



Daviess County  
Audubon Society

# The Goldfinch

[www.daviessaudubon.net](http://www.daviessaudubon.net)

--Special note-- Bring your bird  
identification books to the program!--  
and read page 2!

**“Bird Identification”  
Christmas Bird Count preparation**

**Dec 6, 2016 Program Note:**

– All programs are now at the Owensboro Museum of Science and History

## “Bird Identification” Christmas Bird Count preparation

Steve Hahus will present a bird identification program, December 6, in preparation for the upcoming winter bird counts: Christmas, and KOS.

Winter bird watching has a limited field of birds who stick around rather than migrating to warmer climates and coloration is less dramatic, making identification sometimes tricky. Steve’s background in being a naturalist, bird-watcher, and educator will help him help us learn and notice details that will assist in better and easier winter identification, especially during the winter bird counts.

--Special note-- Bring  
your bird identification  
books to the program!--



Laura Hedgecock

<https://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/Birds/Archives/2014/Winter-Birding.aspx>

## November Newsletter Calendar:

- Dec 6: DCAS monthly program: “*Winter Bird Identification*” —the program starts at 7 p.m., **take note:** the program is at the Owensboro Museum of Science and History.
- Dec 9-15: Volunteers still needed for Panther Creek Xmas lights, see page 2
- Dec 17: Winter Bird Count, meet at the Bosley home--look on page 5 for maps, 730-8 a.m.
- Jan 1: Christmas Bird Count, meet at the Henshaw home--look on page 5 for maps, 7:30 a.m.
- Dec 19: DCAS board meeting, 9:30 am at Judy’s house.

# Christmas Lights Schedule for volunteers— Still need volunteers!

The month of December, Panther Creek will light up like a christmas tree, with christmas decorations and lights. DCAS has been chosen to collect funds for one week. Volunteers are needed to work at the Panther Creek Park Christmas Lights Dec. 9th through the 15th, from 5:15 pm -9:00 pm. Each night can be split into two shifts of 5:15 - 7:15 and 7:15 - 9:00. **Saturday the 10th and Tuesday the 13th are evenings where we need some additional volunteers.** If you can help, email Carloyn at [cs.williams@att.net](mailto:cs.williams@att.net).

Christmas at Panther Creek Park is back, with what's become a holiday family tradition of driving through the Park decorated with over 400,000 Christmas lights and holiday displays. And you may even get a visit from Santa!!! It's \$3 per vehicle with proceeds to local non-profits.



We need people Sat.  
5:15-7:15 and again  
7:15 to help Doreen.  
We need people on  
Tues. both times.

**Fri. Dec. 9**

5:15-7:15

7:15-9:15

Bob and Judy Adams  
Bob and Judy**Sat. Dec. 10**

Doreen

**Sun. Dec. 11**Dave and Anne Welsh  
Mary Kissel

Lora Wimsatt

**Mon. Dec. 12**Brenda and Tony  
Lynn and Fran**Tues. Dec. 13****Wed. Dec.14**Marilee and Wendell  
Marilee and Wendell**Thurs. Dec. 15**Steve and Theresa  
Steve and Theresa





## **GOOSE POND FIELD TRIP**



# FIVE TRAVEL TO GOOSE POND

Steve Hahus led a small group of birders to Goose Pond on November 12<sup>th</sup>. We managed to spot 22 species, including a pair of Bald Eagles in a tree near the ponds off US Rt. 59. Waterfowl were in abundance: Great Blue Heron, Mallards, lots o' Coots, Shovelers, Blue Wing Teal, Pie-bill Grebe, Great Egret, Tundra Swans and Canada Geese. When we moved to the grassier areas we saw Swamp, Savannah, and Song and Tree sparrows, as well as Red-wing Blackbirds, Brown-headed cowbirds, Blue Jays and Crows, Northern Harrier and a Northern Cardinal. Red Tail Hawks and American Kestrels were noted as well. Our visit to the new Visitors Center was underwhelming...there were no signs! It was the first out of town field trip for Forest Roberts and Rashelle Jurich...welcome! photos by Sheila Moore and Judy Adams.



## New Policy Leadership at Audubon

This fall, Sarah Greenberger joined the National Audubon Society as national vice president for conservation and will lead our government relations and legislative work. Sarah is based in Washington, D.C., and reports to Audubon's Chief Conservation Officer David O'Neill. She comes to Audubon from the U.S. Department of the Interior, where she spent five years driving strategy and policy for the agency as a counselor and senior adviser to Interior Secretaries Ken Salazar and Sally Jewell. In that role, she was instrumental in shaping sage-grouse policy, on which she worked closely with Audubon staff, Western state governors and other stakeholders. Sarah has also served as legislative counsel to Senator Benjamin L. Cardin and as clerk to Judge David S. Tatel on U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. We're very glad to welcome Sarah to Audubon, and you can read more about her here.

**Meanwhile**, after 14 years with the National Audubon Society, VP for Policy Mike Daulton is leaving Audubon to become the new executive director for Bat Conservation International. We all wish Mike well in his exciting new leadership role in the conservation community, and we're grateful for his service and leadership in the Audubon network over the years. Our D.C. policy office will be in good hands under Sarah Greenberger's leadership, and we'll organize some opportunities for Audubon chapters to hear from Sarah and other Audubon leaders about public policy priorities in the new year.

## Last Chance to Sign up for Climate Watch 2017!

The Climate Watch team is gearing up for the 2017 winter pilot survey period on January 15-30. Don't miss this opportunity for your chapter and your members to participate in this important citizen science collaboration! Email [climatewatch@audubon.org](mailto:climatewatch@audubon.org) by Monday, December 5 if you are interested in taking part. More information, including orientation recordings and FAQs, can be found on Audubon.org. A training webinar on how to use the ESRI planning tool will be held on Tuesday, December 6 at 2pm EST. Here's the GoToMeeting link. The dial-in number is +1 877 309 2073 and the access code 603-106-141.

## The Results Are in for the 116th Christmas Bird Count

In case you missed it, the final tallies and accounts of the 116th Christmas Bird Count are in and it was one for the record books! More than 76,000 observers counted almost 59 million birds in the U.S., Canada, the Pacific, the Caribbean, and Latin America. But even the largest and longest-running bird life census can yield some unexpected results. Find out how weather and other factors affected the count and what surprising species showed up. Resources for the 117th Christmas Bird Count can be found on Audubon.org.

**Baby Osprey.** Photo: Menunkatuck member Terry Shaw  
Audubon Chapters in Action - Menunkatuck and Central Kentucky

Learn about Menunkatuck Audubon Society's work to rebuild dilapidated osprey nest platforms to aid the return of these beautiful birds. The widespread use of DDT had brought these raptors to the brink of extinction.

**Also, read about how Central Kentucky Audubon Society** has partnered with Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to fund and construct and place 100 nest boxes for Prothonotary Warblers last January and another 40 last September. (If you need access to Audubon Works, you can click the green "Register" button and use the registration code "worksBobolink.")

## Dates for Your Diary - Instagram

**Social Media Webinar and Chapter Sign-On Letter--December, Thursday 8, 2-3.30pm EST:** They say a photo can speak a thousand words... Join the third session of the fall social media series and learn how to use Instagram to raise awareness of your programs. This session, led by the national social media team, will cover key components of top performing posts, hashtags usage, and how to navigate tools like Buffer for scheduling and Canva for designing social media graphics. Register here.

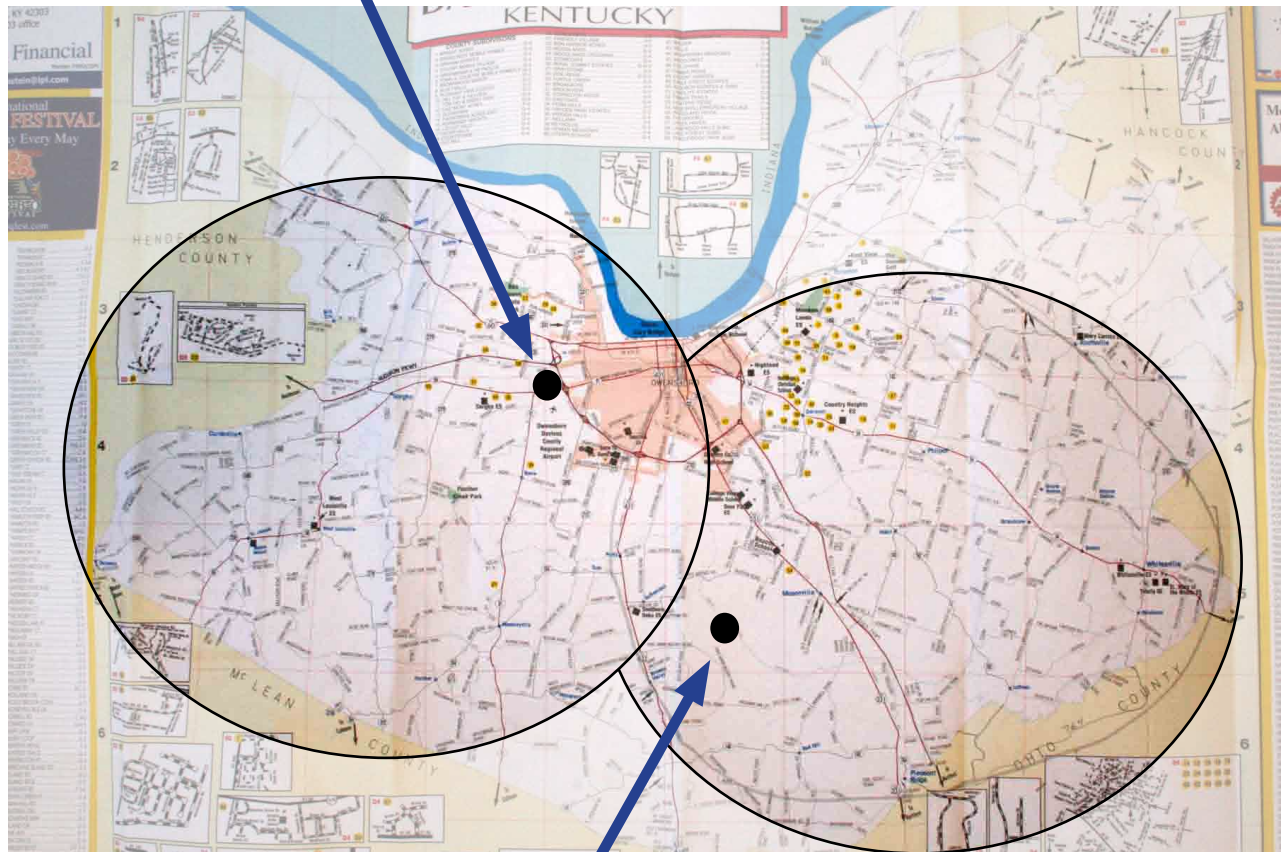
**December, Friday 9: Please join your fellow Audubon chapters** in signing this letter to Congressional leaders by December 9 and call for strong funding during the upcoming lame-duck session for programs and policies that protect our nation's birds and other wildlife. One signer per chapter, please.



## Christmas birdcount maps

# Jan's House

December 17 th--3534 W Parrish Ave. 42301



January 1st---11201 Fields Rd. S., Utica, 42376

# Mike/Sherry's House

Cuba Outdoor Adventures  
3181 Crystal Lake Dr.  
St. Louis, MO 63129  
[www.cubaoutdooradventures.com](http://www.cubaoutdooradventures.com)



Ok, ...

### Birding in Pinar del Río with Havana Itinerary, 6 Days/5 Nights

Let's go birding in Cuba! Let's explore the natural habitat of hundreds of beautiful birds. Let's explore beyond our routines, looking well beyond our backyard bird watching, and become a home town authority on Cuban birds.

Take a trip with us to a newly accessible land, a natural environment considered one of the premier locations in the world for birders. Join us in an active search for endemic Cuban birds, a thrilling pursuit that will sharpen your senses and your sighting abilities. Learn to identify not only Cuban birds but also critically endangered birds. Enjoy the thrill of the hunt while fostering respect for the natural habitat, a reverence that can help save these amazing birds.

Treasure each sighting, each unique call, and each step into nature that sheds the stress of routine responsibilities and brings you one step closer to becoming an expert on exceptional birds that most will never see, nor fully appreciate. Accumulate a list that will impress your birding friends back home while meeting new friends and fellow birders in Cuba.

Cuba is home to over 350 bird species, 27 of which are endemic and about 30 of which are considered globally threatened. Imagine catching a glimpse of the rare blue-headed quail-dove or the exhilaration of sighting an ivory-billed woodpecker or Bachman's warbler. Of course such sightings would be extraordinary life-changing events but not out of the realm of possibility. While staying alert for such sightings, you will also see an extraordinary assortment of flamingos, parakeets, woodpeckers, herons, and spoonbills. Cuba is the natural habitat for three species of hummingbirds, including the bee hummingbird, or *zunzuncito*, the smallest hummingbird in the world, weighing less than a penny. Be sure to spot the big island's national bird, the Cuban trogon, or *tocororo*, sporting the same red, white, and blue colors of the Cuban flag. You can expect to see the Cuban solitaire, olive-capped warbler, Fernandina's flicker, giant kingbird, Cuban grassquit, Cuban pygmy owl, Caspian tern, Forster's tern, Neotropic cormorant, osprey, and snail kite. We will take you to see those birds in the best birding locations in Pinar del Río.

We will go to Parque Nacional La Güira, 54,000 acres of wilderness preserve, teeming with Cuba's birds, and home to Hacienda Cortina, an abandoned country mansion with remnants of a crenellated entry gate, Chinese pavilion, and clusters of bamboo. The wilderness preserve is also home to Cueva de los Portales, a spectacular cave and national monument with vine-covered limestone cliffs that is a supreme spot for spotting birds you will see nowhere else in the wild.

We will go to Mil Cumbres, a unique natural environment with four watersheds, four sulfur springs, a microclimate of plains, mountain rainforest, semi-deciduous forest, seasonal evergreen, wet evergreen shrub, and wooded savannahs. Mil Cumbres is home to over 135 species of birds like the Cuban finch, the Cuban bullfinch, the northern bobwhite, the eastern meadowlark, the mourning dove, the Cuban emerald, the Cuban trogon, the Cuban solitaire, the Cuban green woodpecker, and the Cuban tody.

Cuba is your chance to enjoy a beautiful natural environment while hunting for some of the world's most distinctive birds, a chance to enjoy fascinating bird personalities in the wilds of the largest Caribbean island, the dominant ones and the nurturing ones. A birding trip to Cuba can increase your overall sense of well being and create memories you will not soon forget. Let's go to Cuba for a magnificent birding experience that you will remember for a lifetime.

# FROM THE BACKYARD

## —2 blogs for Beginners—Birds....

<http://becausebirds.com/>

<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>

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

David Stratton  
david@brescia.edu

Hmmm.,

huh?

winter?  
spring?

Remember, our monthly programs are now at the  
Owensboro Museum of Science and History.

- 7 pm.
- Refreshments will be provided.
- mild chaos is typical, so come and enjoy.