



The Newsletter of the Louisville Audubon Society

The Audubon Flyer

Winter 2007-2008

Upcoming Events

December 31, 2008

Deadline for signing up for
L.A.S. Sponsorship of
Audubon Adventures
(see p. 4)

January 10, 2009

Eagle Watch at Patoka Lake
(see p. 2)



Photo by Tom Fusco

January 12, 2009

L.A.S. Board Meeting

February 7, 2009

Great Backyard Bird Count Program
Louisville Nature Center
1:00 p.m.

March 9, 2009

L.A.S. Board Meeting

12TH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Our annual program on the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), *How to Participate and What Birds You Can Expect to See*, will be presented on Saturday, February 7th at 1:00 p.m. at the Louisville Nature Center (LNC), 3745 Illinois Ave., across from the Louisville Zoo. Joan Brown, retired Conservation and Education Officer with KY Dept of Fish & Wildlife Resources will walk us through the basics, while both educating us and entertaining us with her bird stories.

L.A.S. is here to help you become a Citizen Scientist. From beginners to experts, *everyone* can count birds, reporting their sightings on one or each of the four count days (February 13-16, 2009) online at: www.birdcount.org. The web site also allows participants to explore what birds others folks are finding in their backyards—whether in their own neighborhood or thousands of miles away. Additional online resources include tips to help identify birds, a photo gallery, and a special section for educators. Last February, 85,000 checklists were submitted—reporting 9.8 million birds of 635 species—a new record count!

“The GBBC has become a vital link in the arsenal of continent-wide bird-monitoring projects,” said Cornell Lab of Ornithology director, John Fitzpatrick. “With more than a decade of data now in hand, the GBBC has documented the fine-grained details of late-winter bird distributions better than any project in history, including some truly striking changes just over the past decade.”

As an added feature this year, L.A.S. will have several leaders lined up on the actual GBBC weekend whom you may join to tally a count for a specified area. Walks will be suitable for all ages. Check back for details to be posted in January on our website at the following link: www.louisvilleaudubon.org ... or call LNC at 502/458-1328.

L.A.S. WELCOMES TED BOEHM AS TREASURER

The Board of Directors is delighted to have Ted Boehm officially joining us as Treasurer of the organization as of October 2008. Ted was sent our way courtesy of a lifelong friend and L.A.S. Board Member, Joe Chiles. Some of you may know Ted as a retired Principal of Male High School here in Louisville. Retired life apparently didn't suit his energetic personality, so he returned to the school system as Alumni Director at Fern Creek High School. Ted says he likes to keep busy, and we have just enough to keep him engaged ... and another educator among our ranks will keep us sharp. A sincere Welcome to Ted!

L.A.S. would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the service of Sharon White, outgoing Treasurer, and we thank her for several years of service. Sharon will continue with Louisville Audubon as a Board Member.

EAGLE WATCH 2009 AT PATOKA LAKE IN INDIANA

L.A.S. is coordinating a trip to the Patoka Lake Visitor Center, where the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources will be hosting Eagle Watch 2009. Join us on Saturday, January 10th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for this exciting experience. We will car-pool from the Louisville Nature Center, 3745 Illinois Ave. Please meet at 6:30 a.m. for departure by 6:45. Events that day will consist of indoor programs as well as outdoor field trips so be sure to dress for the weather. We will tour the center and visit with the resident educational Bald Eagle, "C52." Our travel to the eagle-watch areas will be in car/van pools, spotting scopes will be set up, the terrain and time in the field will be suitable for all ages. At the

conclusion of the program, we will have a late lunch in the French Lick area (at a highly recommended establishment), to arrive back in Louisville by 5:00 p.m.

Reservations are required – Audubon will pay your way at the Visitors Center but you are on your own for lunch. Deadline for reservations is Monday, December 10th. Late-comers will be placed on a waiting list.

To make your reservations, contact Carol Kaufmann at czkaufmann@insightbb.com or phone 502/459-9299 by Monday, Dec. 10th. If you'd like to go on your own visit the web site http://www.in.gov/dnr/files/sp-Patoka_NovDec2008.pdf.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM REPORT

by Diane Shott

The engineer (and published author) on our Board, Sarah Lynn Cunningham, presented our November program at the Louisville Nature Center. It was based on her recently published article, "*From Smoke-Filled Skies to Smoke-Filled Rooms – Louisville's Political Battles Over the 'Smoke Evil'*," that appeared in *Ohio Valley History* (Spring 2008). Sarah Lynn opened with a quote from Charles Dickens about his visit here in 1842 describing our "blackened buildings," and she displayed a jar of the type of coal soot of which the average Louisvillian inhaled one cup and a half in 1933!

Most of her slides were from the Filson Historical Society; one showed so much smoke pouring over pedestrians on 4th St. that the audience thought of 9/11. Prosperity and jobs of the "Smokestack Economy" were weighed against the environment as the Courts employed

the "Reasonable Use" doctrine. In 1919, the first rayon curtains turned from blue to red in Louisville's air! A 1941 League of Women Voters survey showed that 90% of Louisville residents wanted clean air, and 70% were willing to pay for it. Yet Rubbertown employed 80,000 workers about the same time—and industry was in no danger of regulatory limits Fed up with Rubbertown pollution and timid local politicians, a group of West End citizens turned to Frankfort and successfully lobbied for the creation the Air Pollution Control District—with jurisdiction across the entire county—in 1952.

Sarah Lynn plans additional articles on local environmental history. There is always more work to do to keep both our world and our economy secure, and we are especially proud of Sarah Lynn for attending to it!

L.A.S. CONGRATULATES TOM FITZGERALD ON HEINZ AWARD

by Sarah Lynn Cunningham

The Louisville Audubon Society congratulates Tom FitzGerald on winning the 2008 Heinz Award for the Environment. In 1984, "Fitz" founded the Kentucky Resources Council—one of the Commonwealth's most effective non-profit environmental advocacy organizations. KRC provides free legal, strategic and policy assistance to individuals, organizations and communities concerning environmental quality and resource extraction. Tom has remained its Director for those 25 years (see <http://www.kyrc.org/>). Prior to founding KRC, he received his law degree from UK and was a staff attorney with the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund.

As the state's leading lobbyist on behalf of the environment, Fitz has earned respect from all who have

passed through the halls of the state capitol over the past three decades. Nationally, he is best known for his unparalleled command of mining law and effective defense of the people and land of the coalfields. Tom shares his expertise as an Adjunct Professor of Energy and Environmental Law at the Brandeis School of Law, and he frequently teaches continuing legal education courses.

The bottom line: Those of us who live downstream, downwind and downhill from sources of pollution—really, all of us—are fortunate to have Tom's commitment to us. For more on Tom's recognition, see <http://www.heinzawards.net/recipients/thomas-fitzgerald>

L.A.S. STOCKING STUFFERS

Looking for an opportunity to help support some of your Louisville Audubon Society's outstanding education programs? Donate any amount by the end of the year for this year's tax deductible contribution (yes, we are a 501(c)(3) organization) and designate your contribution to one or more of the following programs:

1. **Audubon Adventures** — award-winning, teacher-directed nature education kit for a classroom use of 32 students; each kit costs \$45.65 (see related item on page 4). With your help we can bring more schools into the program as we expand support. Once we have a teacher and a school signed on, we like to continue the gift with a sponsor the following school year.
2. **Title 1 Schoolchildren** — (designated by the school system as in need of financial aid) to attend nature education classes. You can be a sponsor under the name of L.A.S. for programming fees and towards a percentage of the transportation costs, enabling us to reach more school-children than ever before!
3. **On the Trail of John James Audubon** — as we continue our celebration of Audubon's life and work in Louisville, we are hoping to expand on last year's variety of events with several co-sponsors. Also,

L.A.S. will be completing the required documentation and entering into the process required by the state of Kentucky to place a historical marker at the downtown site where John James Audubon lived. The marker alone costs over \$2,000. You can really be a part of history with a contribution to this effort! We expect the final step in the process to be a public dedication at the site where the historical marker is placed.

4. **Buckley Wildlife Sanctuary & Audubon Center** — our only Audubon Center in the state, located just outside of Frankfort. Last year we were able to help underwrite a portion of the nature education programs for school-children and other groups attending this facility. If you'd like to donate to traditional Audubon facilities, consider this option.

Additionally, we can also accept gifts on behalf of another person – we'll send the card! We'd like to list you as a donor, but you may choose to remain anonymous.

Make your tax-deductible check payable to the Louisville Audubon Society, name your program choice, and please mail them to L.A.S., c/o Ted Boehm/ Treasurer, 2509 Hayward Rd., Louisville, KY 40242.

NEWS FROM THE CORNELL LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY ENGAGING SCHOOLCHILDREN

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has just released its newly revised *Homeschooler's Guide to Project FeederWatch*. Project FeederWatch is an easy, fun way for children to learn about birds and strengthen their skills in observation, identification, research, computation, writing, creativity, and more. FeederWatchers keep track of the numbers and kinds of birds at their feeders through the winter and report what they see to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The *Homeschooler's Guide* will take you through bird-related activities that promote learning across many disciplines, including science, math, history, and the arts.

To download the FREE *Homeschooler's Guide to Project FeederWatch*, visit www.FeederWatch.org and click on the "Education/Home School" link. You'll be able to download the PDF in either low (2.2MB) or high (6.7MB) resolution. You may choose to use the free guide as a stand-alone resource, or sign up for Project FeederWatch to submit the data you gather. If you would like to be a project participant, the sign-up fee is \$12 for members of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, \$15 for non-members. There are discounts for group participation. If you have any questions, contact the Cornell Lab at: feederwatch@cornell.edu.

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The Louisville Audubon Society

Local Chapter
of the
National Audubon Society

Mission Statement

To conserve and restore natural ecosystems,
focusing on birds and other wildlife
for the benefit of humanity and the earth's
biological diversity

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Audubon Adventures Challenge UPDATE

Deadline Dec. 31, 2008

L.A.S. has received five enrollees:
Atkinson Elementary
Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve (Education Program)
The DePaul School
Indian Trail Elementary
St. Aloysius – PeeWee Valley

There is funding for FIVE more classroom kits
Contact Carol Kaufmann at
czkaufmann@insightbb.com or phone 502/459-9299

For details on *Audubon Adventures* and the Classroom
Education Kits visit www.audubon.org/educate/aa

Each kit serves 32 students and one teacher with 4 nature-
themed lessons; cost is a total of \$45.65. If you miss out on
this year's Challenge, apply next year!

THE LOUISVILLE AUDUBON SOCIETY
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