
THE GOLDFINCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DAVIESS COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2003

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

Education Committee Hits the Ground Running

By Mary Kissel, Education Chair

The education committee has had a busy start to the Audubon year. Members worked with Lisa Leonard of Pennyroyal Girl Scout camp to develop a way to enhance the Powell Bird Blind as an educational tool for the Scouts, their leaders and visiting school groups.

On September 15, members Bill and Brenda Little, Carolyn Williams, Ken Hurm and Mary Kissel set up two hopper feeders, a suet feeder and two tray feeders built by Ken Hurm and prepared the way for a third platform feeder built by Lisa Leonard. The interior and roof of the blind were also cleared of leaves, cobwebs and dust.

The work was to be done in advance of a regional Girl Scout leaders' outdoor training session, which was canceled. However, the group is working with Deer Park Elementary fourth-graders on October 2 and 31st at the camp, focusing on binocular skills, use of bird guides and bird observation on a trail and in the blind.

Another education session is set for October 3 at Yellow Creek Park. The group is working with Whitesville Elementary School first-graders on beginning bird watching and how bills are birds' natural tools.

The group also compiled a list of schools to be approached about Audubon Adventures kits. To date, four schools have requested kits: Foust Elementary, Cravens Elementary, Mount St. Joseph

And Tamarack Elementary. These kits include lesson plans and reading materials on the environment, particularly habitats.

The committee is looking for a few more volunteers who would like to assist with school programs and would be available during weekdays. If you like watching birds- you have all the skills required to help. If you're interested, call Mary Kissel at 926-3321 or email her at mjkisselchirp45@aol.com

Bird Alert List

Would you like to be alerted when someone sees an exciting bird in the area? If so, please sign up for the new Bird Alert List. The telephone and e-mail chain will allow members to contact each other to report unusual sightings in a timely manner. If you would like to be placed on the list or want more information on how it works, contact Mary Kissel at 926-3321 or e-mail at mjkisselchirp45@aol.com

Snake Migration will be October Field Trip

Focus DCAS and Evansville Audubon Society (EAS) are both traveling to Shawnee National Forest in Illinois this month. For more information about the dates and times contact Steve Hahus at 270-733-9342 or regarding EAS' field trip plans 812-385-5058.

www.daviessaudubon.org

Ah! October



October 11th to 18th is National Wildlife Refuge Week

Not only is October a special month for our country's 540 wildlife refuges, but this year is the Centennial of the imperiled system. Funding and lack of political clout are the elements that cause NWR's to struggle to remain viable. For many refuges it is a cadre of volunteers that make the difference between survival and failure. Dedicated only a year ago, Clarks River NWR located between Benton and Paducah became Kentucky's first and only NWR located solely within our state's boundaries.

The best way to show reverence and appreciation for our refuges is to visit one and, if possible, volunteer even if only for a day of trash pick-up. Second best is to learn about them. *Audubon Magazine* June 2003 featured a book by Russell D. Butcher that

"mingles history, anecdotes, and perspective to give us the best assessment yet of these national treasures." [America's National Wildlife Refuges: A Complete Guide](#) Roberts Rinehart Publishers, 714 pages, \$29.95. We have submitted a request to the Public Library to purchase this book.

Flying Jewels Have you seen them lazily drifting at about 30 to 50 feet above you the past week? They look golden in the clear autumn sunlight. They drift on air currents a while, then flutter, in fact instead of butterflies, some wonder why they are not called flutterflies. What you are seeing above your lawn or from your car are the **Monarch Butterflies** on the way south for the winter. These golden jewels fly, actually they soar and flap, from Canada and points south along flyways funneling them through Texas and into Mexico. When they flap they use 22 times more energy than when they soar and that is why a lot of the Monarch behavior to be observed in October looks like Cassius Clay's metaphor for his boxing style of "floating like a butterfly". [As you enjoy, remember that genetically engineered corn kills Monarchs.] A good Web site for learning about migration of all kinds is www.learner.org/jnorth

It's time to sign-up for FeederWatch

Beginning in November, thousands of people begin a periodic count of birds from the windows of their homes, schools, and offices that is coordinated and tabulated by The Lab of Ornithology at Cornell University. It is easy to sign-up for participation in this citizen science program by phone 1-800-843-BIRD or on-line www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw The cost is \$15 and the quality time is priceless.

October Events

Thursday the 2nd Beginning Birding for Deer Park Elementary at Pennyroyal Girl Scout Camp 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Friday the 3rd Beginning Birding for Whitesville Elementary at Yellow Creek Park 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Friday-Sunday 3rd-5th K.O.S. Kentucky Ornithological Society Meeting at Audubon State Park www.biology.eku.edu/KOS/birding.htm

Monday the 13th Monthly meeting at First Christian Church 7-9 PM

Monday the 27th Directors meeting at First Christian Church 7PM



Officers 2003-2005

President	Rob Rold 684-3209
Vice President	Carolyn Williams 683-5863
2 nd Vice President	Steve Hahus
Secretary/Treasurer	Charles Morris

Change of Address:

For the past two months, the founders of our club, Bert and Millie Powell have been residing with their daughter, Bonnie Terrizzi in Beattyville, Kentucky. Bonnie has been working with Bert and Millie to get them settled into her home and with new doctors. Millie has had some adjustments to make with medications. Bert has become quite seriously ill with respiratory problems. At the time this newsletter is going to press, Bert is hospitalized with pneumonia and a collapsed lung. Several people have asked for Bert and Millie's new address so that they may stay in contact with them. Bonnie is willing to act as a go-between if you choose to send e-mailed messages to our beloved birding friends:

bonnie.terrizzi@noaa.gov

c/o Terrizzi
1419 Belle Point Road
Beattyville, KY 41311

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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

The Goldfinch
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