

Kentucky Audubon's Caws

Newsletter Insert of the Kentucky Audubon Council

Fall 2003

www.kentuckyaudubon.org

Liz Woedl Addresses Delegates

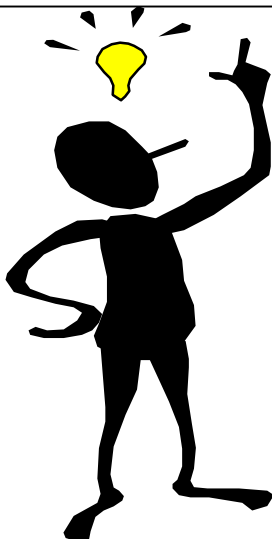
Liz Woedl is a member of the National Audubon Society's National Board of Directors. Liz attended our September meeting in Elizabethtown and spoke about the difficulty chapters are having since National Audubon suspended the dues share method of distributing to local chapters a portion of membership dues paid to NAS. Liz recommends that chapters instate, reinstate, or intensify emphasis on collecting dues for their treasuries that stay entirely on the local level. Some chapters call these local dues, newsletter subscriptions, and such. Previously NAS forbade such practices and some chapters have wording in their by-laws such as "dues shall be the dues of the National Audubon Society". To avoid having to rewrite these chapters' legal documents, terminology such as 'local dues' would have to be avoided. Liz further recommended that chapters organize local fundraisers to take the place of funds that used to come from NAS. Some chapters are conducting seed sales and birdathons to remain solvent.

National Audubon Society Board of Directors will Meet in Northern Kentucky

Mark your calendar for 10 AM on Saturday December 6 so that you can make a concerted effort to have a representative from your chapter in attendance at the NAS Directors' meeting on the campus of Northern Kentucky University. Liz Woedl, NAS Director, has expressed her opinion that the meeting will likely be contentious as the *Take Back Audubon* group is planning to address the Directors.

It is not often that the National Directors meet at a location in our state and even though Erlanger, Kentucky is not near to all of our chapters' hometowns, it would benefit each chapter to see firsthand the way business is conducted and differences are addressed.

Driving Directions: From Louisville take I 71 toward Cincy. From Lexington go North on I 75. Take I 275 W toward Airport. Take Mineola Pike Exit # 2 for .3 miles. Turn left onto Mineola Pike for .2 miles. Turn right onto Olympic Boulevard W. for .1 mile.



Fall Meeting Report

A PowerPoint presentation featuring the new Kentucky Audubon Council's Web site, www.kentuckyaudubon.org, was the centerpiece of the September meeting's program in Elizabethtown. The delegates looked at the Websites of a few other states before seeing the KAC's for the first time, and our new Web site was judged to be very user friendly. Each chapter's delegates learned how to post data such as officers' names, newsletters, programs and events for their chapter on the KAC Website.

**We extend a special THANK YOU to
East Kentucky Power Cooperative,
the provider of funding for Internet access at our fall meeting.**

I'm Staying on the Perch for another

year This fall Vice-President Jim Cain decided that he will not be able to step into the role of President of the Kentucky Audubon Council as had been planned. Therefore we have begun to put together a slate of officers that hopefully will include a Vice-President and President Elect as we look forward for the next 5 year period. The delegates at the March 13th meeting in Elizabethtown will decide who will take my place beginning in October 2004.

The two delegates who have been asked to consider the nomination have both taken the duties, requirements, and importance of the office quite seriously. They have asked for time to think about possible career conflicts and other personal obligations before they agree to allow their names to be put before the delegates.

The last 10 months of my term in office will target goals involving unfinished business. I'd like to see the KAC's Website construction completed and running smoothly. We are also planning to get Kentucky's Important Bird Areas designated then registered on a national and even an international level. The final and most daunting goal of all will be seeking a person to direct the fundraising needed for setting up a state office and the hiring of an executive director for Audubon in Kentucky.

If it were not for the dedication and talents of people upon whom the KAC depends, these 3 major goals for the upcoming 10 months would loom large and would be frightening. However, I have all the confidence of a gambler holding 3 aces as we go into my last year of office. Todd Beemer's words have become almost immortal since 9/11. I think I'll adopt them as we go into the next year. "Let's Roll!"

G. Wm. "Bill" Little, Jr.

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Important Bird Areas

Six people have been tapped to review the nominations of sites proposed to be Kentucky's Important Bird Areas, places that are often just called *IBA's*. The people who have agreed to serve on the IBA designation committee are all astute birders. Some are educators and some watch birds as a hobby on a very intense level.

Nomination forms will be distributed to environmental groups, bird clubs, individuals, and schools across the state and into parts of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Tennessee, and West Virginia that are in close proximity to Kentucky's borders around the first of next year. Anyone may nominate a site to be an IBA. The determination of whether or not a nominated site is an IBA will be made based on either the sheer numbers of birds that use the area for food and/or shelter or by any rare or endangered avian species that inhabit the site.

Nominations will be accepted through March of 2004 and then the committee will review data about each site from April until July 2004. Important is the key word with IBA's. The committee is important, the sites are important, birds are important, and expediency is important.

Questions? Comments! Suggestions....

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