

FRANKFORT CHAPTER - NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

<http://sites.google.com/site/frankfortaudubon/>
P O BOX 1812, FRANKFORT KY 40602-1812

~ News and Notes ~

Spring 2014

Invite a friend to receive this free by
sending a request to
FrankfortAudubonChapter@gmail.com

REFOREST FRANKFORT & Arbor Day 2014 Saturday, April 5, Salato Wildlife Education Center, 9am – 1pm

Join us to plant 2000 trees! Audubon members will be available with information and to answer questions. Bring a shovel, gloves and boots. Please bring your own water bottle. The center is located off U.S. 60, approximately 1 ½ miles west of the U.S. 127 intersection. Look for the bronze deer statue at the entrance of the main Kentucky Fish and Wildlife campus.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

9 am Tree Planting, Live Music, Exhibits and Tree Giveaway

12 pm Food, Arbor Day Ceremony, Door Prizes

Children can also participate in an interactive art exhibit designed by local artist Jennifer Zingg. Participants will have the opportunity to paint a forest that, after its completion, will be on public display at Salato

See <https://www.facebook.com/ReForestFrankfort> for more info. There is no charge for this activity. No Dogs are allowed in Salato exhibit area

If you'd like to volunteer to help contact: Jody Thompson at (502) 564-4496; jody.thompson@ky.gov.

Volunteers receive:

- | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Free T-Shirts | <input type="checkbox"/> Free Hot Dogs | <input type="checkbox"/> Free Trees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Live Local Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Door Prizes | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Exhibits |

Young Birders of the Bluegrass trip to Buckley Wildlife Sanctuary. Saturday, April 12th

9am-noon The Young Birders of the Bluegrass have scheduled a field trip to Buckley Wildlife Sanctuary, 1305 Germany Rd, Frankfort on Saturday, April 12th from 9am-noon. The trip will consist of a beginning birding program with Environmental Education Facilitator, Barb Cornett. She will be covering bird calls and song, as well as bird beaks, before taking participants out birding. The cost of this program is \$10 for each adult/child participant (covers entry fee + participation), plus \$4/ adult and \$3/ child non-participant (entry fee). Please pre-register by contacting Tanner Shepard at shepardclantanner@hotmail.com. After the program, anyone who would like to gather for a sack lunch at the pavilion is welcome to do so.

Spring Wildflower Walk Sunday April 13, 2pm. Join Frankfort Audubon Society on Sunday 13, 2013 for a guided walk to see "birds and blooms" at Don Stosberg's and Ida Palmer-Ball's farm and home place on Devil's Hollow Road. This annual hike is one our chapter's best attended events. Listings of the species observed at FAS' 2012 hike at Stosberg's farm (both birds and wildflowers) are [available online](#).

The Stosberg farm has a wide variety of native wildflowers and the hike is easy and generally on level terrain. An extended upland hike option may be offered beyond the lowland creek side walk. Participants should consider weather conditions and dress appropriately. The public is invited to attend this free event, although very small children or individuals with mobility issues may experience difficulties. Hike participants are welcome to bring field guides and encouraged to bring binoculars. Stosberg's farm is located at 5140 Devils Hollow Road (7 miles from bottom of Devils Hollow at Kentucky River). Driveway is on right 1 mile from the intersection of KY 1005 and KY 1665 (and immediately past one-lane bridge). Access requires driving crossing a flat creek bed.

Heavy rainfall prior to the hike or high water in Benson Creek may necessitate cancelling the walk. If conditions are questionable, phone Don and Ida at 502-223-1807 to confirm.

ON THE HORIZON ...

April 1 and 3 -Nature Camp, Wildflower Walks All Sundays in April. Join Frankfort Nature in the Parks for wildflower walks all Sundays in April 2-3:30pm at Cove Spring Park. The parks department has an full set of nature programs this spring. Please see http://www.frankfortparksandrec.com/Nature_Programs/nature_programs.html for a complete list.

Saturday, April 5, 1pm – 6pm Buckley/ Life Adventure Center Open house.

Life Adventure Center, 570 Milner Road, Versailles and Buckley Wildlife Sanctuary 1305 Germany Rd, Frankfort LAC for our FREE Open House Event on April 5th, 2014. Open to the public, this event is a way for us to show what we have to offer. Climbing, Hiking, Ziplining, and even Equestrian Vaulting are just some of the fun activities. So, come on out and enjoy a wonderful day at LAC, FREE!! See <http://www.lifeadventurecenter.org/> for more info.

Tuesday April 15. Earth Day in Kentucky. 11 am – 1pm Earth day on the Old Capital Lawn

The Office of the First Lady, the Energy and Environment Cabinet and the Kentucky Environmental Education Council are hosting this year's Earth Day celebration on the Old Capitol Lawn in downtown Frankfort. State agencies and nonprofits will staff educational booths to illustrate each organization's mission and role in keeping our environment clean, healthy and sustainable. See <http://eec.ky.gov/Pages/earthday.aspx>

Saturday April 26 Earth Day Celebration at the Salato Center!

A birding hike and wildflower hike will get your family outside on our hiking trails and experiencing nature firsthand and free tree seedlings will be available for you to take home and plant in your yard (while quantities last)! The day's schedule is as follows:

10am - Early Afternoon: Free Tree Seedlings

10:30am - 12pm: Birding Hike (please wear appropriate footwear. A limited supply of binoculars will be available. Not all trails will be handicap accessible)

2:30pm - 4pm: Wildflower Hike (please wear appropriate foot-wear. Not all trails will be handicap accessible) No registration required. Activities free with general admission.

More information is available at <http://fw.ky.gov/Education/Pages/Salato-Wildlife-Education-Center.aspx> and check here for other activities in the spring.

Saturday and Sunday, May 10-11 Bluegrass Birding Festival, Jacobson park, Lexington

Wild Birds Unlimited and Lexington Parks and Recreation will be hosting the 1st annual Bluegrass Birding Festival & Craft Fair May 10-11 at Jacobson Park. See <http://www.bluegrassbirdingfestival.com/> for more info. There are bird walks and birding canoe trips in the morning each day. Joel Greenburg author of Feathered River Across the Sky: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction is the keynote speaker from 3-5 pm on Saturday. He will talk about Passenger Pigeons, Whooping Cranes, and Kirtland's Warblers. There are breakout sessions on bird id, photography, and a special kids activity area all day.

CHAPTER NEWS ...

Chapter President's Message: At long last spring appears to be arriving in Central Kentucky! After long months of cold, snow and dark days, the sun is returning and so are the many birds that spend their summers with us. It's time to get out and join us on all of the spring activities our club is involved with. We welcome new board members Jessica Miller and Shawchyi Vorisek, and look forward to their help with the club. Be sure to stop by our booth at Reforest Frankfort and be sure to join us on our wildflower walk on April 13. Happy Birding, Robin

Frankfort Audubon Supports Heritage Land Conservation Fund. Our chapter recently signed a letter supporting this fund. The program has been an incredibly successful bipartisan collaboration that has conserved over 86,000 acres in 125 sites in 67 counties, from our largest urban centers to our most remote natural areas. Governor Beshear's proposed budget seeks to take \$18 million dollars from the KHLCF. See <http://heritageland.ky.gov/> for more info



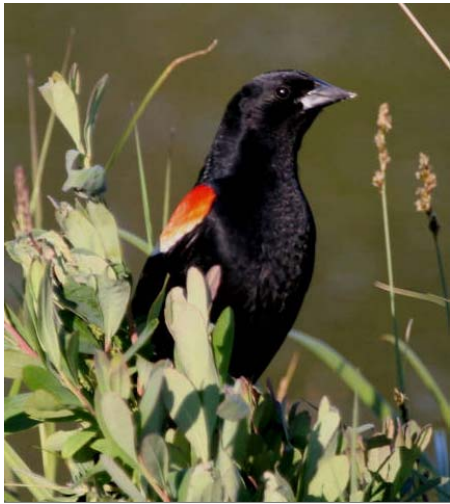
BIRDS OF LATE WINTER, EARLY SPRING ...

Great Backyard Bird Count – February 14-17, 2014

Ten observers submitted 34 checklists, for a total of 54 species. Some notable observations included Sandhill Cranes over Fantasy Forest, and Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Purple Finches at homes in the county. Eight different sparrow species were seen through the county. Also surprising were three Mute Swans swimming/feeding on Elkhorn Creek.

Continued cold temperatures mean migrating waterbirds;

- Perhaps most remarkable lately was a Red-necked Grebe at Silver Lake in Franklin county. They have been reported this winter in 28 counties. The Game Farm also had a good variety of migratory ducks, for example this redhead by Dave Baker, KDFWR
- Early spring brings Eastern Phoebes, Tree Swallows, and the earliest warbler is typically the Louisiana Waterthrush.



Red-winged Blackbird Harems – by Venita Bright

The Red-winged Blackbird is one of my favorite birds. Maybe that's because the adult male is distinctive and easily identified by both sight and sound. It's *conk-la-ree* song can be heard across wetlands this time of the year as territories are established and females are lured to the breeding grounds. The male arrives first to setup the territories. While most bird species form a pair during courtship, one handsome red-winged male with his bright red epaulets (shoulder patches) and musical trill will attract three to a dozen females to his harem while warning other males to steer clear of his patch of cattails. Each female weaves her own intricate nest, often suspended between several stalks of plants and resting low over water. While she's busy building a nest, the male is busy building a larger harem and fending off intruders. If you decide to bird watch during breeding season, don't be surprised if that aggressive male bird tries to scare you away too!

Picture from USFWS digital library <http://digitalmedia.fws.gov>

KENTUCKY BIRD NEWS ...

Golden Eagles in Kentucky. Kate Heyden of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife reports we have Golden Eagles in winter in Kentucky. Using bait of dead deer and automatic cameras, Golden Eagles were caught on film at Bernheim Forest, Land Between the Lakes and, Yellowbank, Pioneer Weapons, Yatesville Lake, and Fishtrap Lake WMAs. Bald Eagles are present year round in Kentucky.



Update on the Eastern Migratory Population of Whooping Cranes



The Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership reported that for the period December 16, 2013 – February 28, 2014 the maximum size of the eastern migratory population was 103 birds (59 males and 44 females). Estimated distribution at this time included **7 cranes in Kentucky**, 29 in Indiana, 10 in Illinois, 9 in Tennessee, 15 in Alabama, 2 in Georgia, and 15 in Florida, 13 at unknown locations and 3 not reported in ten or more months. The total for Florida includes 8 newly released juveniles.

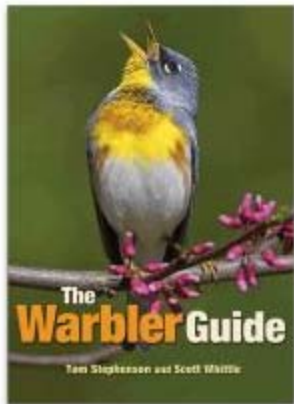
← Whooping Crane drawing by *Steven D'Amato*

There has been no arrest yet in the shooting of two Cranes in Hopkins County Kentucky in November.

LEARNING MORE ABOUT BIRDS ...

Missed the Thor Hanson Talk of Feathers in Lexington? Dr. Thor Hanson is a conservation biologist and the author of "Feathers: The Evolution of a Natural Miracle," and recently gave a captivating talk brought to us by Buckley Hills Audubon Society (soon to be called Central Kentucky Audubon Society). If you missed it watch on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4bw6CThsxJk&feature=youtu.be> Watch it to find out what the most valuable cargo lost on the Titanic was.

"The Warbler Guide" by Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle. Book Review by Jessi Miller



This 2013 bird guide from Princeton University Press is organized with the left-brained birder in mind. The book describes fifty-six warbler species found in the U.S. and Canada. In addition to the standard visual overview and range information, each species account also includes photos from different angles and of different plumages, close-ups and descriptions of distinctive features, and comparisons between similar species. There are separate accounts for "bright birds" and "drab birds" of the same species. At the end of the species account are two or more pages dedicated to sonograms of each species' calls and songs. Multiple songs are illustrated, described, and compared with similar-sounding songs from other species. If this seems daunting, the authors dedicate thirty-eight pages to identifying bird songs and calls with the use of sonograms. A collection of mp3 files of all the sonograms in the book can be purchased for \$5.99 on www.thewarblerguide.com. The "Quick Finders" found in the book can also be downloaded for free from this website. These quick-reference guides give

thumbnail illustrations of all the warblers from the same angle on one page. Most birders can appreciate the "Undertail Quick Finder" to assist in identifying that warbler that won't come down from its lofty perch. The retail price of the book is \$29.95, and is also available at Paul Sawyer Public Library (598.883 STEP)

We've got an App for that! Hummingbirds at home



From the National Audubon Society. There is a growing mismatch between flowering times and the arrival of hummingbirds in their breeding areas and we don't know how this is going to impact hummingbirds. Hummingbirds at Home collects data on how hummingbirds interact with nectar sources so that we can begin to understand – the first step towards ensuring the survival of these miraculous birds in the face of climate change. If you'd like to help out, you can submit your hummingbird sightings and feeding observations at any time of the year. It is free--there is no cost to participate, and no cost to download and install the mobile application, or

to use the desktop version of the application. <http://www.hummingbirdsathome.org/>

- YOUR FRANKFORT AUDUBON CHAPTER 2014 TEAM LEADERS -

**Robin Antenucci, President; Don Stosberg, Treasurer; Peggy Gould, Christmas Bird Count Coordinator;
Newsletter Editor; Gary Sprandel, Ceci Mitchell**

**Additional Board Members – Don Dampier, Scott Hankla, Venita Bright, Shawchyi Vorisek, Jessi Miller
Contact us via email : FrankfortAudubonChapter@gmail.com**