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# THE GOLDFINCH

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DAVIESS COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAY 2003

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

## Elaine Monroe is Bringing Rehab Birds May 12

There is a special kind of learning that goes with the fun of having an opportunity for hands-on, up close contact with wild critters. Our May program will feature Elaine Monroe of Murray State University who plans to bring some of her not-quite-ready-for-release rehabilitation patients to serve as visual aids during her presentation at our meeting which begins at 7:30 PM.

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. She promises to leave the winged ones in their cages during supper.

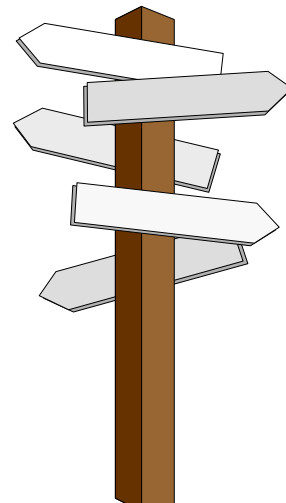
## The Powell Library Donation

Another feature of our May or June meeting will be an exhibit of the library recently donated to our chapter by Bert and Millie Powell. The Lillian Bailey Estate has donated a glass bookcase for the safe keeping of these valuable books. After the case is equipped with locks, the books will be kept at the Joe Ford Nature Center for the use of our members and others who wish to read, study, and peruse the books that have been very dear to the Powell's during the past half century.

## May Field Trip is Prep for June Survey

The trails in the new addition to Ben Hawes Park will be the site of our field trip this month. Eric Williams will lead the hike and will help us to layout the 'stops' for the June Breeding Bird Survey. For several years it has been a goal of our club to take part in the spring census of nesting birds, but we've been hampered by not having access to a large tract of land where we can train bird counters. Now that trails have been cut at the Park, we have a site that we think will meet our needs.

The field trip will start at 9 AM on International Migratory Bird Day, Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the new entrance to Ben Hawes Park, which is on Hwy 60 E.



If you wish to attend the field trip but do not know where to find the park's new entrance, you may park at the picnic shelter near the original entrance to the park and some of our members will come to fetch you to join the rest of the group. Parking is limited at the new entrance. Bring the usual: sturdy shoes, sun block, water, & insect repellent.

# We Hope They Dance

## DCAS Environmental Education 2003

Nine of our members are in the process of resting up after a busy month of environmental education activities. Anyone who thinks that teaching is a cushy job needs to join the volunteers who give their all to educate and entertain as they share their love of birds, bugs, flowers, trees; actually, the entire web of life.

In the past month, our chapter had the opportunity to work and play with the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders from Faust Elementary School as they observed a day outdoors called Nature Day. The site of the outdoor classroom was Owensboro Community College's campus pond environs. The students found animal tracks, bird nests, crayfish 'chimneys', wild flowers, and insect galls as they romped over the hills that are far different from their school grounds and neighborhoods in urban Owensboro.

Mary Kissel provided pencils and notebooks for the students along with small magnifiers for the study of flora and fauna that was found. WalMart gave our chapter a discount on bottled water, which was most welcome to the parched students.

Rachel Wilson's 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade class at

Faust has begun the monitoring of a trail of 5 nest boxes on their school grounds. Our club also put up 5 nest boxes at Audubon Elementary as a memorial to Janet Howard's mother, Catherine Bosley. Both schools have dreams first of attracting birds to nest in the boxes. Then they hope to raise funds for installing a video camera inside one of the boxes so that they can observe the birds from the television monitor in their classroom. The students will need to raise \$300 for a camera

and cable. The Kentucky Bluebird Society has agreed to provide the expertise of 'running the cable' and getting the transmission of images to the school up and running.

Earth Day Celebration for Cravens Elementary students was forced indoors due to rain, but the enthusiasm of faculty and students was hardly dampened. Mary Kissel's audiotape of bird calls broke and so Rhea Ewing read a story to the afternoon class.

Girl Scouts on a weekend retreat at camp studied bird identification by playing bird charades. They were introduced to the Powell Bird Viewing Blind and they got to try Sandhill Crane dancing.

Why do we do all this? As the popular song implores to our children, *when life gives you the choice to sit it out or dance,*

***we hope you dance!***

### A Love Poem to the Environmental Educators

(inspired by Chris Schimmoeller's  
To Activists Everywhere: A Love Letter)

The trees and brush along the ditch fall to the blade of the bulldozer. The birds were already nesting there!

The brush pile burns where house after house will pop up like mushrooms after a spring rain.

Newspaper headlines rejoice at the expansion, 4-lanes, or better yet, 6!, a new bridge crosses acres of river bottoms, another shopping mall, a larger parking lot, tourist dollars, bigger, better, more!

Deafened by the fiscal orgy all around me, I cringe and wonder, 'Will there be a single square inch left?'

All the while, there is you.

You who sit on the grass to show them the lady bug.

You who spend your money to buy supplies so they might love nature the way you do.

You who run the wheels off your car going to schools to speak on behalf of the reptile in peril.

You who let them press their dirty little fingers on the pages of your beloved field guide.

You who make a fool of yourself as you whistle, hop, and contort yourself in imitation of all creatures great and small.

You who dig deep into your bag of tricks when the program outdoors is rained out.

You who roust the salamander from under the rock so they can see the shy one's beauty.

I thank God that there is you.

# May Calendar of Events

May 3<sup>rd</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Birdathon Fundraiser

**Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

11 AM- 2 PM Earth Day Block Party at First Christian Church

**May 10<sup>th</sup>**

9 AM Field Trip at Ben Hawes Park

**Monday May 12<sup>th</sup>**

1 PM International Migratory Bird Day Celebration at Estes Elementary for Migrant Education Students

7:00 PM Monthly meeting at First Christian Church.

**Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>**

2 PM Bird Count at Owensboro Community College. Meet in the south parking lot across from Deer Park Elementary School

**Monday May 26<sup>th</sup>**

7 PM Directors' Meeting and Nominating Committee session at the Joe Ford Nature Center

We extend our sympathy to Janet Howard  
Whose Mother, Catherine Bosley,  
Passed away April 28<sup>th</sup>

## Rhea's Recycling Speech Wins First Place

On April 25<sup>th</sup> Rhea Ewing and her mom drove in a downpour to Owensboro from Madisonville. Then, after a half day of volunteering at Cravens Elementary School, Rhea traveled to Trigg County to participate in a speech contest. Rhea is home schooled by her mother, Kim Long-Ewing, who sought out our club to help Rhea with her desire to do community service with opportunities in environmental education.

At Trigg County, Kim took first place with her speech about Recycling and will now travel to the state finals on June 12. We are proud of Rhea, our youngest member, not only for taking top honors, but also for her topic choice. There was not enough time before the newsletter went to press to get a portion of Rhea's speech to print for our members. Let's ask her if she might be willing to give her speech at our May or June meeting. Whatta ya say, Rhea?

## Kentucky Audubon Council Will Host DCAS Web Site

The DCAS Directors have been advised by our Webmaster, Eric Williams, that it is in our best interest to change from Western Kentucky University's hosting of our Web site. The KAC is setting up a Web site which will host all of the state's Audubon chapters' Web sites and the DCAS directors have voted to join the other 5 Kentucky chapters by moving our Web site when KAC's site is operational.

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

The Goldfinch  
May 2003

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    -----

This newsletter is printed on post consumer 100% Recycled Paper.

DCAS Officers, Chairpersons and Directors:    Mike Henshaw, President    Rob Rold, Vice-President  
Tom Hicks, Secretary-Treasurer    Carolyn Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President and Education    Madeline  
Oettinger, Secondary Education    Bill Little, Publicity    Charles Morris, Community College Census  
Mary Kissel, Birdathon    Brenda Little, Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair  
Eric Williams, Webmaster    John Thacker, Registered Agent

