
THE GOLDFINCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DAVIESS COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY

JUNE 2003

MEETINGS EACH 2ND MONDAY SEPTEMBER THRU JUNE

AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 7TH & J.R. MILLER BOULEVARD

Cozy One Room Nest with 25 Peeping 4th Graders

Bill Freels just knew there had to be a way to take 25 kids into the inner sanctum of an Eastern Bluebird nest box. He put good old American ingenuity to work and came up with a way to hook-up a 4th grade classroom at Heath Elementary School with a pair of Eastern Bluebirds intent on raising a clutch of chicks. The result will keep you on the edge of your seat. It is truly a great day when kids are encouraged to look into a bird's nest by looking up at a TV monitor in their classroom. You really won't want to miss hearing Bill tell us all about it next Monday, June 9th.

As a bonus, you are invited to meet the speaker one-on-one at a no-host dinner at the MoonLite at 5:30 PM before the meeting. If there were more people on earth like Bill Freels, there'd be no government deficit and there'd be a lot of kids who proudly call themselves wing nuts!

The Powell Library Donation

Before the meeting begins next Monday, books that have been donated by Bert and Millie Powell will be displayed on the pool tables in an adjoining room. We will have refreshments in the meeting room, but the books need to be protected from smudges and spills so they will be in a room to themselves. Plan to arrive early to see the generous gift to our chapter of a lifetime collection of very valuable and dearly loved books of the Powell's.

Bird Hike at the Girl Scout Camp is June's Field Trip

Saturday June 7th at 8 AM we will meet at Pennyroyal Girl Scout Camp for our last field trip of the year. Drive south of Owensboro about 7 miles on Highway 231, look for the right side turnoff on Girl Scout Road just past the Pleasant Ridge Volunteer Fire Station. The camp is located about 1 mile off 231; you can't miss it because it is at a dead end. We will gather at the shelter near the Powell Bird Blind to begin the bird walk.

The campgrounds are mostly covered with a deciduous forest on gently hilly ground. The hike will be easy to moderate. There is a lake with a trail that follows its shores.

Similar to the lyric from *The Sound of Music*, the hills of the Girl Scout Camp are alive with more than just birdcalls. There is major construction that you will want to see. If you have not seen our chapter's project from last year, The Powell Bird Blind, you will want to see it. There is a new lodge with a kitchen, meeting rooms, and huge banquet room under construction. At the parking area, there is a new shelter with risers. The place is going gangbusters and still nature is respected and thriving. Feel free to pack a lunch and hang around for a while after our planned 2 hours of birding.

Birdathon 2003

Birdathon Chair, Mary Kissel knows it is too early to report a 'to the penny' account of this year's fundraiser which ended May 18th. However, she reports that again Rob Rold achieved the most species, a corporation matched one birder's pledges, and it's lookin' good.

Election of Officers

And then It's Time for a Summer Break

At our meeting next Monday night, we will elect officers and directors for the 2003-2004 year. We ask officers to serve a two-year term because it takes a while to learn the ropes and because our chapter is only active for 10 months of each year, from September through June. The Directors serve 1, 2 and 3 year terms. The Directors conduct the business of the chapter. The Officers and Committee Chairs plan events, conduct meetings, oversee fundraising, handle publicity, manage the club's funds, recruit volunteers, and direct the chapter's efforts to fulfill its mission in our community, region, state, nation, and the world as a whole.

Mike Henshaw will be ending his two years as our President at the end of June. Mike has not only been a strong leader having put together the best written plan that our chapter has ever had, but he has used his training, knowledge and skills to benefit our group. Mike's position with Kentucky Fish & Wildlife has been another priceless benefit to us. We've had access to high tech equipment and sophisticated display tools that have made our programs have strong impact and have given us a proud appearance publicly. He used satellite mapping equipment to lay out our Christmas Bird Count last year so that we could qualify to submit our census results to the databank at Cornell University along with hundreds of other Audubon Chapters. Mike has been a trooper and has kept smiling when Mother Nature's timing of downpours made our life miserable. He stood for hours under a leaky tent trying to hawk Krispy Kreme doughnuts to people who were only interested in getting in out of the rain. He purchased a tent and manned our booth with the help of his beautiful and charming wife, Sherry, at the almost rained out Apple Festival last year. Sherry has also enhanced Mike's tenure by preparing marvelous buffets and opening their home to our tired bodies and muddy feet.

When the President's term ends, he or she does not simply retire or fade away. He stays on in service as a Director to lend the voice of experience to the Board as they plan and guide the organization forward. The officers we elect next Monday night will have access to those they succeed. Serving as an officer and/or Director of The Audubon Society is a labor of love and there is a strong bond with those who have served our chapter since its formation in the 1960's. It is not uncommon for a newly elected officer to go to someone who served in the past with a question or problem. Usually the inquisitor will see a smile and hear a soft chuckle as the predecessor nods with the understanding of one who has known the same or similar situation. Our past leaders are pure gold to those in the trenches today.

Another thing about the way that Daviess County Audubon Society approaches the election of officers is that we plan for about 5 years ahead. We tapped a person two years ago, in June 2001, whom we expect to take the reins of Presidency in July 2005. That way there is an on-going training and preparation for office and a smooth transition when terms end. No two chapter leaders are alike but they all have the same goal: to share their love of nature through education and recreation.

There is one other type of chapter leader who deserves our admiration and appreciation. That is the person who simply does not want to hold an elected office, but who pitches in and helps with a lot of what we do. These people are our worker bees and we could not do without them. They may never bang a gavel or balance a checkbook, but they carry a part of the weight as we move forward. We absolutely could not do without them and we salute them along with our titled leaders.

This will be your last newsletter for the 2002-2003 year. See you in September.

Summer Calendar of Events

Saturday June 7th 8-10 AM Bird Walk at Pennyroyal Girl Scout Camp

Monday June 9th 7 PM Monthly meeting at First Christian Church. Election of officers for 2003-2004.

Sunday June 15th 2:00 PM Bird Census at Owensboro Community College. We've invited Dr. Robert Rold (aka 'Dad' to Rob) to lead the count in Charles Morris' absence.

Tuesday June 17th

6 PM Covered dish supper at Wesselman Park Shelter House in Evansville. EAS will have elections and then a naturalist will lead a Night Hike for listening for Owl calls.

Monday June 23rd

7 PM Directors' Meeting at the Joe Ford Nature Center

Beginning July 11th *Winged Migration* will be shown at Louisville's Baxter Avenue Cinemas, then **July 18th in Nashville, Tn at Green Hills Theatre and sometime this summer at Stadium 16 in Evansville, IN.**

[See you in September](#)

DNA and it all Started with a Junior Ornithologist

Did you know that the scientist who figured out the mystery of DNA got started with his interest in science as a young ornithologist? His name is James Dewey Watson who earned a PhD in 1950 at Indiana University. He took his love of birds to college where he worked as an associate instructor for an ornithology class while a graduate student at IU. What began with a hobby that is exciting to many of us led to Watson's curiosity about genetics. Watson shared the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1962.

As part of Project Pigeon, teachers use the Rock Dove, aka *flying cockroaches* to some, to teach urban bird watching and data gathering. Like Dr. Watson, the young urban naturalists are fascinated by the genetics that are displayed in the colors and markings of Pigeons. Out there somewhere there is quite likely a youngster who will change the course of history by getting hooked on science and it could, once again, all begin with a kid who loves to watch birds.

When our chapter's education volunteers visited recently at Cravens Elementary, they found it easy to talk with 9 to 12 year old kids. There was excitement in the voices as they proudly asked, "Have you seen our outdoor classroom? We've got a fish [hands held 8" apart] this big, and baby turtles. You oughta go out there if you haven't seen it!" We congratulate Lawana Hodskins, Cravens' lab assistant and the other teachers we've met who are planting seeds in the hearts and minds of kids who will grow up to discover who knows what.

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

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June 2003

June Field Trip is
Next Saturday,
June 7th Details inside

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DCAS New Membership Form Code J 52 Clip and Mail to 306 Hoover Hill Road, Hartford, KY 42347-9522

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

____ I would like to subscribe to paperless membership renewal. Please send me one bill 2 months before my membership expires. 800-274-4201

For new members: ___ Cost to renew a regular membership is \$35 per year. ___ \$15 Seniors & Students

- The cost for a new membership in the Daviess County Audubon Society, (Newsletter subscription
- Kentucky Audubon Council, and is included with
- The National Audubon Society is _____ \$20 per year or _____ \$30 for two years membership)
- _____ Newsletter Subscription \$10 per year _____

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