



The Goldfinch

Daviess County
Audubon Society

www.daviessaudubon.net

May Program — *May 14th!* *Remember! at Brescia*

Peabody WMA Bobwhite Researchers to Present:

In 2008 Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) established a plan to restore bobwhite quail and bobwhite habitat across the Bluegrass state. *The Road to Recovery: The Blueprint for Restoring the Northern Bobwhite in Kentucky* is a comprehensive plan with the goals of stabilizing bobwhite quail populations statewide, increasing populations in focus areas and wildlife management areas, increasing statewide recreation related to bobwhite, and generating funding to support bobwhite restoration. One of the key steps outlined in the management plan was establishing bobwhite research in Kentucky and in 2009 KDFWR and the University of Tennessee joined to start a multi-year bobwhite research project on Peabody Wildlife Management Area.

Peabody WMA is comprised of 40,000 acres of reclaimed mined land in western Kentucky. Public lands biologist Eric Williams and the Peabody staff have been using habitat management techniques such as, fallow disking, prescribed fire, woody cover establishment, and native warm-season plantings to promote and maintain the early successional habitat needed by

bobwhite. In total Eric and the staff have managed more than 2000 acres of habitat in the last 4 years!

While the Peabody WMA staff works to maintain and improve bobwhite habitat, graduate students and research technicians from the University of Tennessee work to understand bobwhite survival, productivity, and habitat use on the WMA. Since 2009 over 1500 bobwhite quail have been captured and banded on Peabody WMA with more than 1000 being fitted with a radio collar. Research technicians use radio telemetry to track bobwhite throughout the year giving an insight into the population dynamics and habitat use of bobwhite quail on a reclaimed coal mine.

Fall covey counts have been used on Peabody to estimate the bobwhite population size since 2009. The fall population in 2009 was estimated to be 2481, and 4156 in 2012, a 70% increase in only 3 years!

Bobwhite are not the only species benefiting from management on Peabody. Peabody is also home to many songbirds and raptors dependent on the early successional communities found on Peabody. In the summer along with the distinct whistle of the male bobwhite you will hear Henslow's sparrows, grasshopper sparrows, Bell's vireos, and prairie warblers and in the winter you can watch the acrobatic flight of short-eared owls and northern harriers as they hover over the grasslands.

If you would like to know more about the Peabody WMA Bobwhite Quail Research Project please visit and like the Facebook page. (<https://www.facebook.com/peabody.quail>). And come to the May 14th

DCAS meeting to ask your questions face to face.

**Jarred Brooke and
David Peters**

May Calendar:

No May board Meeting

- May 14, 2013 5:30 Supper with the speaker, Moonlite BBQ, 7:00 DCAS
Meeting at Brescia U. Campus Center
- May 18, 2013 7:30 a.m. Field trip to Beall Woods Moonlite back parking lot
- May 25, 2013 4:30 p.m. Martin Watch at Mike Brown's
- June 1, 2013 Possible field trip to Peabody WMA
- June 4, 2013 4:30 p.m. Picnic and Bird Walk at Pennyroyal Girl Scout Camp

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT KY AMPHIBIANS?

Not much, but more than before listening to Jared Hanley's talk at the April DCAS meeting! Jared, a private lands biologist, reviewed his graduate research, bringing several examples for us to view. The cold spring kept him hoping for a warm -up so that he could gather the zig-zag, marbled and slimy salamanders for his presentation. One of the highlights was Jared's discussion of the Clark River WMA near Murray, KY. Several members expressed interest in exploring that area on foot and by canoe. Thanks, Jared, for an informative program!



Peabody WMA Bobwhite Researchers



The oddities of the bird

The oddities of the bird world were explored as part of Spring Break 2013 at the Owensboro Museum of Science and History. “Say Whaaat? Amazing Facts About Amazing Birds” was presented April 3 by Judy Adams, Laverne Bush, Jan Howard and Mary Kissel.

The PowerPoint presentation took a look at extremes of bird biology and behavior. They were reinforced through a series of stunts performed by children in the audience of about 40. An extra-long tape measure came in handy as kids learned about the 14-foot wingspan of an albatross and the 9-foot height of an ostrich.

Some of these stunts demonstrated how hard it was to be a bird. They had to eat upside down like a flamingo and carry a plastic egg between their feet to mimic parenting skills of a male penguin. They also tried to jump as high as penguins do but fell well short of the 6 feet height. The Audubon team had hoped to have a relay in which children passed sunflower seeds among themselves with tweezers like male and female northern cardinals do with their beaks. However, when the task proved too difficult for the adults to complete, they opted to use Cheerios.

Two girls were blindfolded and had to use their ears to “capture” Phoebe Kissel’s squeaking toy mouse. There also was an eat-off with spaghetti, which stood in for the 14 feet of worms baby robins consume each day.

Other stunts included pecking like a woodpecker, singing the first line of as many songs as they could think of in two minutes, pivoting their heads (almost) like an owl and lifting 15 pounds like a bald eagle can. After the lesson, children were invited to assemble hummingbird craft kits, which included pre-cut foam blossoms attached to a small tube to be filled with nectar.

Preliminary discussions are under way to return to the museum one day this summer as part of the museum’s summer lunch program.



*Where's Ohio from Mexico?
What's with the funny dress, and why is that guy
humming? and what's with the yellow legs?*



Heres the bird list from Saturday's Mammoth Cave field trip:



Cerulean Warbler

Goldfinch

Prothonotary Warbler

Red Eyed Vireo

Nuthatch

BlackThroated Green

Warbler

Chipping Sparrow

Ovenbird

Pileated Woodpecker

Yellow Throated Warbler

Barn Swallow

Blue Jay

Robin

Crow

Parula

Blue Gray Gnatcatcher

Worm Eating Warbler

Scarlet Tanager, male and
female

Black and White Warbler,
Male and female

Common Yellowthroat

Tufted Titmouse

Indigo Bunting

Red bellied Woodpecker

Yellow rump Warbler

Turkey Vulture

American Redstart

Chickadee

Red Shoulder Hawk

Mocking Bird

Starling

Barred Owl



AN EVENING WITH PURPLE MARTINS



what is a mammoth cave, is that Ohio?

On May 25th at 4:30 P:M all are invited to my place in eastern Daviess County to watch the Purple Martins come pouring in for the night in their gourds. I have one of the largest Purple Martin colonies in the entire state of Kentucky and this year I have 96 gourds plus one martin house that will be nearly 100% occupied by martins by the 25th of May. It is an awesome site to see nearly 200 Purple Martins circling, diving, and swarming as they feed on the last few insects before they come zooming in like fighter jets to spend the night in their gourds. Here the Martins live in peace and harmony along with their brothers the Tree Swallow and the Bluebird. Starlings and House Sparrows do not exist here and it is a wonderful thing to have the countryside full of the sights and sounds of American Songbirds only. I strive to keep it that way here and the native birds repay me a thousand times over for the efforts.



The sky here is filled in every direction with Martins as the circles grow tighter and lower as they gather for the night! Eastern Bluebirds wave their wings from the boxes and the fence posts. Tree Swallows dart and dash! Blue Grosbeaks and many others are regulars at the feeders and every species of woodpecker in our area can be seen here at all times of the year. So if you want to see Purple Martins in all their glory and majesty..if you want to see the Kings and Queens of the Wild Blue Yonder do their magic dance in the late evening sky! If you want to see what a real Purple Martin colony is all about, I would be honored to have you all here on the evening of the 25th of May at 4:30 P:M. Most likely there will be young Martins by then also and you can get a firsthand look at the young ones and even hold one if you would like. So in the words of my Dear Departed Grandpa..Ya'll Come on over ya here..My address is 10822 Hwy 662,Lewisport,Ky. My cell is (270)313-3526 if you can't find your way

here. The best way to come is to take Hwy 60 to Hwy 144 out to Hwy 405 at Thruston. Follow Hwy 405 East out past Carpenters Lake to Hwy 662 at Yelvington. Once on Hwy 662 go to the two mile marker and my place is the next house on the right. You will see all the gourds and the martins so it is hard to miss...Looking forward to treating you good folks to some killer Purple Martin watching.

...Mike



May 18th

FIELD TRIP

Bird and Nature Lovers,

As if the Mammoth Cave Cerulean Warbler fix were not enough for those who attended, we have yet another chance to see some a little closer to home. On Saturday May the 18th the Daviess County Audubon Society will be heading to Beall Woods along the banks of the Wabash River in Illinois. Beall Woods is a classic Old Growth Bottomland Forest and it is the kind of forest that used to dominate up and down the Wabash and so many other rivers and streams in our local area. It is home to the increasingly uncommon Cerulean Warbler and the American Redstart is doing well here as a breeder. Of course all the other normal woodland songbirds can be seen here and this forest is full of huge trees that have to be seen to be appreciated.

We will be leaving from Moonlite BarBQ back parking lot at 7:30 A:M May the 18th and traveling caravan style to Beall Woods. For those who live in Indiana or west of Owensboro in Henderson or Madisonville areas, the group coming from Moonlite will be at Eagle Slough Natural Area just North of Ellis Park at 8:20 to 8:30 A:M. From there we will all head up I-164, then Hwy 64 to Mt. Carmel, Illinois and on to Beall Woods State Park. I encourage all who missed out seeing the great views we had of the Cerulean Warbler at Mammoth Cave on April 20th to make sure you come along on this trip. I came through with my guarantee of Ceruleans on the 20th of April and all were pleased, thankfully. I think we have a great chance of seeing them at Beall Woods, plus many other cool forest birds. I will not guarantee Ceruleans this time though, since I have never been there myself, but this forest looks like a wonderful place to do some birding and we should have a great day!

So everyone. clean those binoculars real good! Pack some snacks and come along to see a section of the Wabash River that will take you back in time. A place that is unspoiled and pure. A place that is a reflection of what the great river valleys of western Kentucky, southern Illinois and Indiana used to be before they were destroyed. It is a place where the Cerulean Warbler still preaches his sermon from the high canopy and the Redstarts dart after the many insects that fill the air in the lower levels of the great trees. As a bonus the Least Tern nesting area near the Gibson Power Plant is very near Beall Woods in Indiana. If we have time we can stop there on the way back and see the Terns. We had 16 people on the last trip and it was great. I want to see 26 on this one so ya'll get a good night's sleep and be at Moonlite at 7:30 A:M on the 18th of May!! See ya'll there...

...Mike

FROM THE BACKYARD

It's been a wet and busy spring so far, but that doesn't seem to have deterred DCAS members. We've had some drizzle at the Botanical Garden, but the kids have been amazingly versatile and enthusiastic (not to mention our super volunteers). And we could hardly hear ourselves over the rain during our first session at Girls Inc. last month. Regardless, the kids are learning to appreciate the wonderful world around them. Our new binoculars have really enhanced the experience for them. Many thanks to volunteers Janet Howard, Mike Henshaw, Ken Kurm, Mike Brown, Thelma Newman and Mary Kissel. The WKBG programs will finish on May 1st and Urban Birds will culminate with a visit to the Joe Ford Nature Center on May 9th.

Our field trips continue to have great participation (16 went to Mammoth Cave) and, as you can read elsewhere in this issue, Mike Brown continues to urge us to explore areas a little farther afield. For those who like to stick closer to home, mark your calendar for his "Martin Watch" evening on May 25th. And, speaking of farther afield, we'll eagerly await a full report from our members participating in the Biggest Week in American Birding in Northern Ohio May 5-8. They are the main reason we're delaying our monthly meeting until May 14th. I'm sure they'll be eager to bend our ears!

If our Trash for Cash activity on April 27th gets rained out, mark your calendars for May 4th. We have 6.1 miles of road to clean near Stanley, KY. This is our only bona fide fundraiser and, appropriately, gives back with a cleaner, greener, community.

It's picnic time again! We're trying a change of venue for this activity too. Everyone really enjoyed "hiking for our supper" at the winter picnic, so we will once again travel to the Pennyroyal Girl Scout Camp for our picnic on June 4th. The chapter furnishes the hot dogs and hamburgers, so sign up for sides and desserts at our May meeting. This is also when we have our election of officers, so consider giving back by taking a board position. We really do have fun!



There's a lot going on...be a part of it!

Judy Adams, President

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Where's ohio? What are they looking at?