



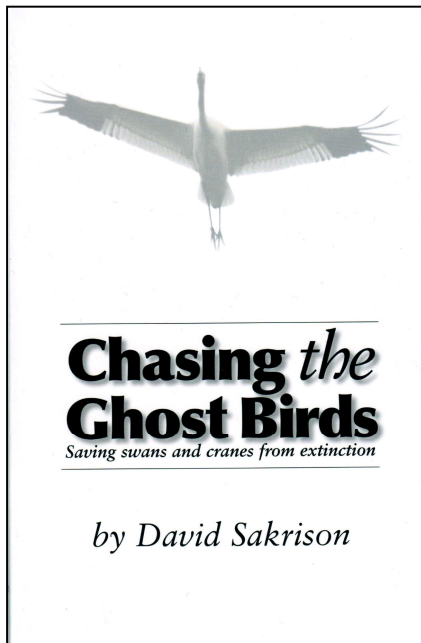
The Audubon Flyer

Summer 2009

Upcoming Events

June 15, 2009

Ghost Birds Program &
L.A.S. General Election
Louisville Nature Center
7:00 p.m.



July 13, 2009

L.A.S. Board Meeting

July 25, 2009

Birdhouse Decorating Contest
Feeders Supply, Hikes Point
1:30 p.m.
(see p. 3)

L.A.S. PRESENTS *GHOST BIRDS* PROGRAM DESCRIBING AIRCRAFT-LED WHOOPING CRANE MIGRATIONS

“The wildlife conservation equivalent of putting a man on the moon.” That’s how one U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologist has described the international effort to save the endangered Whooping Crane by creating a new wild flock in the eastern United States.

David Sakrison, author of the acclaimed book, *Chasing the Ghost Birds*, will present a slide/lecture program entitled: “Chasing the Ghost Birds: Ultralight-Led Crane Migrations” at the **Louisville Nature Center, 3745 Illinois Ave. on Monday June 15th at 7:00 PM.** The program describes in words and pictures the groundbreaking efforts using ultralight aircraft to teach young captive-raised whooping cranes to follow a new migration route and establish a new wild flock of “Whoopers.”

There were fewer than 20 wild Whooping Cranes on the planet in 1946. By the 1970s, their numbers had grown to around 100 birds, thanks to federal protection and careful management. However, the birds all belonged to a single vulnerable flock that nested in northwestern Canada and wintered on the Texas Gulf Coast.

In the 1970s biologists began working to establish a new wild flock of Whoopers, apart from the existing flock. A single wild flock could easily be wiped out by a virus or by a natural or manmade disaster. Two or more wild flocks would provide some insurance against extinction.

The project involved placing captive-bred Whooping Crane eggs in wild Sandhill Crane nests, introducing captive-raised Whoopers into a wild, non-migratory flock, and eventually teaching young Whoopers a new migration route from Wisconsin to Florida.

Sakrison’s slide program briefly describes the Whooping Crane’s natural history and early efforts to protect the birds, and then chronicles in detail the development of ultralight-led migrations.

Following the program, Sakrison will autograph his recent book *Chasing the Ghost Birds, Saving swans and cranes from extinction*. The book documents three cutting-edge wildlife programs to protect Trumpeter Swans, Siberian Cranes, and Whooping Cranes, and return them to their historic ranges. George Archibald, co-founder of the International Crane Foundation, calls *Chasing the Ghost Birds*, “a remarkable chronicle,” told with, “balance, accuracy, and lucid detail.” *Kirkus Reviews* called it, “A solid, thoroughgoing and affecting work, and an estimable addition to avian history.” It is available at your local bookstore and at www.ChasingtheGhostBirds.com.

David Sakrison is a freelance corporate writer and aviation writer who lives in Ripon, Wisconsin.

ON THE TRAIL OF JOHN JAMES AUDUBON ...

***Eye on Birds* — J.J. Audubon Exhibit runs through August 2, 2009, at the Falls of the Ohio Interpretive Center**

Bird watching, always a favorite activity at the Falls of the Ohio, is now more popular than ever. Why is it a multi-billion dollar hobby? What are the essential tools of the hobby? How can you attract interesting birds to your yard? The *Eye on Birds* exhibit focuses on bird watching and the nature of wild birds. Garrick Fields, a local, top-notch bird photographer, has provided an extraordinary, close up view of a great variety of birds at the Falls ... in the water and in the air. This is the second of two exhibits celebrating the bicentennial of John James Audubon at the Falls of the Ohio.

Admission to *Eye on Birds* is free with paid admission to the Interpretive Center: Monday - Thursday it is \$4 for age 19 and over, \$1 age 2 - 18 and under 2 is free. Friday - Sunday \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. The Center is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Editor's Note – text from Falls of Ohio State Park web site (www.falloftheohio.org) with kudos to the volunteer interpretative naturalists at the Park who designed, gathered, and assembled materials for the exhibit.

Cincinnati Artist, DeVere Burt, Headlines Lexington Art Exhibit

***Audubon's River* collection features works inspired by John James Audubon's exploration of the Ohio River frontier; show opens May 10**

DeVere Burt, a Cincinnati artist, announces the opening of *Audubon's River*, a touring art exhibit and sale that will run May 10 through July 5, 2009 at Lexington Christ Church Cathedral. The exhibit will feature art works that have been inspired by John James Audubon's exploration of the Ohio River frontier.

This special art event will include numerous activities:

- **Art Exhibit** – May 10 through July 5 (9:30-3:30 M-F; Sun 8 a.m.-Noon)
- **Gallery Hop and Artist's Reception** – Friday, June 19, 5-8 p.m.

- **Final Walk-Through** hosted by DeVere Burt – Sunday, July 5, 9 a.m.-Noon

All activities will be held at Christ Church Cathedral located at 166 Market Street in Lexington. "My passion is art," said Burt. "Throughout my career as a museum director, I had always been drawn to the mystery of creating fine art depictions of wildlife and landscapes. After many years in a museum environment, I have chosen a new path and now allow my fervor for art and the natural world to take center stage. It's exhilarating, and I love it!" For more information, visit www.ccllex.org.

Welcome "Audubon" to Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve

L.A.S. is excited to announce the selection of Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve (CMNP) as the temporary home of the Gallopalooza horse named "Audubon." Secured by the efforts of CMNP Director and L.A.S. Board Member, Tavia Cathcart, you are invited to visit the filly; be sure to bring along plenty of camera gear and kids of all ages! The artists who created "Audubon" are Carrie Johns and her father Mike Thompson. Read on to learn what Carrie says, in her own words, about the project:

"Kentucky's "Audubon" pays tribute to John James Audubon, an American naturalist and painter. Although Audubon was not born in Kentucky, he made a big impact. Audubon moved to Kentucky and lived, worked and painted from 1810 to 1819. He explored Kentucky's wilderness, documenting our

abundance of birds and other wildlife. Today, the John James Audubon State Park, just north of Henderson, KY, houses the world's largest collection of Audubon artifacts and offers exhibits on the artist's life. "Kentucky's Audubon" will be comprised of images of Audubon's work, painted as he would have, displayed together in a natural setting.

All of the birds pictured are native to Kentucky, and were taken directly from Audubon's paintings. Pictured are: Mallard, Bobwhite, Kentucky Warbler, Wild Turkey, Cardinal, Bluebird, Robin, Purple Martin, Red-headed Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Great Horned Owl.

I especially enjoyed painting Kentucky's Audubon because I got to share the experience with my dad. We are both artists, but this is the first time we have been able to collaborate on something together."

(continued on page 3)

Lynn Huffman, Executive Director of Gallopalooza, describes the event as a civic-pride project featuring more than 130 horse statues that will be on display from April to October. The horses will be auctioned to the highest bidder at either a live auction on October 10th at the Brown Theatre or via an email online auction through the website www.gallopalooza.com. Funds raised go to support community beautification projects in partnership

with Operation Brightside.

We hope you will share our excitement in having "Audubon" so close you can touch her and view close-up the enduring artistry of John James Audubon through the eyes of Carrie Johns and Mike Thompson.

For detailed information on Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve, go to www.creaseymahannaturepreserve.org or call 502/228-4362.

L.A.S. BIRD HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST AT FEEDERS SUPPLY

L.A.S. will be a part of Feeders Supply's 50th Anniversary celebration on Saturday July 25. Our contribution will be in the Wild Bird Department! We are hosting & judging a bird house decorating contest at the Hikes Point store location, 3079 Breckenridge Lane, in McMahan Plaza next to Kroger, at 1:30 p.m. The winners will be chosen from two divisions, "12 and Under" and "13 and Over." Prizes will be awarded. Bird houses must be usable, i.e. functional for birds. Various contests for pets will be going on at all the stores the day of the

"party" – different stores, different games/contests. We are happy to help celebrate with Feeders Supply on their special day; they have been a generous corporate partner to us over the years, marketing, packaging, distributing, storing and overall giving our fundraising effort a "home" by selling our L.A.S. formula bird seed mixes. A portion of each sale is returned to us and our across-the-river sister chapter, Knob & Valley Audubon. So make plans today to join in the celebration – with or without your decorated bird house!

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT REPORT – L.A.S. WAS THERE AND COUNTING

The 12th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), co-sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, featured two invasions: hordes of voracious Pine Siskins and a whole new crop of citizen-science participants! Bird watchers shattered last year's record by submitting **more than 93,600 checklists** during the four-day event, held February 16-19, 2009. Participants also identified 619 species and sent in thousands of bird images for the GBBC photo contest. A few highlights from this year's count:

- One of the big stories coming from the GBBC this year was the massive invasion of Pine Siskins over much of the eastern United States. These feisty little birds moved southward because of seed crop failures in their usual wintering grounds in Canada and the boreal forests.
- The GBBC continues to show declines in some common birds, especially grassland and shrubland species.
- "I just love the way this event opens up a new world for so many people," says Cornell Lab of Ornithology Citi-

zen Science Director Janis Dickinson. "We have grandparents counting with their grandchildren, elementary school classrooms doing the GBBC as a special project, nature centers taking visitors out on bird walks ... and adults who never noticed birds before are suddenly smitten!"

- The top 10 most frequently reported birds on the 2009 GBBC were:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Northern Cardinal | 6) Blue Jay |
| 2) Mourning Dove | 7) House Finch |
| 3) Dark-eyed Junco | 8) Tufted Titmouse |
| 4) American Goldfinch | 9) American Crow |
| 5) Downy Woodpecker | 10) Black-capped Chickadee |

- For a more detailed summary of this year's results, visit the GBBC web site at www.birdcount.org.

- **The next Great Backyard Bird Count is February 15-18, 2010**

Editor's Note – Text from joint Press Release by National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

L.A.S. GENERAL ELECTION FOR OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

The Louisville Audubon Society will hold an election of Officers & Members of the Board of Directors at the June 15th general meeting. Nominated are:

President – Carol Kaufmann
 Vice-President – Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr.
 Treasurer – Ted Boehm
 Secretary - David Holt

Directors with terms expiring in 2009 and up for re-election are Diane Shott, Bertha Timmel, and Sharon White. Director Joe Chiles has one year left in his term. Director Tavia Cathcart has two years left in her term.

Nominations from the floor also may be made at the general meeting.

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

President

Carol Kaufmann

Vice-President

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Treasurer

Ted Boehm

Secretary

David Holt

Directors

Tavia Cathcart

Joe Chiles

Diane Shott

Bertha Timmel

Sharon White

THE LOUISVILLE AUDUBON SOCIETY

3745 Illinois Avenue
Louisville, KY 40213

On the Web at: www.louisvilleaudubon.org

502/458-1328 or czkaufmann@insightbb.com

CARMICHAEL'S BOOKSTORE HONORED

Louisville Audubon Society wishes to congratulate Carol Besse & Michael Boggs, co-owners of Carmichael's Bookstore, on their recent honor. Carmichael's has been named the recipient of this year's *Publishers Weekly* Bookseller of the Year Award. *Publishers Weekly* cited the bookstore's close relationship with its customers, as well as its tripling profits over the past decade.

AND . . . DID YOU KNOW?

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has a program geared to middle-schoolers titled **Bird Sleuth**. Designed to engage learners outdoors, modular components available are *Most Wanted Birds* and *Exploring Bird Behavior* and a free component – *Investigating Evidence*. To find out more visit www.birdsleuth.net.

L.A.S. would like to know more about Bird Sleuth in action. If you know of someone who has successfully taught it or if you decide to purchase a copy, please share your feedback with us by contacting Carol Kaufmann at czkaufmann@insightbb.com.

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 788
LOUISVILLE, KY

