



The Goldfinch

Daviess County
Audubon Society

www.daviessaudubon.net

Rails to Trails, Birding on trails in Kentucky

May 5, 2015 Program:

Rails to Trails KY: Muhlenberg County:

Becky Keith is presenting her program on the Ky Rails to Trails experience and birding environment. She is the Muhlenberg County Director for the Ky Rails to Trails program of Kentucky.

—“It was in my cycling phase that I was first introduced to the Rail to Trail concept. I had been dodging coal trucks and cars on our narrow two lane highways for years. Several crazy girlfriends went with me to ride across Iowa in the Ragbrai, a seven day, 500 mile cycle with 15,000 other like-minded individuals a long while ago. But, it was when a dear friend invited

me to see the cycling trail in Ohio where we rode along a gorgeous river on a paved trail that stretched 70 miles then, but that now goes eventually to Lake Erie, that I realized the beauty of converting an unused rail bed to a trail. It was 15 years ago that a group of ordinary citizens started the process of converting our rail to a trail. We were the longest trail in Kentucky at 6 miles in length. Our trail goes between the towns of Greenville and Central City and passes through mostly untouched wet land which is a haven for the variety of birds that choose this as their home. I am so proud of it. I do have aspirations to become a birder someday, but at this time the biggest bird in my life is “TooToo”, a Cessna 172, who has really shown me the delights of flying firsthand!” —Becky Kieth.



May Newsletter Calendar:

- May 5: DCAS monthly program, “*Ky Rails to Trails, Birding in KY*”—by Becky Keith, meet the presenter at 5:30 p.m., at Moonlite; and the program starts at 7 p.m., Brescia University Campus Center Study Pavilion.
- May 11: DCAS board meeting, 9:30 am at Judy’s house.
- May 11: Girls Inc “Urban Birds”, at Girls Inc., 4pm.
- May 16: “Rails to Trails” field trip. Central City, KY. Directions are on page 4.
- May 18: Girls Inc “Urban Birds”, at Girls Inc., 4pm.

GIRLS INC, JOE FORD NATURE CENTER, AND DCAS

URBAN BIRDS START MAY 11th

Our Urban Birds/Urban girls program begins again at the Rolling Heights campus of Girls Inc. We will be sharing our love and knowledge of birding with ten third-grade girls. This is very basic birding, learning how to use binoculars, identify the aspects of a good backyard birding habitat, and observe and identify birds in the urban environment. We will meet at 4:00 P.M. on Mondays the 11th and 18th of May. The program will culminate with a field trip to the Joe Ford Nature Center or the Adkisson Greenbelt on a date to be determined. So...come share your joy of birding! Sign up at the May 5th meeting or email Judy at jadams11_2008@yahoo.com.



“Let’s see, where is the bird again? Behind the icicle on the left?”

Joe Ford Nature Center Home Schooled.

The Joe Ford Nature Center and Daviess County Audubon Society teamed up for a morning of birding with a group of Owensboro home-schoolers April 23.

The outing had its roots last summer when event coordinator Chris Houston approached Mary Kissel about the DCAS leading a bird hike after attending a bird program Kissel and Judy Adams presented at the Owensboro Science and History Museum.

The intimate setting at the nature center is great for small groups, because the bird sanctuary provides an up-close look at birds — although the birds were a little shy on this day.

About 25 students received instruction on usage of binoculars and put it into practice around the property, led by Adams, Kissel and Jan Howard. Several of the youngsters got a chance to look at an old log that had been hollowed out by a woodpecker — even sticking their fingers inside to see how deep the birds can dig.

The students were able to flush out a Cooper’s Hawk that is nesting near the pond on the back end of the property. Cool weather kept down the number of migrants able to be viewed — or heard. Because of the wide range of ages among the students, they were given bingo cards with images of basic feeder birds, bird behavior and other nature elements.

Because of their hard work, all of the students got at least one bingo and were eligible for a drawing to win stuffed Audubon birds. They were won by Joshua Divito and Grace Hudson.

Other birds identified during the outing included: Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, Carolina Wren, American Robin, Warbling Vireo, Northern Parula, Yellow-Rumped Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Chipping Sparrow, White-Throated Sparrow, Red-Winged Blackbird, Common Grackle and American Goldfinch.



The younger children also had an opportunity to color and listen to “Cappy Cardinal,” a book about how the cardinal got his red coat, read by JFNC staffer Carol Colburn. JFNC volunteer Emma Paez and staffer Linda Hall also assisted with the younger children.

DCAS BOARD MINUTES

DCAS BOARD MINUTES April 13, 2015

Present: Judy Adams, Brenda Eaden, Janet Howard, Mike Henshaw, David Stratton, president, and Carolyn Williams

Minutes: March. minutes approved with two corrections IBA instead of IDA and the next meeting is May 5, 2015.

Financial report. Balance 4971.00

Participation: 21 at meeting, 4 on field trip, 19 on trash for cash, and 2 volunteers at garden fair.

Programs: May 5. Speaker from Greenville about Rails to Trails and possibly the Grahams will tell us what birds we might expect on the trail.

Field trips: April 25: Perry County for wildflowers with Steve Hahus. Meet at Kroger parking lot on former highway 60, behind McDonalds at 7:30.

May 16:(Tentative date) Central City Rails to Trails spring birding walk with the Grahams as leaders.

June 2: Picnic. The board agreed to ask Mike Brown if he wanted to host again.

Earth Day activities: The Sierra Club is having a tree planted on the courthouse lawn at 5pm on April 22, 2015 and a program on April 23, 2015 on solar power. DCAS and Sierra Club are having a walk on the Green belt on April 19, at 930AM, meeting at the DQ on New Hartford Road, as part Earth Day and the County bi-centennial celebrations. a bird walk leader is needed for the 19th and we think Mark Kissel has volunteered for this.

On April 11 the Cash for trash earned 800.00. Next year encourage anyone interested to go on and sign the release slips so Carolyn can get enough vest for all who show up.

Four people signed up for DCAS info at the Garden Fair at the library.

Old business: Liability insurance is in place. Brenda Eaden looked at the coverage and wonder if it would save money to have a deductible. Maybe something to think of next year.

The National Audubon Convention is July 10 and 11 in Leesburg VA. Judy and David are interested in going and the board agreed to set aside 500.00 perhaps more when the fees are known.

“A Murder of Crows” and “Owls on the Prowl” have been purchased for backup programs. Janet is going to order an additional DVD “Counting on Birds” about Christmas counts and more, and possibly we could move the December meeting to the museum and show it and have bird ID too.

Native grasses need a better sign and Mike is going to spruce the area up with some perennials. David said he will work on the banner.

The grant money for the Birding 101 project needs to be spent by June 30,2015. The Kiosk needs to be built but things are not moving quickly at the Museum. DCAS will schedule an opening ceremony when it is ready and perhaps have a monthly meeting there again. DCAS will send in a report to KAC about the project and suggest that the Council begin requesting proposals for other projects.

The board decide that May 11 and 18 at 4PM would be good days for Urban birding classes at Girls inc. for about 10 3rd graders. Judy, Janet, Carolyn and David were volunteers. More volunteers are needed. DCAS is considering a summer field trip preferably with the same girls.

New business: KAC membership dues of 85.00 re now due.

The Logsdon Community Center at the Springs has recently had an cubicle opening. For 250.00 per year DCAS could have storage for binoculars, canopy, T shirts etc and meeting space. On April 30th the Center will have a coffee and breakfast gathering so Judy suggest we go and look over the facilities.

Goldfinch deadline: April 27, 2015

Next Board meeting: Mon. May 11, 2015 8:30 at Judy Adams

Submitted by Janet B. Howard

Central City Rails to Trails Trail Birding--May 16

May 16 Field Trip

Here are the directions for the field trip on the Muhlenberg County "Rails to Trails" trail: May 16th.

- Take 431 to Central City, at first red light turn left on Hwy 70, at 3-way stop turn right, then next street turn right on West 2nd Avenue and follow street to West Third Avenue and turn right. Parking lot on right. Just follow signs for Convention Center. There are restrooms at the trail.



Fundraising



Look at all the Trash for Cash participants!

Good golly molly, all the volunteer help got us 800\$ in our trash pick up fundraiser. The weather cooperated and most of the litter was light. We were given an area of 6+ miles near Panther Creek Park.

Trash for Cash was held on April 11.

Fun Event opp—

WALK & TALK & LUNCH

with **George Skiadas**



**“The Garden All Over The Map:
Always On A Sunday:”**

The Greek Experience

**Tuesday May 12, 2015
11:30 AM**

**Come and enjoy a wonderful lunch
with some very special food**

WESTERN KENTUCKY BOTANICAL GARDEN

25 Carter Road, Owensboro, KY 42301

Members \$10.00 Non-Members \$12.00

Reservations 270-852-8925 wkbg@bellsouth.net

Ok Folks, Get out there and birdwatch! **FROM THE BACKYARD**

It is migration time. Look looking to see well. Looking to look, or look to look and see, is a phrase that tries to emphasize the act of looking to see what is there while not thinking of much else. Remember, forget about those bills on the dining table for a while.

The rains have come. The sun is warm. And the wind is bringing the migration to us.

I have already had reports of Summer Tanager's, assorted Warblers, Grosbeaks, vireos, Scarlet Tanager, and some Cowbirds (now that is a list of variety).

Just like us when warmer weather arrives, most migrate to areas more pleasant either by rumor or experience for better food, fun, collaboration, mating, or just all around fellowship.

Go birding to your favorite spot these next two weeks plus go somewhere new.

Look looking to see well.

—on another note, I have been thinking about 'observation effect', both in teaching and in birding. There are some recent articles about minimizing the amount of "disturbances" to birds by photographers and watchers, especially with endangered species. There are also articles on hybrid teaching styles incorporating online content/watching, lectures online, letting the direct contact hours in the classroom concentrate on questions, conversation, and hopefully arguments. And then I compared these two recent trends, leaving birds alone to get out of their way, and in teaching, distracting, or possibly having more in the way, of the college student. This might be two conversations only related by a tangent in my mind. There are a lot of those. But, it is curious to me, the focus of how the endangered bird, and the endangered attentive student, can thrive better by disturbing their usual routine less. (Isn't it interesting how different the previous sentence would be using the word "disrupt or distracting" rather than "disturbing". It might be my usual routine that is being disturbed by this idea.) Both of these ideas, for birds and students, designed to help certain species attain "better", might be effective, accurate, and just—whatever those three words mean. But, I am, not sure.

One thing I am sure of, is—Let's go! and Don't be quiet.

—bring a friend to our monthly program.

—take a friend birding.

—take a friend along to one of our field trips.

- DS

David Stratton
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**Duck
Duck
Where is it?**

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