
THE GOLDFINCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DAVIESS COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2003

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

September 8th Begins 2003-2004 Year

Each year our chapter begins its new year after a 2-month hiatus by holding what is called its **Annual Meeting**. This is the first time when our new officers officiate at a meeting with the general membership. Our Annual Report, which was submitted to the National Audubon Society's Chapter Services department last month, will be presented to the members at the Annual Meeting. The report details our accomplishments in the past year, the programs, the field trips, the educational events, and the fundraising efforts of the year ended on June 30. Probably no other meeting details what Audubon is all about better than this meeting which will begin with refreshments at 7:00 PM at First Christian Church the 2nd Monday in September.

You are invited to submit suggestions and ideas for programs in the upcoming year to our new Program Chairman, Vice-President Carolyn Williams by email at cs.williams@mindspring.com by phone at 683-5863 or in writing to 2823 Asbury Place in Owensboro's 42303 zip code.

The 100th Species at O.C.C. is.....

It seemed as if the century mark was so near for so long, but this summer we identified bird #100 on the Community College campus. Charles Morris has reported that an easy to identify, really big bird, has proudly claimed the place of honor after over 3 years of monthly listing of species seen and heard on the college grounds. Often seen soaring high above carrion, or flapping awkwardly when taking flight from along roadways, and so well detailed for us in a recent program by Bill Lynch, the Turkey Vulture is Owensboro Community College Bird Count's 100th species. Take a bow, everyone, you too, TV!

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP WILL FEATURE SHOREBIRDS

In mid month, the exact date has not yet been set, we will be led by Charles Morris on our annual trip to far western Kentucky for a count of migratory water fowl and shorebirds along the Lower Mississippi Flyway. This trip requires an all-day time commitment with about 6 hours of travel time for the round trip. If you are interested in going along for the ride, **[only one person does the actual counting]** contact Charles by email at wanderingtattler@bellsouth.net or by phone at 926-8803.

Be sure to take insect repellent, snacks and drinking water. Also take shoes that will not be damaged by mud. Everyone who has made this field trip in the past describes it as something that has to be seen to be believed. Our group has counted 300 Great White Egrets in one view.

Birdathon 2003 Broke Records

Chairman, Mary Kissel was beaming as she reported the results of our major fundraiser, which ended May 18th. We raised \$1300 with Steve Hahus garnering the top count of 111 species listed.

So far we have used the Birdathon proceeds to purchase a dozen pair of 4 power binoculars for our beginning birding classes. We also have purchased a plastic carrying case that is being decorated to disguise its original intended function as a rifle case.

We Have a New Web Site Name

We are proud to announce our new Web site name, www.daviessaudubon.org For several years we have been hosted by the good folks at Western Kentucky University who did not charge us any fees, however there were problems for our Webmaster, Eric Williams. There were times when Eric could not gain access to post information to our site. As is the nature of the beast, there is frequent turnover of students and staff at the University and sometimes Eric would find that his password was blocked. With our own purchased domain name, Eric is able to know how much use our Web site is receiving.

With a new name, just like a change of address, there is now some work to be done in getting the word out about our new name. We encourage teachers, students, youth leaders, libraries and such to use our Web site. We are proud of the photography by our members, lists and information about Kentucky flora and fauna, and links to other valuable sites that make up our Web site. We also are proud that our Web site gives people around the world access to our chapter leaders for whatever information they are seeking about us or about Kentucky.

No matter how proud we are, there is no value in the Web site unless people know how to find it. We want our Web address to be very familiar to as many people as possible. Our Education Committee chaired by Mary Kissel for Elementary and Madelyn Oetinger for Secondary, has been asked to get the word out to as many teachers as possible about our name change. We are asking you to do three things (1) Visit the site and browse through the different features, then (2) memorize our new name. It is easy this time, just our county name attached to audubon, then (3) tell people. Thanks.

Thank God!

Orthodox Christians' Leader Addresses the Environment

The leader of 250 million Orthodox Christians, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, has taken the unprecedented step of calling the mistreatment of the earth a sin. His church is considered the "mother church" because of its ancient role in organized religion in Constantinople, now named Istanbul. He has reached out to other religious bodies to invite them to join his crusade against man's wanton waste and pollution of the earth. Bartholomew has signed a joint declaration on the environment with Pope John Paul II. Their two religious bodies parted company in 1054 and this unified agreement is seen as healing old wounds between their churches.

Bartholomew is also using his green efforts to work through territorial disputes between Orthodox churches following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Bartholomew has encountered resistance to his call for caring for the earth from older conservative rank-and-file priests. The church leader has added environmental education to the theological seminaries with the hope that younger priests will "get it". It has been said that progress rides in the hearse. That may be the case with some church leaders. From *The Christian Science Monitor* July 24, 2003

Rose Ann and Laura Save a Hummer

After seeing a tiny Hummingbird hanging lifeless by one leg from a feeder recently, two of our members brought the near dead bird into their home. They dipped its beak into sugar water and let it rest. Behaving much like birds after the shock of a window crash, the tiny Hummer was finally able to perch on the fingers of its rescuers and after regaining its strength and bearings flew off to kiss flowers in gardens once again. What a thrill that must have been for all 3 involved!

September Calendar of Events

Monday September 8th 7PM
Annual Meeting at First Christian
Church

Saturday September 13th
11 AM to 3 PM Fall Meeting of the
Kentucky Audubon Council at Nolin
River Electric Co-Op on Ring Road in
Elizabethtown. (See K.A.C. insert for details)

Sunday September 14th 2 PM
O.C.C. Bird Count. Meet in the
south parking lot across from Deer
Park Elementary.

**Monday September 15th 9 AM
to 2 or 3 PM** A work day is
scheduled at the Pennyroyal Girl
Scout Camp for upgrading bird
feeders and bird baths at the Powell
Bird Viewing Blind. Bring a sack
lunch.

Monday September 22 6:30 PM
Tree Selection & Maintenance, a
program by Eddie Atherton, at the
County Extension Office behind the
south parking lot at Owensboro
Community College.

**Saturday October 4th 8:30 to
11 AM** Training Session for Girl
Scout Leaders at the Powell Bird
Viewing Blind: "How to Teach
Beginning Bird Watching Utilizing the
Bird Blind"

Those Taxing Layovers

You may have noticed when you travel by car that the driving is not difficult, boring maybe, but the miles seem to fly by. However it is the stalled time in traffic congestion, crowded rest areas, waiting for food orders in restaurants that are more likely to drain a body of energy and enthusiasm.

It seems that the migrating birds we observe both spring and fall, endure the same energy sapping time on the ground during their travels. We tend to think of the flying as being the exhausting part for them as they drop to the ground in exhaustion seeking food, water, and rest where they fuel-up for the next leg of their journey.

A recent study at Princeton University has revealed some very hard to believe information about energy expended by migrating birds. It seems that when a bird takes a 350 mile trip, it burns 4 calories an hour but when it is spending time grounded in the non-flying part of its journey, it expends 8 to 10 calories per hour. The study was done with birds that migrate from Central America to Canada. The birds flew for 18 days and spent 24 days on stopovers. Only 29% of the energy expended during migration was burned in flight. This has to be because birds are designed to be the most efficient in the air.

Martin Wikelski was the researcher who chose 2 species of Thrushes which were captured daily (don't ask me how?) for this study. The method Wikelski used is called the Doubly-labeled water technique. (Don't ask me anything about that either. To use one of my husband's expressions, "I've already told you more than I know")

Visit our Website

www.daviessaudubon.org

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

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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 _____ Daviess County Audubon Society with 10 issues of *The Goldfinch* and 4 issues of *Audubon magazine*.)
- 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: Rob Rold, President Carolyn Williams, Vice-President
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