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# THE GOLDFINCH

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DAVIESS COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2002

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

## Surf's Up! Take a Cyber Tour Through Our Web Site

*The Daviess County Audubon Society will meet at 7 PM at First Christian Church. Refreshments will be served and a social time will take place from 7 to 7:30 PM*

I can still remember quite vividly the first time over a year and a half ago when I first laid eyes on our chapter's Web site. I was so excited and proud to see the user-friendly layout and the stunning photography that I was unable to contain my emotions and spilled the beans to others before Eric Williams, the site's designer, was ready for a viewing by the public. Next Monday night Eric will guide us through the Web site by using a personal computer projector to display the site's features. We don't want to keep the dynamics of our site an inside secret; we invite teachers and members of other environmental organizations to attend our meeting to learn about many of the site's potential uses available to everyone free of charge.

**TRAVEL FRANCE MAY 15-28, 2003**  
NASHVILLE-PARIS, NORMANDY, BRITTANY,  
LOIRE VALLEY, LASCAUX, LOURDES,  
CARCASSONE, NIMES, AND NICE

A PRIVATE TOUR DESIGNED BY FR. PAT CONNELL,  
RECTOR: TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, OWENSBORO &  
DR. CAROL GALLAGHER, PROFESSOR: OWENSBORO  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SPACE IS LIMITED. FOR MORE INFORMATION WRITE OR  
TELEPHONE FR. PAT CONNELL 270 FORD AVENUE  
OWENSBORO, KY 42301 CHURCH: (270) 684-5326 EMAIL:  
PATCONNELL@MINDSPRING.COM

## Audubon Society Offers E-mail Updates of Current Issues

**Twice a month**, every other week, while Congress is in session, the Audubon Society will send by e-mail a conservation campaign update that is concise and easy to read to anyone who requests the service. The list of users is not shared and it is only necessary to subscribe once. The service is free and allows the user an easy way to send a communication to our specific national and state lawmakers with just the click of a mouse. To enroll go to

[www.capitolconnect.com/audubon/registration.asp](http://www.capitolconnect.com/audubon/registration.asp)

## Henderson Here We Come

As plans were being made for our October Field Trip, it was said that in order for us to have waterfowl at the Sauerheber Slough, we'd need 5 or 6 inches of rain. Not much sooner said than the skies opened up and, with the torrential rains last week, the wetlands returned to a condition that will allow us to have a chance of some good birding this month.

We will meet at 8 AM Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at the parking lot near the Joe Ford Nature Center to carpool and caravan to the Slough. Between 8:45 and 9 AM, we will be stopping at "the little country store" at state routes 136 and 268, in Geneva at the entrance to the Slough, to join-up with folks who live nearby. Bring a sandwich or snacks and drinking water to tide you over until early to mid-afternoon when the trip ends and we return to civilization at one of the restaurants on Henderson's strip.

# What I Did on My Summer Vacation

## An African Safari by Mike Kavolus

*This is the second of a 3 part interview with 4 DCAS members who traveled abroad this summer. Mike Kavolus experienced a wildlife safari in Africa, Joyce Porter and Dora Lee St. Clair studied in Galapagos, and Pat Connell worked for a week in Haiti. Mike is an orthopedic surgeon who loves to travel.*

**Goldfinch** Was your trip to Africa a trip you'd long planned to take?

**Kavolus** Yes, I'd thought about the trip for a long time. It was the wildlife that I wanted to see, more than just birds.

**Goldfinch** What part of Africa did you visit?

**Kavolus** My safari was guided under the auspices of Orvis Travel Services in Botswana and Zambia. I added a leg onto the trip of a day on The Blue Train because I'd read about the unique experience of travel by rail with a level of luxury that is fast disappearing in the modern world.

**Goldfinch** Tell us about the most riveting experience with Africa's wildlife.

**Kavolus** We were on a game drive at night in open land rovers. Well-trained guides for 2 to 4 people led these trips. Our driver/tracker was in radio contact with another guide who notified him that a pride of lions called Savuti were in his sight and our guide used his training, experience, instincts and familiarity with lions to anticipate their travel path. We drove in an arc the guide projected for about half an hour until he parked and we sat and waited to see if the lions did indeed follow the path where he expected.

The first sighting I had of these lions was the glow of green eyes approaching out of the darkness. They walked, ambled without any concern for our presence, closer than 20 feet away. The pride was strung out in a jagged line led by about 8 females and one cub amongst them followed by a male at the rear. As they passed, our driver eased our vehicle into their line of travel and we rode along with them for quite some time.

**Goldfinch** Did you feel that you were in danger?

**Kavolus** The guides had prepared us for behaviors that could be dangerous. The lions are accustomed to the vehicles in which we sat. We were well aware that the lions saw us. We were warned that any protrusion from the Range Rover such as a waving arm or a dangling leg would attract the lions the same as the prey they were stalking.

**Goldfinch** What did you observe to be the attitude of the locals to wildlife?

**Kavolus** Everyone showed respect for wildlife. I'm sure that they realize that the tourism trade so dependent on wildlife is vital to their economy. In addition to the economics related to wildlife, I noticed that the people have a much greater knowledge about,

and interest in, wildlife than we have in the U.S. They don't have television, computer games, and all the things that occupy the time of America's youth. So nature is a prominent part of their life. I noticed that even hotel maids and people in walks of life other than tourism are conversant about, and eager to discuss the birds and mammals that are native to the area.

**Goldfinch** Did you see the living conditions of the African people outside of the area of your safari?

**Kavolus** I made it a point to see for myself the homes and villages around the places we traveled. From the train around Johannesburg I photographed the shanties where the locals live in squalor. The houses are mostly huts built of corrugated tin and even cardboard. The floors are dirt and the buildings are windowless for the most part. The streets are unpaved and muddy. The poorest of Americans are rich with a much higher standard of living in comparison to the average African. I've seen how the poor live in Mexico and Thailand. Africa's living conditions are much worse.

Our guides took us to one village where we were driven into a walled compound. The area inside the walls was bare packed dirt. We entered a mud-walled hut with a thatched roof. The one-room house was round, about a 10-foot radius in size. Everyone had to stoop to enter the doorway. The floor was bare dirt and there were no furnishings. Our guide told us that this was the palace of the village king.

I noticed a woman sitting on the ground outside one hut. She appeared to be about 75 years of age. I asked her how old she was and I was not surprised at her answer. She told me she is 26 and the mother of 3 or 4? children. Another aspect of African life much different from my world is that I got to meet a local medicine man, a witch doctor. Although he was about my age, he had only one tooth and was extremely thin.

**Goldfinch** I realize that your trip was intended to study all wildlife, but the obligatory question in this interview is: Did you see any birds?

**Kavolus** The first bird I saw was down at one tip of Africa on the Cape. (*Handing a small card with a photo*) It was the Lesser double collared sun-bird. (*This bird has a long beak with an iridescent green head and red banded breast.*) Another spectacular bird I saw was photographed in flight by one of our group. (*Opening a photo album to show the bird's brilliant colors and long thin tail*) It is a Lilac breasted roller. But my favorite bird, one that we saw several times, is the Malachite Kingfisher. (*Again opening the photo album to display the brilliant blue color of this bird*) It is a small bird, about 5" head to tail. We saw other varieties of Kingfishers, but this one is by far my favorite.

## October Events

Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
7 PM at First Christian Church

**Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> 9AM-1:30PM**  
Beginning Birding at the Powell  
Bird Blind for Deer Park  
Elementary School

**Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> Kentucky**  
Audubon Council Fall meeting  
10:30-11:00 AM Coffee  
11:00-3:00 Meeting, with lunch  
provided, at Pennyroyal Girl  
Scout Camp

**Saturday and Sunday the 19-  
20<sup>th</sup> Booth at Reid's Apple**  
Festival for Public Relations and  
to enroll New Members.  
Volunteers needed to work in  
4-hour shifts 10 to 6 Saturday  
and 12 to 6 Sunday. Contact  
Brenda Little (270) 298-4237 or  
littlefizgig@starband.net.

Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> Owensboro  
Community College Bird Count 2  
PM. Meet in the south parking  
lot.

Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup>  
8 AM - 2 PM Birding field trip to  
Sauerheber Slough

Thursday the 31<sup>st</sup> 9AM-  
1:30PM Beginning Birding at the  
Powell Bird Blind for Deer Park  
Elementary School

## Lower Mississippi Migration Count

For the September half of the census of migrating shorebirds along the Mississippi flyway, both the turnouts of birds and birders were good. Seeing 250 Great Egrets perched in the Cypress trees almost takes one's breath away. Then to see so many large white birds take flight and shimmer against the clear blue of the autumn skies makes the counting of hundreds of peeps take on the mundane part of the effort. The trip took 17 hours and the 7 birders who made the trip deem it worth every minute..AWESOME!

### Who Needs a Gun Club?

A piece of property owned by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife and located on Highway 60 East of town has been referred to as "The Gun Club" through the years long since it ceased to be a target range. There has been discussion recently about the possibility of transferring ownership to Daviess County with the possibility of again making the use of the land a shooting range.

At our September meeting, our members discussed their feelings about the proposal that is before the county commissioners. The group's feelings were unanimous in opposition to the land's use revision to a shooting range. Some of the opposition our members plan to express to the commissioners:

1. **Our community needs more green space not less.**
2. **A great amount of money would be spent that would benefit a very few citizens.**
3. **This property is ideal for birding, hiking, and nature study as an outdoor classroom.**
4. **No county park is presently geared toward nature; all have ball diamonds, soccer fields, and picnic facilities.**

The family of Lillian Bailey wishes to thank the Audubon Society members for their floral tribute of a beautiful potted Chrysanthemum complete with a Goldfinch perched beside its moss covered birdhouse. Also, Mom would wish that her thanks be extended to all of you for your appreciation of, and work on behalf of, all the things she loved in this wonderful world, the birds, the flowers, the trees, the fishes, even the bugs and the things that crawl and hop upon the earth. Gratefully, Brenda Little

#### DCAS Officers and Directors

President	Mike Henshaw 275-4250
President Elect	Rob Rold 684-3209
Vice President	Carolyn Williams 683-5863
Secretary/Treasurer	Tom Hicks 684-1548

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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For membership in the National Audubon Society, Kentucky Audubon Council, and Daviess County Audubon Society, all three.

- Newsletter Subscription \$10 per year

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

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**October 2002**

