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# THE GOLDFINCH

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DAVIESS COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2002

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

## September 9<sup>th</sup> is Our Annual Meeting

*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*

At the first meeting of each year our By-laws require that we review our Annual Report with the members in attendance. This is very much like a Parents' Conference Report Card about what we accomplished last year. In light of current economic crises, it is good that part of our Annual Report covers our financial affairs. We want to be accountable to our members by explaining where we got our funds and how we used them.

After we review last year's activities, we will present our plan for the year just beginning. The officers and directors have set goals to keep our chapter growing. Join us as we renew Audubon friendships, look back and forward, and make plans for the new year just beginning.

## June's Breeding Bird Survey Scrapped

Maybe next year. One by one things went wrong this spring and soon it was realized that without a site for training and with Eric Williams' workload reaching killer magnitude, we had no choice but to cancel the planned field trip. Eric desires to devote one year to training our members about how to conduct a Breeding Bird Survey before going out to the roadsides for laying-out the route with its listening and viewing stops placed at .5 mile intervals as designated by the survey standards. We have some members who are interested in this effort and it is hoped that next spring all systems will be Go!

## Counting Shorebirds

### September 14<sup>th</sup>

Ken Hurm, (who with Steve Hahus will chair Field Trips this year), and Charles Morris, a 2<sup>nd</sup> year veteran of the Lower Mississippi Valley Count of Migrating Shorebirds, traveled west to the Mississippi River in August for counting shorebirds at two sites. They were not only taking a census of shorebirds, but they also were acting as scouts for our members.

On Saturday, September 14 at 8 AM, everyone is invited to go along down to Carlisle County and Wycliffe, KY to observe this bird count. In 2001 the count was an inspiring experience when we found a lake crowded with Great White Egrets in the trees, in the water, and on the mud flats. Bird counts don't come with guarantees, but it is almost a sure thing that the people who go on this field trip will come back glad they went. This is an all day trip. Phone Charles Morris at 926-8803 or email

wanderingtattler@yahoo.com

to arrange for carpooling, caravan or meeting near Lake #9.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Part 1 of a 3-Part Series "My Summer Vacation"
- 2 Audubon Adventures 2002-2003
- 3 Kentucky Audubon Council's Newsletter Insert
- 4 Powell Bird Viewing Blind work day September 11

# What I Did on My Summer Vacation

## Haiti as experienced by Pat Connell

*This is the first 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. Father Pat Connell is an Episcopal Priest who pastors Trinity Episcopal Church in Owensboro.*

**Goldfinch** Was this trip a long time in the planning or did it drop out of the sky?

**Connell** My phone rang. A Bishop could not make a trip planned to Haiti for fact finding to connect Christians in the 1<sup>st</sup> world to the 3<sup>rd</sup> world. Plans were to go to places like orphanages and old folks homes under the auspices of \*FOOD FOR THE POOR. I was asked if I could go. I thought about it; said, "Yes", and in a short time there I was. It did drop out of the sky.

**Goldfinch** Haiti's poverty is common knowledge. Were you prepared for what you found?

**Connell (emphatically)** No! The deforestation is overwhelming. There is not a twig, not a leaf, not even a weed growing anywhere. The mountainsides are stripped bare. The people cook with charcoal and they have cut all the trees for use as fuel.

I expected the water to be blue and clear around the Caribbean Island. It is not. It is brown with the thickness of mayonnaise. All the waste flows directly into the sea.

In Cite de Soleil, an area of Port au Prince about 24 square miles in size, there live 1 million people. I saw naked children, filth, adults bathing outdoors without any privacy. They've been stripped of everything, their pride, their dignity, even the basics and they are angry. We were warned that it is not safe to take photos there because the people could react with violence.

I've seen poverty. I've lived near the Texas border with Mexico where I've seen people who are poor and who risk their lives to come to America. But Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere is beyond anything I could ever have imagined.

**Goldfinch** Is the poverty the result of overpopulation?

**Connell** 7 million people live there. The death rate is 16 people per 1,000; Haiti's birth rate is double that, about 38 per 1000. So population is a problem, and Haiti has always been a poor country, but an event in the early 90's is what plunged them into this misery. There was a coup. The U.S. sent soldiers and when there was no democratic election, we put an embargo in place. We made a problem much worse.

You have to understand that to the people of Haiti it does not matter who is in power, dictator or freely elected head of government. Their lot is desperate either way. About 75% of them live in abject poverty. they have to import 1/4 of their food. They should be almost self sufficient for their food needs, but they

cannot even raise their own sugar. More than half of them suffer from malnutrition; two thirds of the children lack adequate food and 130 of every 1000 children do not live to see their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Income in Haiti is \$330 a year in U.S. dollars. Honduras is the second poorest with double the income amount of Haitians. One of Haiti's industries is the making of baseballs. The people are paid the equivalent of pennies an hour for their labor.

One in four has HIV.

**Goldfinch** There is a world conference addressing poverty and concerns about the environment in progress in South Africa as we speak. Conference leaders have been quoted as saying that the world has the means to eradicate poverty and to care for the environment. Using a term of endearment, I'm asking you, one do-gooder to another, Are we our brothers' keeper? can Haiti be fixed?

**Connell** FOOD FOR THE POOR delivers 97 cents of every dollar donated to the projects it oversees, AND if the gift is designated specifically to an endeavor, 100% goes to that designation. When I got home, I went to my computer to look at other charities' rates of donated dollars reaching their projects. I was appalled to see the great percentage of many nonprofits' income that goes to other things such as administration, fund raising, and such. If other charities managed their funds like FFP, that would have a great impact on poverty and help for the environment.

**Goldfinch** If you could say one thing to President Bush and our elected leaders, what would you tell them?

**Connell** We ARE our brothers' keeper.

*(Pause for respecting the suffering of our fellow man and then the mandatory question)*

**Goldfinch** Did you see any birds? Can you describe any birds you saw?

**Connell** We stayed at the best hotel in Port au Prince. It is isolated high on a mountain; its grounds planted with tropical growth (*showing a photo of Bougainvillea draping over a wall*). Only there did I see a bird. It was small in size with distinctive markings, one we call a LBB, *little bitty bird*. Away from the hotel grounds, I saw nothing, no birds or other wildlife.

\*FOOD FOR THE POOR, INC 550 SW 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue,  
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442 (954) 427-2222  
[www.foodforthe poor.org](http://www.foodforthe poor.org)

September 29<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM and at 10:15 in worship service, Father J. Pierce will speak about his experience in Haiti at Trinity Episcopal Church located at 720 Ford Avenue. Father Pat Connell invites everyone to these two presentations.

# September Events

Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting  
7 PM at First Christian Church

**Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup>** Work day at the  
Girl Scout Camp 9 AM to 2 PM

**Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup>** Field Trip to  
Mississippi River for Shorebird Count

Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> Owensboro  
Community College Bird Count 2 PM.  
Meet in the south parking lot.

## 9/11 Observance

We have been invited to return to The Powell Bird Viewing Blind, where we were applying adobe the day The World Trade Center towers were attacked. A day of work is needed applying the final coat of "paint" and for doing finishing-up jobs at the blind. Over 200 students are coming in October for Beginning Birding classes and also The Kentucky Audubon Council is meeting there October 19th. What better way to observe a day of destruction than building for the future?

# Audubon Adventures

Ten area classrooms will be using nature newsletters published by The Audubon Society this year. *Audubon Adventure* kits come with a teacher's manual and videotape that both entertains and educates. The cost per classroom is \$42. Sponsors are needed for some of the classes. You may select the class of your choice by speaking with Carolyn Williams, Elementary Education Chair or we will assign a group to be the beneficiaries of your gift. Unless you request to make an anonymous gift, your sponsorship will be acknowledged in this newsletter.

Our sponsorship is up from 6 classes last year and the cost will be heavy for our budget.

## New Officers and Directors

President	Mike Henshaw 275-4250
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Rob Rold 684-3209
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Carolyn Williams 683-5863
Secretary/Treasurer	Tom Hicks 684-1548

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This newsletter is

For membership in the National Audubon Society, Kentucky Audubon Council, and Daviess County Audubon Society, all three.
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306 Hoover Hill Road  
Hartford, KY 42347-9522

**The Goldfinch**  
**September 2002**

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# Saying Good-bye

