



The Goldfinch

Daviess County Audubon Society

www.daviessaudubon.net

Mar 1, 2016 Program:

DCAS PRESENTS: SHAKER VILLAGE—BIRDS, WILDLIFE, WILDFLOWERS, OH MY.

**"SHAKER VILLAGE
BIRDS AND WILDLIFE"**

Program description:

Since 2009, Shaker Village has converted 1,200 acres of cool season pasture into native warm season grasses and wildflowers. This "bottom up" approach has helped to restore a native bobwhite quail population and improved habitat for grassland songbirds and small mammals all the way up the food chain to raptors, bobcats, and other top level predators. The presentation takes you through the grassland conversion process and highlights how Shaker Village monitors wildlife and acts as a model for private landowners wanting to manage for wildlife.



Mike Brown pic

Bio:

Ben Leffew is a native Kentuckian from Boyle County and has been involved with Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill since 2006. He holds a BS in Natural Resource

Conservation and Management from the University of Kentucky and Master's work in grassland ecology, also from the University of Kentucky. Ben currently manages the Preserve at Shaker Village, including 1,200 acres of restored native prairie and 37 miles of multi-use trails. He lives near Shaker Village with his german shepherd, Calvin.

Steve and Theresa pic



Hahus pic

March Newsletter Calendar:

- Mar 1: • DCAS monthly program, Discussion on "Shaker Village—Birds and Wildlife", the program starts at 7 p.m., Brescia University Campus Center Study Pavilion.
- Mar 5: Field trip to Goose Pond Wildlife area; Meet at Moonlight back parking lot at 7:30 a.m.
- Mar 12: Field trip/Birding walk— Joe Ford Nature Center GBYBC bird watching; 9 am. (JFNC is behind GRADD).
- Mar 15: DCAS board meeting, 9:30 a.m. Judy's house.

WEATHER SPOILS PLANS FOR GREAT BACKYARD BIRDCOUNT FIELDTRIPS

The best laid plans... **D**espite a weekend marked by with two snows, fog and frigid cold, etc., DCAS had four specific events planned for the Feb. 12-14th GBBC, however, the snow and cold cancelled all but one. Five hardy birders met at the Virginia Miles Nature Center behind OCTC on Monday morning, resulting in 28 species. All told, the weekend wasn't a complete washout, as Daviess County birders recorded 58 species, 38 checklists, 15 participants and are No. 6 in the state as a county. Our friends in Muhlenberg County submitted 48 species on 9 checklists and Ohio County came in with 29 species on 8 checklists. That adds up to 48 checklists in the three counties...not bad.

Because of the poor weather, the field trip to Sauerheber WMA and the bird hike at Joe Ford Nature Center were canceled. A count was conducted at JFNC right after the snow Feb. 12, with a GBBC-record 19 species counted, including a rusty blackbird, a GBBC first for the park.

Elsewhere in the region, Eric Williams and Steve and Teresa Graham led the charge in Muhlenberg County, where 48 species were found (30 at Peabody WMA); Henderson had 30; Brenda and Bill Little accounted for most of Ohio County's 29 species; McLean had 17 and Hancock 2.

The JFNC hike has been rescheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday, March 12.

The hike at Owensboro Community & Technical College's Virginia Miles Nature Center also took place, with 18 species counted.



Judy pic

The whole idea of the Great Backyard Bird Count is to identify species and their specific locations so that trends in numbers of species can be followed worldwide. With that in mind, here are some additional statistics. Kentucky submitted 118 species on 1084 checklists. The United States identified 663 species on 126,089 checklists and (drumroll, please) 5,428 species were identified on 154,659 checklist worldwide!

DCAS is encouraging all birders (members or not) to submit any species observed in Daviess County to ebird. We will then tally our numbers for a **Daviess County Big Year**. If you'd like to be part of something even bigger, check out the plans for a **Global Big Day** on Saturday May 14th. Go to the GBBC website for more information www.gbbs.org.

Hmmmm. opp—

Ever wonder about birds and bad weather? try this link to an article of that topic—Bad weather and birds.

http://www.audubon.org/news/gimme-shelter-how-do-birds-survive-snow-storm?utm_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm_campaign=2c6e26375f-GBBC_eNewsletter_Feb2016_1&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_47588b5758-2c6e26375f-283244673

Cheese. after chili, salads, and many desserts. hmmmm.

OR, this collection of Owensboro birds—

<https://plus.google.com/112610115006125003115>

Traveling Field trip to CA



CALIFORNIA HERE WE COME!

Thanks to the efforts of former DCAS member Winny Lin, we have connected with her new home chapter, the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society and are in the beginning stages of planning a birding trip to the San Francisco/Oakland area. Hugh Harvey, their Field Trip Coordinator, is more than willing to provide support and local guides during our stay. Check out their website at www.diabloaudubon.com. As of this writing, we are thinking about meeting up with the Mt Diablo folks in mid-June, possibly June 15-19th.

Transportation would be on your own, although we can certainly coordinate travel plans if you'd like. When we have an idea about how many might be interested we will locate a moderately priced hotel in the area and reserve a block of rooms. Winny has offered to be our personal guide to San Francisco, so prepare for an enthusiastic time visiting her favorite spots.

We have at least six members who have indicated an interest as of this writing...Brenda and Tony Eaden, Jeff and Edna Murphey and Bob and Judy Adams. If you would like to join us, or need more details, contact Judy at jadams11_2008@yahoo.com.

Species noted included: Lesser Scaup, European Starling, Northern Cardinal, Red-Winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Mourning Dove, Dark-Eyed Junco, Song Sparrow, House Finch, House Sparrow, Canada Goose, Killdeer, American Robin, Red-Tailed Hawk, Red-Bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Field Sparrow, White-Throated Sparrow, American Goldfinch, Wild Turkey, Great Blue Heron, Cedar Waxwing, American Tree Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird, Eurasian Collared Dove, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Bobwhite, Red-Headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, American Kestrel, American Crow, Horned Lark, White-Crowned Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Mallard, Bufflehead, Rock Pigeon, Barred Owl, Bald Eagle, Chipping Sparrow, Eastern Phoebe, Golden-Crowned Kinglet, Yellow-Rumped Warble, Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker and Sharp-Shinned Hawk.

One Daviess County birder, Steve Hahus, was among the top 11 birders in Kentucky, responsible for most of the waterfowl on the list.

Bird list of GBYBC

HOBBY DAY



Now, poor Brenda and Jan are out of the picture. Just Mary and David, at the OMSH Hobby Day.



Ohio Valley Birding Festival Schedule of Events 2016

****Note:** For the hikes requiring pre-registration, the registration and payment must be received by the posted due date. Please send payment including your phone number, street address and email address to "Evansville Audubon Society," c/o LD Harry, 4600 Surrey Way, Evansville, IN, 47725." Please make checks payable to Evansville Audubon Society.

For hikes where transportation is provided, no private vehicles will be allowed to caravan. Please choose appropriate footwear as many hike areas present marshy conditions.

Friday, April 15

Patoka River NWR Birding Hike

7:00 AM CDT

Meet at Boyd Woods, Oakland City, IN.

Fee: Free. No pre-registration required.

Duration: Approximately 2 to 3 hours. Sturdy shoes recommended for primitive portion of trail.

Directions: East on SR 64 out of Oakland City 1 mile from SR 357 (Main) to CR 1275E (look for Refuge sign). Turn left and follow signs to Snakey Point Marsh and continue on to parking lot on left at Boyd Woods (Maxey Marsh on right).

Join us for a birding walk through Boyd Woods in search of warblers and other migratory songbirds, continuing the hike past Snakey Point Marsh for possible views of waterfowl and marsh birds, and ending at a little visited portion of Columbia Mine Preserve to look for grassland sparrows.

Saturday, April 16

Birding the Audubon Wetlands

8:00 AM CDT

Audubon Museum, John James Audubon State Park.

Fee: Free. Pre-registration required*

Contact Jackie Crowley at (270) 826-2247 or jj.a.rec@ky.gov. Max 12-15

Duration: approximately 2 hours

Program departs from Audubon Museum. Participants should be experienced bird watchers. Walking component is weather dependent. A new property purchase significantly increased the size of Audubon State Park. Help us identify this bottomland forest property's bird guests. This property has a heron rookery and an active bald eagle nest. Registration ends on April 8.

Audubon's Bird Migration Walks

8:30 AM CDT

Audubon Museum, John James Audubon State Park.

Fee: Free. No pre-registration required

Duration: approximately 1.5 hours

John James Audubon State Park's Beech-Maple forest is an urban oasis for woodland and shore birds. In addition to the seven woodpecker species, several neotropical migrants make the park their home. Species spotted on these hikes include: Eastern Bluebird, Yellow-throated Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Scarlet and Summer Tanagers, Indigo Bunting, Prothonotary Warbler, and White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos. New birders welcome.

Owl Pellet Dissection

10:30 AM CDT

Audubon Museum, John James Audubon State Park

Fee: Free. No pre-registration required

Duration: approximately 1 hour

Owls hunt for many different types of prey. Discover what critters these nocturnal hunters seek out by dissecting a sterilized owl pellet.

Hands-on Bird Banding Workshop

11:30 AM CDT

Audubon Museum, John James Audubon State Park

Fee: Free. No pre-registration required

Duration: approximately 1.5 hours

Come and help us with an ongoing conservation project as we catch, identify, band, and release birds from the John James Audubon State Park. Bird banding helps us understand bird migration and movements, behavior, social structure, lifespan and survival rates, and population growth. This is a great opportunity for spotting early migratory birds and connecting with nature, so bring a camera!

Miracle of Migration: An Avian Phenomenon presented

by Sharon Sorenson

1:00 PM CDT

John James Audubon State Park Museum

Fee: Free. No pre-registration required

Duration: approximately 1 hour

Some birds weighing no more than a nickel fly thousands of miles from the tropics to nest in the Tri-State. Why would they do that? How do they find their way? How many weeks does the flight take? How do they survive along the way? Learn the answers and more when Sharon Sorenson, newspaper columnist and author of *Birds in the Yard* Month by Month, shares these birds' amazing stories.

Explore Raptors

3:00 PM CDT

Audubon Museum, John James Audubon State Park

Fee: Free. No pre-registration required

Duration: approximately 1 hour

Using live birds, participants will learn the characteristics of birds of prey, their role in the ecosystem, and how interactions with humans have impacted these majestic creatures.

Sunday, April 17

Eagle Slough Natural Area Birding Hike

7:00 AM CDT

Meet at the entrance to Eagle Slough located on Waterworks Road, just north of Ellis Park.

Fee: Free. No pre-registration required

Duration: approximately 2 hours

Eagle Slough is one of the most recent local areas to be returned to its natural state.

Join us for a birding walk through this 127-acre urban wetland area. Expect to see warblers and other migratory songbirds. Species observed on this hike may include: Wood Duck, Winter Wren, warblers, vireos, thrushes, tanagers and late shorebirds.

Junior Birders Hike @ Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve

3:00 PM CDT

Wesselman Woods Nature Center

Fee: Free. No preregistration required

Duration: 1-2 hours

Join the Jr. Birders for a bird hike through Wesselman Woods. The hike will be led by several Evansville Audubon Society members with the Jr. Birders assisting. Appropriate for children ages 8-18 accompanied by an adult. Binoculars will be provided.

"Bird—not a bird?"
OVBF Stuff.



Ohio Valley Birding Festival Schedule of Events 2016

continued.....

Friday, May 6

Birding the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge

5:30 AM CDT

Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve

Fee: \$20 includes transportation only. Pre-reg-
istration required*-

contact LD Harry @ 812-867-0144 and leave a
message including your phone #.

Duration: approximately 7 hours. Expected
return 1:00 PM CDT

Meet at Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve
and join Wildlife Refuge Specialist Heath
Hamilton as he leads an outing to Patoka River
National Wildlife Refuge. The trip will hit the
birding hot spots while traveling through one
of the best remaining bottomland hardwood
forests left in the Midwest. Participants should
expect to see songbirds, shorebirds, and wet-
land-dependent marshbirds. Registration ends
April 29. Please wear appropriate footwear for
marshy conditions. Maximum 12-15. No food
or drink will be provided but coolers will be
available.

Saturday, May 7

Big Day of Birding

4:00 AM CDT

Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve

Fee: \$25 includes transportation only. Pre-reg-
istration required*-

contact LD Harry @ 812-867-0144 and leave a
message including your phone #.

Duration: 12 to 14 hours. Expected return 7:00
PM CDT

Join us and participate in our Big Day of Bird-
ing event. We will scout the tri-state for most
species seen in one day. Please wear appropri-
ate footwear for marshy conditions. Registra-
tion ends on April 29. No food or drink will be
provided but coolers will be available.

Sunday, May 8

Squaw Creek Mine/Bluegrass Birding Hike and other Warrick County stops

7:00 AM CDT

Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve

Fee: \$20 includes transportation only. Pre-reg-
istration required*-

contact LD Harry @ 812-867-0144 and leave a
message including your phone #.

Duration: approximately 7 hours. Expected
return 2:00 PM CDT

Meet at Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve
and join local birder Jim Campbell as
he guides an outing geared toward novice
birders who want to learn more about
birds and places to see them. Stops will include
grasslands where Blue Grosbeaks,
Bell's Vireo and Dickcissels could be seen, up-
land woods for spring warblers and
woodpeckers and open areas with lakes where
hawks, possibly some late waterfowl
and a Bald Eagle may reside. Registration
ends on April 29. Maximum 12-15. No food
or drink will be provided but coolers will be
available.

FROM THE BACKYARD

The weather this weekend is supposed to be glorious! Again. and again, making March 5 and the 12th perfect days to go out and join our field trip to Goose Pond (remember the meeting time is 7:30 not 8, go early birds!) or the bird count at Joe Ford Nature Center.

It is an early spring break for the area universities, here in Daviess County.

I had a few Juncos return to my backyard. They have found my sunflower seeds. Now, again I need to re-supply.

The March program of Shaker Village is an opportunity for us to preview and advertise our weekend field trip there in late April. If you have cabin fever, or would like an excuse to have a birding weekend out of town, here is your chance. We will discuss this at the March program.

Go Brown headed Cowbirds!

Any Ivory Bills?



Steve and Theresa pic

Go bird count folks.

Recycling info and opp—

huh?

Remember:

—bring a friend to our monthly program.

- take a friend birding.
- take a friend along to one of our field trips.
- DS

David Stratton
davids@brescia.edu

Count this one too.

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Hmmm.,
How big would a
human pellet be?

Owl

Ok Folks, Get out there and birdwatch.