

# The Goldfinch

May 2011

Davless County Audubon Society, [www.davlessaudubon.net](http://www.davlessaudubon.net)

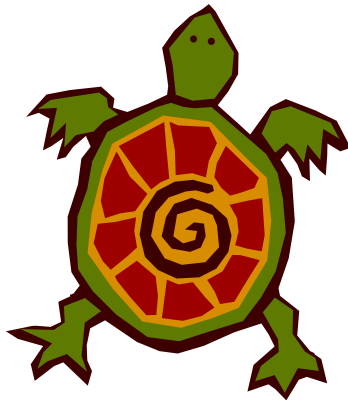
## Let's talk turtles at the May meeting

**A**my Krzton-Presson, a Murray State University watershed science graduate student, will present a program on Kentucky's freshwater turtles at the May 3 meeting of the Daviess County Audubon Society, 7 p.m. at First Christian Church, Seventh Street and J.R. Miller Boulevard.

She will talk about freshwater turtles native to west Kentucky, issues surrounding freshwater turtles and her research about the effects of invasive grass management on turtles in the Clear Creek watershed in Hopkins County. There's a good chance she will bring live turtles for her presentation.

Her research was recently selected as the winner of the Best Student Paper award at the annual meeting of the Kentucky chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Dine with Amy at Moonlite before the meeting at 5:30 p.m.



### This month's calendar

\*Ohio Valley Festival field trip to Evansville. Meet at 4 p.m. April 30 at Moonlite. Dinner at 5 p.m. at Forget-Me-Not Inn and 7 p.m. talk by author Dr. Eldon Greigj at the University of Evansville.

\*Meeting, 7 p.m. May 3, First Christian Church, Seventh Street and J.R. Miller Blvd.

\*Board meeting, 11:30 a.m. May 9, Kentucky Wesleyan library.

\*Birding classes at Western Kentucky Botanical Garden, 9 a.m. May 11, 12, 16, 18, 19, 24, 25, 27.



*Lynn Tichenor plays emcee at the bird concert at the Owensboro Area Museum of Science and History.*

## Teachable moments

Educators discuss bird calls, habitats

**T**he real music makers were explored during spring break during "Calling All Birds," an April 5 presentation at the Owensboro Area Museum of Science and History.

Kids learned how birds and humans are built differently. Lynn Tichenor led the group in the singing of "Happy Birthday," having kids feel their vocal chords vibrate, only to learn that birds don't have any. The muscles in their syrinx allow them to reproduce complex melodies.

They also learned from Mary Kissel why birds communicate with each other, ranging from northern flickers' mating calls to migratory honks which keep traveling geese in line. Tichenor used a wooden Audubon call to demonstrate alert chips, and kids lined up after the program to try their hand at re-creating the sound.

Winnie Lin used photos of backyard birds and encouraged the kids to sound out phonetic spellings of their songs before playing audio calls to see how close they came. Some of the birds featured included cardinals, mourning doves, eastern towhees and white-throated sparrows.

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## Teachable

*From Page 1*

Using the cheery “bob-white” as an example, Tichenor challenged the kids in the audience of about 30 to come up with their own songs, using their names. The DCAS educators were impressed by the imagination shown by participants as they used unique rhythms to meet the challenge. The three deemed best were presented singing plush Audubon birds for their efforts.

Kissel was gratified when later in the week, co-worker Cory Maglinger said he and son Jackson were able to identify an American robin by sound.

### **Girls Inc., Nature Center, garden targeted**

The “Celebrate Urban Birds/Urban Girls” is winding up this month.

Last month, Winny Lin, Kenny Lin, Mike Henshaw and Judy Adams repeated the “Calling All Birds” program for the April 7 Girls Inc. presenta-



*Lynn Tichenor, Winny Lin and Mary Kissel, back row, pose with winners of the bird sing-off at the museum.*

tion, giving students a chance to learn the voices behind favorite backyard birds.

The Rolling Heights addition had its largest session April 21, when 27 girls learned about the power to observe and habitat from Judy Adams, Winny Lin and Kenny Lin.

Adams conducted a series of drawing exercises with the girls, asking them to draw items they

saw at eye level and above them, then plant material from team members’ yards. All were designed to get the girls thinking about how they would describe items in nature to family and friends.

Using their urban bird cards, the group broke up into groups to come up with descriptions of their birds in a way that others could guess. Through descrip-

tions of distinctive calls, coloration and other characteristics, they were able to reinforce lessons from the previous months.

The lesson concluded with a brief discussion about the things that are essential to a habitat, such as food, shelter and water. The girls were asked to draw the birding area in their courtyard and offered ideas for providing more housing and water to the birds.

Plans are still being finalized for the final session.

It’s been — and will continue to be — a busy education spring. Lin also conducted bird programming at the Joe Ford Nature Center April 9, focusing on good habitats for birds, and at Tamarack Elementary.

In addition, birding classes for area third-graders will be held at Western Kentucky Botanical Garden, 9 a.m. May 11, 12, 16, 18, 19, 24, 25, 27. It’s part of the Budding Biotech program, which introduces kids to all aspects of science,



*Winny Lin, far right, presented a program on habitat for Joe Ford Nature Center director Grace Ford, left, and Junior Naturalists.*



*Back row: Judy Adams, Kenny Lin, Mike Henshaw and Winny Lin present prizes to top Girls Inc. bird singers.*



# Geotagging enhances sharing of nature data

## USI professor explores potential for shutterbugs

What good is a knowledge of nature if it isn't shared?

The possibilities for geotagging photos was explored by University of Southern Indiana professor Dr. Chuck Price at the April 5 meeting of the Daviess County Audubon Society.

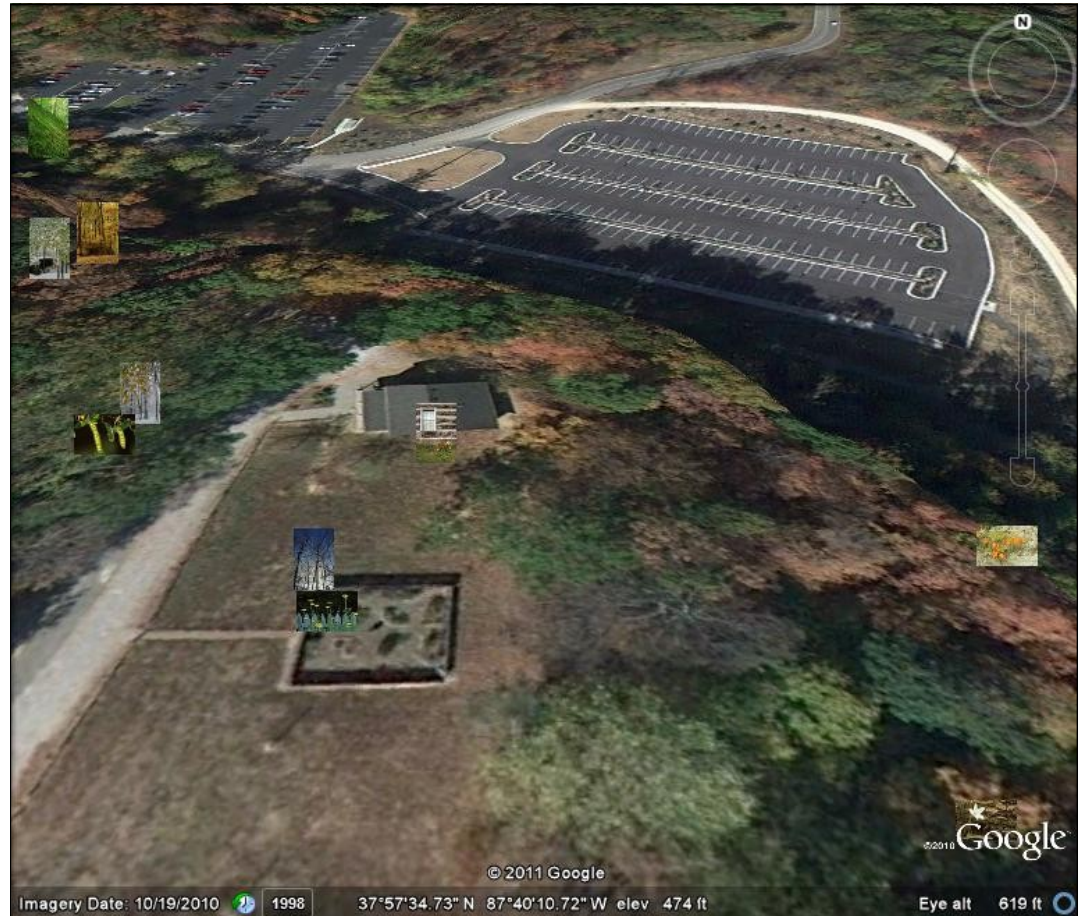
"It's so useful for people who are nature photographers," he said. It's a combination of geography and photo tagging. Most modern devices have the capacity to tag photos, he noted.

USI's wooded 1,500-acre campus gives him lots of subject matter to shoot, but the pursuit of nature often takes us far from the familiar.

"If you get the opportunity to go to somewhere really remote, you won't even know where you are," he said. He encouraged interested photographers to purchase GPS devices so pertinent location data can be embedded in the photo.

The data are useful for researchers and formal presentations, but it's also great when sharing images with family and friends online.

Price extensively uses Google's Picasa website, because it's easy for the public to view, and ease to share images and video with others. His galleries



*Geotagging allows Dr. Chuck Price to map his photos on Google Earth*

date back to film images from the 1990s. For those images shot with film, he had to resort to his memory to label the photos and map them manually. With geotagging, the mapping is done automatically.

A visit to Price's web gallery found the album very user-friendly. It gave the date, latitude and longitude for photos, and the site of the photo was also avail-

able for viewing in Google Maps and Google Earth.

With the detailed image in Google Earth, one could easily share a locale where a bird was photographed.

"If you're good enough, you can find a tree," he said.

A link also provided technical information about photos, information which is always in demand among shutterbugs.

### On The Web

Visit Chuck Price's USI gallery at:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/cprice77/USINaturalBeauty#>

View his presentation at <http://prezi.com/o0u9s2tjn85o/geotagging/>, which provides product ideas for aspiring geotaggers.

## Nominees sought for DCAS Audubon officer team

New officers will be elected at the June meeting.

A nominating committee will be convened to establish a slate

who will guide the chapter for the next year.

Brimming with ideas to make our chapter better? Contact a

current officer: Brenda Little, 270-298-4237; Mike Henshaw, 275-4250; or Judy Adams, 686-8302, to see how you can help.

Anyone interested in taking over The Goldfinch is encouraged to contact Mary Kissel, 926-3321, for more information.





From left: Henry Connor, Sherry Henshaw, Carolyn Williams, Mike Henshaw, David Stratton and Tony Eaden complete the afternoon session of trash pickup near Moseleyville.

## Heavy rain, snakes can't stop trash pursuit

The club completed a successful "Cash for Trash" event April 9, combing Ashbyburg and Burns roads for litter.

It was a day filled with challenges. Skies opened up as the participants were gathering at Southern Oaks Elementary, pushing the start time back to 11 a.m.

The waters roused snakes from their hiding spots. At least eight snakes, most identified as black rat snakes, greeted the trash team.

One got a new job snagging mice when Steve Hahus took it home with him.

The rain was replaced by high winds which played havoc with those trying to manipulate plastic bags and convince aluminum cans to stay in the road for pickup. Brenda Little joked she feared being blown all the way to McLean County.

The wind couldn't have blown away a large mud-filled pipe Tony Eaden and Carolyn Williams lugged.

"I about died!" Williams exclaimed.

After enjoying sandwiches provided by Moonlite Bar-B-Q Inn, the heat ramped up for the hillier portion of the pickup.

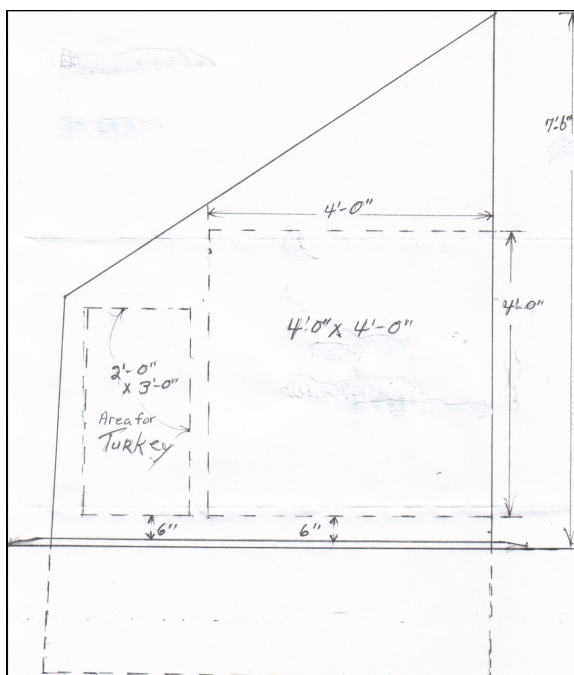
Other participants included: Mike and Sherry Henshaw, David Stratton, Henry Connor, Jill Flachskam, Judy Adams and Mary Kissel.



Sherry Henshaw and Brenda Little enjoy lunch, compliments of Moonlite Bar-B-Q Inn.

The chapter will receive a check for the efforts later this spring.





## Design consensus reached on Audubon monument

The Kentucky Audubon Council has reached a consensus on the design for the John James Audubon monument.

The irregular-shaped stone will feature a carving depicting Audubon's famed wild turkey drawing on one side. The larger side of the monument will feature Audubon's name, life span, and contributions to American life as an immigrant, naturalist, pioneer, ornithologist, artist and publisher of "Birds of America." He's also acknowledged as the inspiration for the National Audubon Society.

## Plans for festival trip change

Flooding has scuttled the schedule for the Ohio Valley Birding Festival.

Daviess County Audubon members will meet at 4 p.m. at Moonlite April 30 to travel to Evansville for the 7 p.m. presentation, "A Birding Moment," by festival keynote speaker Eldon Greigj, founder of Birder's World magazine. His talk will be at University of Evansville Schroeder Family School of Business, Room SB170.

They will eat at Forget-Me-Not Inn, 4 North Weinbach Ave. at 5 p.m.

The bluebird walk with Bob and Judy Peak at Audubon State Park was moved to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 1. There will be no chapter trip.



## Earth Day

Judy Adams and Bob Adams manned a Daviess County Audubon booth for Earth Day at First Christian Church.

## Flachskam hired at Goose Pond

One of the favorite birding destinations among the Daviess Audubon members has become a career destination for one of chapter's own.

Jill Flachskam has accepted a position at Goose Pond Wildlife Management Area near Linton, Ind. The grant-funded role will find her conducting bird surveys, working on invasive species control and other management activities.

Her impact on the chapter and community has been immense. One of the most loyal field trip participants, members have long benefited from her knowledge of our feathered friends, particularly on Christmas bird counts when conditions are poor and the need for accurate identification is great. She's also been a mainstay for Trash for Cash and Christmas at Panther Creek fundraising events, programs which have netted hundreds of dollars for chapter programming.

But she's been a tireless advocate for all things environment. For example, she worked to encourage local governments to adopt "green" energy-efficiency operations, organized "green" awareness activities at Kentucky Wesleyan College, worked with the Sierra Club to challenge Cash Creek power plant in Henderson County, promoted ORSANCO's program to educate hundreds about ways to promote a cleaner Ohio River. If mandatory recycling ever comes to Owensboro, residents can look back at years of campaigning by Flachskam to make it a reality.

