

# Kentucky Audubon's Caws

Newsletter Insert of the Kentucky Audubon Council

Winter 2003

## Kentucky's Committee for Important Bird Areas

Nominations have been slow coming in for the committee that will first determine what will qualify an area to be an IBA, and then will evaluate nominations of areas in Kentucky for the designation. Barry Adkins of the Buckley Hills Chapter is the IBA chairman for our state. Adkins reports that the committee he chairs now seats 3 very capable volunteers. His committee is expected to meet about 4 times a year during the next two years as the group evaluates areas, on paper and on-site, that are under consideration for the National Audubon Society's state-by-state effort to identify areas deemed vital to wild birds.

The people who have agreed to serve on the IBA committee are the busiest people on earth. Their willingness to give of their time and to travel as needed to sites under consideration is based almost entirely on their love for birds. The Kentucky Audubon Council officers and delegates have pledged their support to the committee by offering to facilitate with preparation of meeting materials and by scheduling meetings in different regions of Kentucky so that travel is not far from the homes of committee members at every session.

In addition to nominating volunteers to serve on the IBA committee, each chapter should be making plans to nominate areas that are thought to be Important Bird Areas. Nomination forms will be distributed to chapters and other birding organizations after the committee puts its guidelines in place.

## American Bird Conservancy Requests Help from Kentucky Audubon Chapters

American Bird Conservancy is an organization dedicated to the preservation of bird habitat and the conservation of wild birds in the Americas. In February a representative of American Bird Conservancy met with Fish and Wildlife staff at Salato, spoke with Tim Williams at Buckley Sanctuary, and proposed to President Bill Little distribution of material for the *Cats Indoors* campaign to each Kentucky Audubon chapter.

American Bird Conservancy is not working alone in its efforts to decrease the preying upon wild birds by free roaming pet and feral cats. The American Humane Society, The Humane Society of the United States, and The Petcare Trust also support this program intended to educate the public about the benefits of keeping cats indoors. The message being put forth is that not only do birds enjoy the freedom to nest, feed and rear their young without the devastation that the introduced species known as the house cat inflicts on them, but the cat itself lives a longer, healthier and safer life indoors.

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### **Mountaintop Removal is Alive and Well Public Opinion be Damned**

Kentucky Heartwood made a valiant effort in January to present to the Forest Service the stance of the public about its plan for the Daniel Boone National Forest, via organizations such as Sierra Club, Smart Progress, etc. including the Kentucky Audubon Council, that together represent approximately 20,000 of Kentucky's citizens. The two Forest Service employees sent to hear the pleas for sustainable forestry practices and protection of wildlife habitat sat expressionless as representatives one after the other explained the wishes of the members of their organizations. When asked why it has taken 9 years and still there is not a plan for the National Forest, the men answered, "It has taken this long because that's how long it takes."

Shortly after Heartwood's sponsored public input meeting, it was announced in the press that the Forest Service had gone ahead with a land swap that would allow for a tract of land in The Daniel Boone National Forest to be mined in the hated manner of mountaintop removal. The Forest Service knows darned well that the people of Kentucky abhor this rape of our land. They knew that before the public input meeting where the Forest Service representatives were treated to more respect than they deserve. Shame on y'all. You are messing with Mother Nature and thumbing your noses at Kentucky's concerned citizens.

Questions? Comments? Ideas?

Suggestions? Contact our Officers :

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### **The View from the President's Perch**

When I became President of the Kentucky Audubon Council, there had been a movement to increase the Council's meetings from two a year, Spring and Fall, to quarterly gatherings of an Executive Committee given the name M.A.G., Mission Advisory Group. In January of 2001 as momentum built toward a fundraising effort, MAG's quarterly meetings segued into meetings of the entire Council.

A series of events occurred that derailed the K.A.C.'s fund raising train. Dan Hendricks who designed our plan, left the state. September 11, 2001 put fear into our small pool of fund raising volunteers. And then our state's current governmental deficit further draped a pall over the small amount of enthusiasm that was burning among our stalwarts.

With the cancellation of K.A.C.'s fall meeting, I had an epiphany of sorts. I believe that absent an active effort to fund a state office and employ a state executive director, quarterly meetings are excessive and are a burden for the Council's delegates.

The K.A.C. spring meeting will be held on March 15, 11 AM to 2 PM EST, at Nolin Rural Electric Co-op at 411 Ring Road in Elizabethtown. The agenda of the meeting will be:

1. Chapter Reports
2. IBA Committee Report by Barry Adkins
3. K.A.C.'s Web site by Tom Hicks





