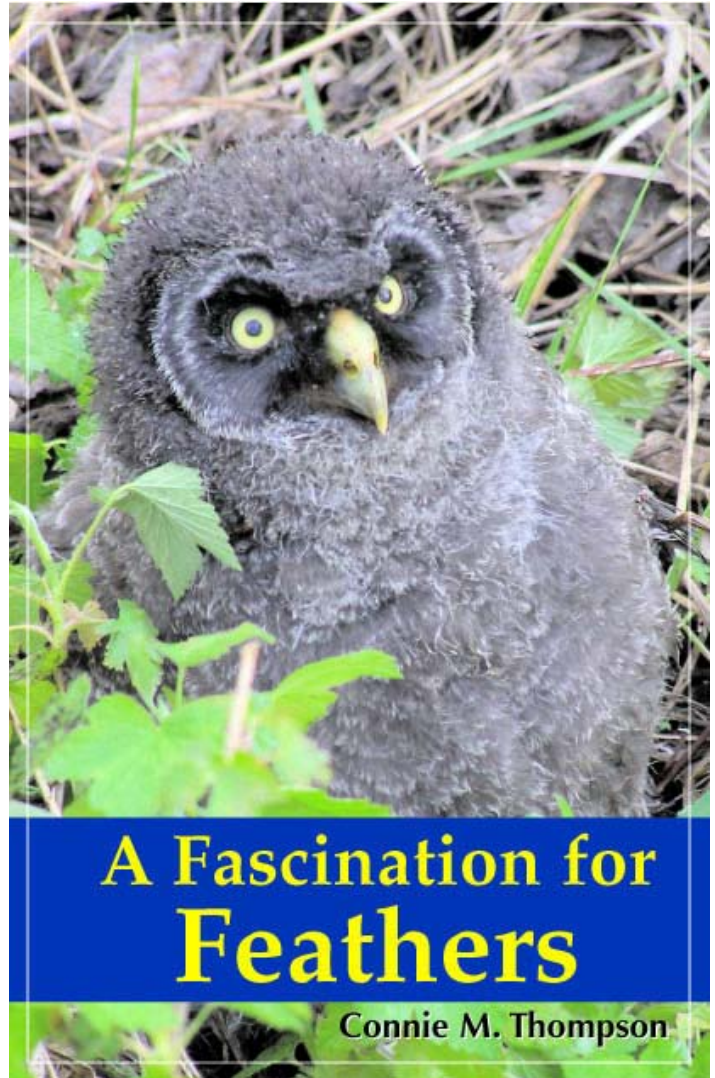
**How Long in DCAS? Current and Past Roles:** I've been in DCAS about 12 years. I've been President a couple of terms and I've been VP, Secretary and Treasurer. Now I'm on the Board of Directors.

**Share your "best bird" and most memorable birding trip.** My husband and I took a cruise to Alaska and saw Willow Ptarmigans, Tufted and Horned Puffins, Black Guillemots and a Gyrfalcon in Denali National Park and lots of Bald Eagles all over Alaska. A trip worth making!

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## BOOK REVIEW

Looking for a bit of spring break or bedtime reading? How about a little something for Mother's Day or Father's Day? This softbound compilation doesn't take up much room in your suitcase or tote, but it provides plenty of birding vignettes to intrigue and entertain. DCAS received two complimentary copies of A Fascination for Feathers by Connie M. Thompson several months ago. You may have read her "Crabby Mom" piece about Sandhill Cranes in the November 2011 Goldfinch. Thompson lives and watches birds in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. She wrote a regular birding column for the local newspaper for several years. She does not claim scientific credentials, but shares her love of wild creatures, especially birds, and her willingness to stop what she's doing to observe and learn.



Thompson covers topics from perches and predator guards on bird houses (Pet Peeves) to trying to drive her truck through two Turkey hens and their twelve poults (Turkey Herding) to de-bunking Hummingbird myths (Hummingbirds Fly South in More Than One Way). There's something here for everyone. A Fascination for Feathers is published by Ridge Road Enterprises and can be ordered through their website [www.ridgeroadenter.com](http://www.ridgeroadenter.com).

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# WE'RE FAMOUS



This picture of our DCAS team can be found on page 44 of the May/June issue of Wildbird magazine (not yet on newsstands).

*We're famous!*



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# FROM THE BACKYARD

*Spring has sprung!* This early warm weather has the rabbits chasing one another across my backyard and the robins dragging nesting material across the deck. It also means that our community education classes at Girls Inc. and the Western KY. Botanical Garden are getting underway. In addition, we have a spring workday scheduled for the Pennyroyal Girl Scout Camp on April 5<sup>th</sup> (rain date April 7<sup>th</sup>). If you can help on any of these projects, call or email me at 344-1391 or [jadams11\\_2008@yahoo.com](mailto:jadams11_2008@yahoo.com) and I will sign you up! Remember, we don't necessarily need experts, but we do need willing workers.

Field trip opportunities abound. Steve Hahus led ten people along the trails of Ben Hawes State Park in March and has offered to lead a group to Perry County, IN in search of spring warblers on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Time and meeting place are yet to be determined, so watch your email. The Ohio Valley Birding Festival has eleven pages of events, some of which are highlighted elsewhere in the Goldfinch. Do plan to mark your calendar for at least some of these programs. There was talk of a group driving to Northern Ohio in May for the Biggest Week in American Birding, but schedule conflicts have disrupted that plan. If you are interested in learning more, go to [www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com](http://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com). Tony Eaden ([eaden1@bellsouth.net](mailto:eaden1@bellsouth.net)) has expressed continued interest in this trip, so maybe some of you can go and share your experiences.

We have had several new members since the first of the year, the Murpheys, Kimseys, Jeff Chambers, Thomas Young, the Mortons and Bob Broddle. Welcome to DCAS! The board is in the process of sending out a mailing to everyone on the roster who is not currently on our email list. We hope that some of these national members will choose to become involved with DCAS. And, if you regularly receive the Goldfinch, but are not a member, please consider sending your check for \$20 to Mike Henshaw, Treasurer at 11201 Fields Rd. S, Utica, KY 42376 and getting involved.

Judy Adams

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