



Daviess County
Audubon Society

The Goldfinch

www.daviessaudubon.net



Wildflowers, Trees, Insects, etc...

March 3, 2015 Program:

Steve Hahus is presenting
our March program:

Wildflowers, Trees, Insects, etc...

Steve has been teaching for 27 years, Biology, Microbiology, Zoology, Anatomy & Physiology and Outdoor Ed. Adept in bird, insect, mammal, reptile, amphibian, wildflowers, and tree identification as well as life history. Please come and enjoy this program!



Take a bird for coffee.



— March Newsletter Calendar:

- Mar 3:** DCAS monthly program, "*Wildflowers, Tress, Insects, Etc...*"—by Steve Hahus, meet the presenter at 5:30 p.m., at Moonlite; and the program starts at 7 p.m., Brescia University Campus Center Study Pavilion.
- Mar 16:** Bird count/DCAS Board meeting, 8:30 a.m. birdcount at OCTC Virginia Miles Nature Center, then at 9:30 a.m., the board meeting.
- Mar 28:** 8:30 a.m., Field trip to Ben Hawes Wildflower, Insect, Trees walk; meet at Rudy Mines trails.

THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT AND DCAS



"Let's see, where is the bird again? Behind the icicle on the left?"

2015 GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT SURVIVES WINTER'S BLAST

Okay, it was cold, and windy, and overcast, but our birders were out and submitted checklists in far greater numbers than last year. In 2014, Daviess County birders submitted a total of 14 checklists. This year we submitted 32 and ranked fifth in Kentucky counties! Thanks to Mike Brown for organizing a county-wide count this year.

Two Girl Scout troops bundled up and counted birds as part of their Valentine party...and there was no whining or complaining about the cold! We may have an opportunity for converts here —:). When we include the surrounding counties within DCAS territory, there were a grand total of 90 checklists submitted...amazing! In Daviess County alone, we counted 58 species. This was despite the snow and poor road conditions on Monday that cancelled the Girls Inc. count at the Joe Ford Nature Center and the DCSAS Board count at the Virginia Miles Nature Center (behind OCTC). Hats off to us!

REMEMBERING: KEN HURM

IN MEMORIUM

The Daviess County Audubon Society lost a good friend on Monday, February 16, 2015. Ken Hurm was an active member. He participated in the Budding Biotech program at the WKBG for several years, bringing his spotting scope and teaching youngsters to identify and appreciate birds whenever we called. He spent countless hours poring over members' photos in order to create a DVD of our activities. And he was always ready to hop in his truck for a birding expedition, whether it be around the corner or up at Goose Pond. This writer will cherish the memory of her first Whooping Crane sighting on a cold and blustery Saturday at Goose Pond, IN. Rest in peace, dear friend.



Please consider promoting the **Rusty Blackbird Blitz** in your bird clubs. The Blitz officially starts in Kentucky on March 1 and continues through mid April.

The low down:

In 2014, the International Rusty Blackbird Working Group, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, eBird, and many other state, federal, and local partners, launched a three-year Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz that challenged birders to scour the landscape for Rusty Blackbirds during this species' northward migration. Between 1 March and 15 June, 4750 birders submitted 13,400 checklists containing Rusty Blackbird observations to eBird, a hugely successful first season that has allowed us to start looking at potential Rusty Blackbird migratory hotspots, habitat use, and potential migratory pathways.

We hope you'll consider participating in Year 2 of the Blitz this spring! It's easy-bird as you normally do during the Blitz window (1 March through 15 June) and submit your data to eBird using the "Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz" observation type. To help you figure out when Rusties might be passing through your area, each region is assigned a set of target dates found here: <http://rustyblackbird.org/outreach/migration-blitz/states-and-dates/> We're collecting Blitz data from anywhere within our target states and provinces, but this year, we'd also like birders to revisit Areas of Interest identified from 2014 data to assess the consistency of Rusty Blackbird habitat use and migratory timing. Check out our map of Areas of Interest for 2015 at <http://rustyblackbird.org/outreach/migration-blitz/2015-areas-of-interest/>

To learn more about Rusty Blackbirds and the Blitz effort, please visit our Migration Blitz website (<http://rustyblackbird.org/outreach/migration-blitz/>), or check out our Blitz Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/rustyblackbirdspringblitz>).

Thanks for your help to spread the word about this effort!

Kate Heyden
Avian Biologist
Nongame Branch
KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
#1 Sportsman's Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601
Phone: 1-800-858-1549 ext. 4475
Fax: 502-564-4519
kathryn.heyden@ky.gov
www.fw.ky.gov



<http://www.ctadubon.org>

Are you Rusty?

Did you know... Department of Fish and Wildlife receives NO state tax dollars and manages wildlife for all citizens?

Ok Folks, Get out there and birdcount!

Subject: Invitation to all Kentucky birders



Ohio Valley Birding Festival Schedule of Events 2015

****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 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.

Howell Wetlands Birding Hike

6:00 PM CDT

Meet at the Howell Wetland entrance on Tekoppel Ave.
Fee: Free. No pre-registration required
Duration: approximately 2 hours

Join us for a birding walk through this 35-acre urban wetland and prairie environment. Species observed on this hike may include: Prothonotary Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Dickcissel, and Pileated Woodpeckers.

Saturday, April 18

Birding the Audubon Wetlands

8:00 AM CDT

Audubon Museum, John James Audubon State Park.

Fee: Free. Pre-registration required*

Contact Julie McDonald at (270) 826-2247 or juliea.mcdonald@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 12.

Audubon's Bird Migration Walk

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

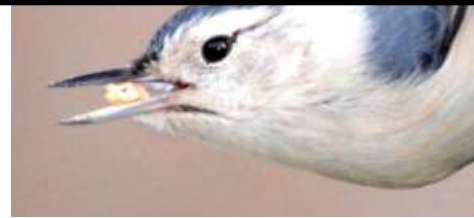
Audubon Museum, John James Audubon State Park

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!

Birding opp—



Bird watching can take place almost anywhere...even your own backyard. This easy and popular nature activity takes virtually no equipment but keeps people glued to their own backyard reality show. Join Naturalist, Julie McDonald in this indoor program on the most commonly encountered backyard birds and how to attract them. Afterwards people can view the local bird residents of John James Audubon State Park in the Observation Room.

Explore Raptors

2:30 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 19

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 members with the Jr. Birders assisting. Appropriate for children ages 8-18 accompanied by an adult. Binoculars will be provided.



Ohio Valley Birding Festival Schedule of Events 2015

Friday, April 24

Big Day of Birding

4:00 AM CDT

Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve

Fee: \$25 includes transportation only.

Pre-registration 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 Birding event. We will scout the tri-state for most species seen in one day. Please wear appropriate footwear for marshy conditions. Registration ends on April 17. No food or drink will be provided but coolers will be available.

Saturday, April 25

Birding the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge

5:30 AM CDT

Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve

Fee: \$20 includes transportation only.

Pre-registration 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 wetland-dependent marshbirds. Registration ends April 17. Please wear appropriate footwear for marshy conditions. Maximum 12-15. No food or drink will be provided but coolers will be available.

Sunday, April 26

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

7:00 AM CDT

Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve

Fee: \$20 includes transportation only.

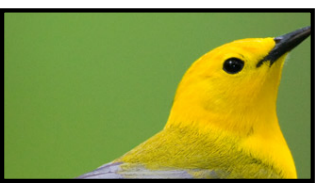
Pre-registration required*

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, upland 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 17. Maximum 12-15. No food or drink will be provided but coolers will be available.



FROM THE BACKYARD

Brrrrrr. It is cold. It is, cold. It, is cold.

The birds are cold too, so don't forget to attend to your birdfeeders. Keep them stocked. A little help for them now will go a long way to spring forward into warmer healthy weather.

My backyard is "crispy" in this below 20 degree weather. The dogs don't like it on their feet, or under their feet, or over their feet. They walk like we do on hot sand at the beach. And hopefully you did not, as I did, in forgetting to check the antifreeze in the (50 yr old) car, for the last week and a half there is a light bulb under the hood keeping my engine above 5-20 degrees. Oh do I remember the "preventative" maintenance lessons' of my youth, to then make this most recent reminder sting twice; once from the cold and once from not learning my lesson the first time. It, is cold. It is, cold. It is cold.

Hang in there, warm weather is around the corner, but the cold does give you more chances to take a friend for that hot chocolate you promised them years ago.

take care and keep care of the birdfeeders,

—bring a friend to our monthly program.

—take a friend birding.

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

- DS

---all these photos are from Steve Hahus. Come hear his program March 3rd!

David Stratton

davids@brescia.edu



This feels warmer just looking at it.