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# Kentucky Naturalist News

Official Newsletter of the Kentucky Society of Natural History

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Website: <http://www.ksnh.org>

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Pete Glauber ([cherokee@ksnh.org](mailto:cherokee@ksnh.org))  
Herb Zimmerman (via mail)

## Affiliated Chapters

**Arches of the Cumberland Chapter** (Slade) meets informally, call President Dell Sasser for details, 606-666-7521 x73559 or (606) 663-9379.

**Falls of the Ohio Chapter** (Louisville) meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month except Jan, Jul, Aug, & Dec at 7:00 PM at the Louisville Nature Center, 3745 Illinois Ave, Louisville, 40213. Call President Chris Bidwell at (502) 458-1328.

**Wilderness Trail Chapter** (Pineville) meets the first Thursday of each month, March through December, at 7:00 p.m., generally at Pine Mountain State Resort Park, 1050 State Park Road Pineville, KY 40977-0610 (800-325-1712).



*Chroicocephalus philadelphia* (Ord, 1815) (Bonaparte's gull) in winter plumage at Kentucky Lake State Park - Barry Nichols, 2009

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Inside you'll find the entries for the newsletter photo contest. The topic was "snow". Make your selections and send them to me for tallying (email is fine if you prefer). The winners will be announced in the next newsletter. The topics for all of the 2009 newsletters are in the photo section.

Conservation in Kentucky has suffered a loss with the recent retirements from state government of Botanist Marc Evans and Zoologist Brainard Palmer-Ball from the Kentucky State Nature Preserves. While both will be quite active in "retirement", state government will be much poorer for them having moved on. Together they represent about 50+ highly accomplished years of pure dedication to the natural history of Kentucky. We owe much to these two selfless champions of biodiversity and conservation. I had the opportunity to be in the field often with Brainard for a few years (roughly 26 years ago!!!). It was a total pleasure and of personal value to have been able to do so. Brainard, I'm eternally grateful. Gratitude is also extended to both Brainard and Marc for all of their years of service.

The Kentucky Herpetological Society has placed the 2008 Herp Conservation Report on their website at <http://www.kyherpsoc.org/2008research>. It is a fantastic testament to how a few people can really make a difference.

A new \$46,000 *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis* (Daudin, 1803) (hellbender) exhibit will open at the Louisville Zoo this Spring. For those who have never witnessed these amazing and HUGE salamanders in-person, they really are special. This is timely as the 4th Hellbender Symposium is scheduled for June 21-24, 2009 at Cumberland Falls State Park, in Corbin, Kentucky.

The Spring 2009 deadline is being extended to February 15. I'd like to get the next issue out by the end of February. If you've been slowly cobbling something together for the newsletter, now really is the time of need! Please note that all regular newsletter dates for the year are printed in the shaded block on the back page of each newsletter.

As always, please mail any articles, news, photos, etc to [kyfauna@iglou.com](mailto:kyfauna@iglou.com) –ed

## **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Backyard Bird Count**

**by Louisville Audubon Society Press Release**

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 [Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources \(KDFWR\)](#) will walk us through the basics, while both educating us and entertaining us with her bird stories.

Louisville Audubon Society 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: <http://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, Louisville Audubon Society will have several leaders lined up on the actual GBBC weekend that 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](http://www.louisvilleaudubon.org) ... or call the Louisville Nature Center at (502) 458-1328.

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

As 2008 comes to a close, it comes time for current members to renew for the 2009 year. It would be a good time to encourage friends and family to explore our website ([www.ksnh.org](http://www.ksnh.org)) and to consider becoming members.

Our current rates are \$15 single, \$25 family, \$7.50 student and \$300 life membership. Please send your check, payable to KSNH, to PO Box 72777, Louisville, KY 40272.

## Participants Needed for the Rusty Blackbird Hot Spot Blitz!

By Kate Hayden



*Euphagus carolinus* (Statius Muller, 1776) (rusty blackbird) - Kate Hayden

*Euphagus carolinus* (Statius Muller, 1776), the rusty blackbird, has been steeply declining with estimates of an 85-99% population drop over the past 40 years. The cause for this alarming decline is not known and the increasingly sparse and patchy winter distribution of the rusty blackbird is making it more difficult to learn more about distribution, abundance, and ecology as a basis for conservation efforts. Collaborating with Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's and National Audubon Society's e-Bird project, the Rusty Blackbird Technical Working Group (RBTWG) needs your help to find local, but predictable wintering concentrations of rusty blackbirds by participating in the Rusty Blackbird Hot Spot Blitz.

The Rusty Blackbird Hot Spot Blitz will occur, February 7-15, 2009, throughout the rusty blackbird winter range in over 20 Midwestern and southeastern states. Participants will simply be asked to visit locations where they have previously sighted or would expect to encounter rusty blackbirds and submit their observations via e-Bird. There are no datasheets or daily time restrictions. You can go wherever you like, whenever you like, and as

often as you like anytime between the dates of February 7-15, 2009. We are simply seeking observations on the number of birds present at each location visited, along with very basic habitat information. If you are unfamiliar with areas which may support rusty blackbirds in your region, contact the Blitz coordinator for a list of areas of interest. As a result of these

efforts, the RBTWG is hoping to create maps of wintering rusty blackbird "hot spots" that will help direct research, monitoring and conservation attention.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources encourages participation in this event. The rusty blackbird is a Species of Greatest Conservation Need as listed in our State Wildlife Action Plan and the information gained from this effort may provide focus to local conservation efforts. Please contact Kate Heyden, the Blitz coordinator for Kentucky at [kathryn.heyden@ky.gov](mailto:kathryn.heyden@ky.gov) if you are interested in participating.

If you don't use eBird regularly, please consider entering all your observations of rusty blackbirds (even outside the Blitz period). Your observations will be used by researchers currently studying their steep long-term population decline.

Additional instructions and information on identification, habitat preferences, etc., have been posted on the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center's rusty blackbird website:

[http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/MigratoryBirds/Research/Rusty\\_Blackbird/](http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/MigratoryBirds/Research/Rusty_Blackbird/)

Information and instructions are also available on Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's e-Bird site:

<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news/bird-watchers-urgently-needed-to-track-rusty>

*Kate Heyden is an avian biologist for the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources. She specializes in raptors and songbirds. She previously worked on red-cockaded woodpeckers in Louisiana before moving to KY to work with the state about a year ago.*

## LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL GEOLOGICALLY

by Berl Meyer

The Old Marble Mill in Marble, CO - Colorado Historical Society



Most, but not all, Kentuckians know that we are in the midst of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial, and I was trying to think of something of a geologic link to this celebration. Well low and behold, Pat and I took a little excursion to Marble, Colorado this past summer, where the marble from which the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. was quarried. That's the link that I wanted even though some folks out there might think it's a true stretch.

The marble deposits surrounding Marble are estimated to be fifty to sixty million years old. Any history dealing with the stone and its production must, therefore, be but a small grain of sand on the beach of the little known past. The rarity and beauty of the stone makes the geological history essential

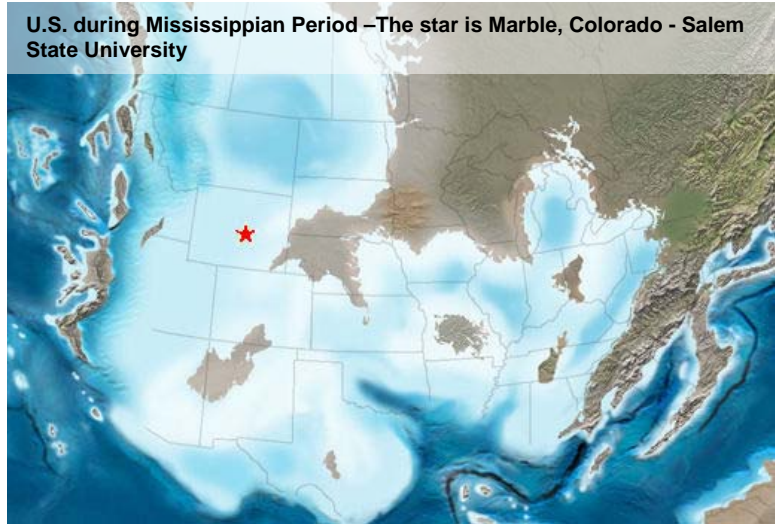
to the understanding of the known history and future of the town of Marble, high in the Colorado Rockies.

Marble is a relatively rare rock in the earth's crust and at the same time one of the most beautiful. The Yule Creek deposits around the town of Marble were formed by the metamorphism of limestone because of heat within the crust of the earth. The heat caused a recrystallization of the rock from the very fine grained calcite making up the limestone to larger sparkling crystals which gave this marble its unique luster. At the same time, organic matter, which might have caused the limestone to become black, was destroyed by the heat. The result was the pure white marble of Yule Creek.

The geological history of the marble deposits of Marble, Colorado begins with the formation of the original limestone from which it was derived. The limestone formation is widespread in the mountains of central Colorado and has been given the name of 'Leadville Limestone', a name derived from its occurrence at Leadville, Colorado. The formation at Leadville is of even greater commercial value than that at Marble because it is highly susceptible replacement by ores.

The silver-lead-zinc deposits of the Leadville district are found in this limestone. As a matter of fact, this limestone formed during the same time that our Mammoth Cave limestones in Kentucky were formed.

Limestone deposits are formed in shallow, warm, marine waters from calcite precipitated by countless marine organisms. Some of these organisms precipitated the calcite as shells and the remains, called fossils, can be found in the Leadville Limestone. However, all fossils in the Marble area were destroyed when the formation was recrystallized to form marble. All limestones are deposited in warm marine waters. Central Colorado during the Mississippian Period of the Paleozoic Era was below sea level and covered by a shallow sea when the Leadville Limestone was deposited. Thus, this limestone which we now find high in the Colorado Rockies was formed long before these mountains were present.



After the deposition of the Leadville Limestone, approximately 200 million years elapsed before it was uplifted into the present Colorado Rockies and was metamorphosed into marble. During the Pennsylvanian Period of the Paleozoic Era, soon after the Leadville Limestone had been deposited, a major mountain system developed in central Colorado. These mountains, which have long since been entirely eroded away, are referred to by geologists as the Ancestral Rockies. The site of the present town of Marble located at the very edge of this mountain range in what was then a basin at the foot of the mountains. This is significant to the present marble deposits because the Leadville Limestone was completely stripped off the mountain range by erosion and many pebbles derived from it can be found in the sediments deposited at the base of the mountains. What was left of the original Leadville Limestone lay buried for the next 165 million years of the Mesozoic Era. During this time Colorado was a flat coastal plain over which dinosaurs roamed, and during the latter part of the Mesozoic Era, was covered by another shallow seaway.

Blocks of Marble in the Yule Quarry - Scott Leutenegger



The present Colorado Rockies were built following the Mesozoic Era along with most of the rest of the mountains of the Western United States with the collision between the North American Plate and the Pacific Plate. Accompanying the elevation of the area and folding of the rock strata, masses of molten rock called “magma” tended to rise or intrude into the overlying rocks. Such a mass molten rock was responsible for heating the Leadville Limestone and recrystallizing it into the famed marble deposits of the Crystal River Valley. This magma cooled and crystallized to form the granite found in the Marble area. Leadville Limestone, which is black dense rock elsewhere in Colorado, is a sparkling, pure white marble in the vicinity of this mass of granite. Other rocks in the area have also been metamorphosed—shales into slates, sandstones to quartzites, and other limestone beds to marble, although none of the other limestone units are as pure or thick as the Leadville limestone.

### Memorial Basics

Groundbreaking ceremony—February 12, 1914  
 Cornerstone laying ceremony—February 12, 1915  
 Dedication ceremony—May 30, 1922  
 Cost of building--\$2,957,000.

### Construction of the memorial

The Lincoln Memorial construction took place between 1914 and 1922. Work crews had completed most of the memorial architectural elements by April 1917 when the United States entered into the First World War, but work slowed as a result. Steady progress nonetheless was maintained on the interior decorations, granite terrace, approach plaza, and grounds landscaping.

The Lincoln Memorial, Washington, DC - National Park Service



From the chamber of the memorial, one can appreciate the different stones used in its construction. The terrace walls and lower steps comprise granite blocks from Massachusetts - the upper steps, outside façade, and columns contain marble blocks from Colorado\* - the interior walls and columns are Indiana limestone - the floor is pink Tennessee marble - the ceiling tiles are Alabama marble – and the Lincoln statue comprises 28 pieces of Georgia marble. These building materials may seem random, but Henry Bacon specifically chose each one to tell a very specific story. A country torn apart by war can come together, not only to build something beautiful, but also explain the reunification of the states.

\*Gold from the Colorado gold fields helped finance the Union during the Civil War.

### Dedication Ceremony

On May 30, 1922, the Lincoln Memorial formally was dedicated, during an event witnessed by approximately 50,000 people. Leading the ceremony was the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, William Howard Taft. Providing remarks and accepting the memorial on behalf of the nation was President Warren G. Harding. Dr. Robert Moton, president of the Tuskegee Institute, delivered the keynote address. Ironically, Moton spoke at the memorial for the Great Emancipator to a largely segregated audience.

### References:

1. Dr. Lindley S. Hanson, Dept of Geologic Sciences, Salem State University
2. Colorado Geologic Survey
3. [Marble, Colorado-City of Stone](#), Duane Vandenbusche and Rex Myers, 1970
4. Colorado Historical Society
5. Lincoln Memorial, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior

**Berl Meyer** is the current Geology Coordinator for KSNH, the former KSNH webmaster, and the current webmaster of the [U.S.S. Constitution CVA/CV 64 website](#). Berl was stationed on this Naval Aircraft Carrier during the Vietnam War as an Aerographer (weather guesser).

## GALAX (POIR.) BRUMMITT

by Chris Bidwell

Pronounced *GAY-laks*, the evergreen plant has the species name *Galax urceolata* with *Galax rotundifolia* and *G. aphylla* as older synonyms. *Galax* is in the plant family Diapensiaceae (formerly *diapensia*).

The generic epithet *Galax* is from the Greek word *Gala* meaning stream of milk – or just milk and refers to the plants beautiful small white blossoms. The specific epithet stems from *urceolus* meaning “little pitcher” and *urceus* meaning “pitcher”. The term literally means shaped like an urn or pitcher and describes the plant’s corolla which is ovoid-cylindrical in shape with a small opening. The Diapensiaceae are low-lying evergreen shrubs/flowers native to cold and arctic regions of the northern hemisphere. The *galax* in the New World is limited to the Eastern United States only. The family *Diapensia* was coined by Linnaeus. The name is from the Greek language for arctic dwelling plants. Common names for *galax* are cold’s foot, coltsfoot, galaxy, beetleweed, wand plant, and wand flower.

*Galax* is an herbaceous, perennial evergreen that grows up to 36” tall. It ranges from New York, to Alabama and Georgia, and its western most extension being western Kentucky and Tennessee. The tiny white flowers, about 1/16 of an inch across, bloom from late spring to early summer. The flowers are borne on a single spike-like raceme 15-25 cm

long. Each flower has 5 petals and the fruit is a small capsule that contains numerous seeds. The flowers are hermaphroditic (having both male and female organs). The beautiful, thick, leathery round-heart shaped shiny leaves grow up to 4 inches across and are borne on a petiole up to 10 inches long. The leaves turn a brilliant, spectacular red bronze in the fall and into the winter. The plant is in leaf year round and leaves last about 18 months. Galax has grown up in altitudes of over 1800 meters. Galax prefers an acidic, sandy, medium loamy and heavy clay soil that is lime free. In Kentucky it is found in pine-oak-hickory-kalmia-rhododendron mesic forests. Galax spreads by seed and by rhizomes. New plants/leaves begin to emerge in early spring. Numerous flying insects, spiders, and beetles pollinate the flowers. Under dry conditions the withered winter plants are highly flammable and forest fires will top-kill the plants. Recovery is quite good if rainfall is sufficient after the fires.

Medicinal usages have been limited to treatment of wounds and cuts of all sizes. Based on the doctrine of signatures, an infusion of leaves has been used to treat kidney diseases. Galax has also been used to treat nervous disorders. None of the medical usages of this plant have any proven success however.

A commercial use for galax has been in the floral industry. The beautiful, shiny leaves of green and red-bronze are used in wreaths and bouquets. The leaves are sewn together to form tablecloths for weddings and casket coverings. Plants, leaves, and seeds can be purchased from many distributors. People living in the Appalachians have harvested galax since before the 20th century for floral usages. Today, however, 90% of the harvesters are Hispanic and an experienced harvester can collect 5000 leaves a day with a market value of \$120. Many states have now enacted laws to limit harvesting times and amounts as poaching and over-harvesting have virtually eliminated huge populations. In 2001 poachers in the Pisgah area of the Blue Ridge Parkway were caught with 18,000 leaves worth a retail value of \$4000. These poachers received a 45 day jail term and a 2 year probation sentence. The beautiful shiny green red-bronze foliage has led to its use as a Christmas decoration in wreaths for decades. It is this same beauty however which is causing its very demise in areas not protected from over-harvesting and poaching. The independent city of Galax, VA (1906), is named after this wonderful plant and has a [Galax Leaf and String Festival](#) each June.

This winter look for galax and its beautiful foliage and dried-up flower racemes. Its aesthetic value far surpasses any medicinal or commercial usages. If you examine the dried flower spikes you may notice a small resident spider which makes this plant its home year round. Quite often you will find a web strung between successive flower stalks. As you examine the beauty of galax you may notice however the only negative aspect of this plant. The older, decaying leaves can emit a skunk or strong mold odor due to sulfur chemicals as mercaptan and butylthiols being broken down and released through the leaves stomata. Have a great winter and holidays.

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*Chris Bidwell is an amateur naturalist and the current President of the Falls of the Ohio Chapter of KSNH.*

## PROJECT FEEDERWATCH BENEFITS BIRDS AND PEOPLE CONNECTION WITH NATURE PROMOTES WELLNESS

October 2008 Project FeederWatch Press Release, David Bonter, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Ithaca, NY—More than 100 studies have shown that getting closer to nature reduces stress and promotes a feeling of well-being in children and adults. So, filling feeders and counting the birds that visit may be just what the doctor ordered! For more than 20 years, that's what participants in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's [Project FeederWatch](#) have been doing—benefiting themselves and the birds.

"It is a great winter time activity for the whole family," says Alaska FeederWatcher Nancy Darnell. "If you have children, they will come to love watching the birds. All of this is fun and a chance to contribute to scientific studies, too!"

The 2008-09 season of Project FeederWatch gets underway November 8 and runs through April 3. Participants count the numbers and kinds of birds at their feeders each week and send the information to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Participants submitted more than 115,000 checklists during the 2007-08 FeederWatch season, documenting unusual bird sightings, winter movements, and shifting ranges—a treasure-trove of information that scientists use to monitor the health of the birds and of the environment.



*Sitta canadensis* Linnaeus, 1766 (Red-breasted Nuthatch) - Lyn Winans



*Coccothraustes vespertinus* (W. Cooper, 1825) (Evening Grosbeak) - Tammie Haché

"Being a FeederWatcher is easy and fun, and at the same time helps generate the world's largest database on feeder-bird populations," says project leader David Bonter. "We are grateful for the contributions our participants have made for the birds and are proud of the joy they say it brings to their busy lives. Since we started in 1987, more than 40,000 people have submitted observations, engaging with the wildlife beyond their windows."

"Project FeederWatch opened up a whole new world for me," says participant Cheri Ryan of Lockport, Kentucky. "It's so interesting to watch the activities of the birds. I learn something new every time I participate."

Scientists learn something new from the data each year, too, whether it's about the movements of common backyard birds or unusual sightings of rarely-seen species. Highlights of the project—part of an expected influx of northern birds that fly farther south when their food supplies run short. Other northern species showing up in record numbers included Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins. Among the rare birds reported was a Streak-backed Oriole in Loveland, Colorado—the state's first report of this bird, native to Mexico. A

the most recent season include the largest southward movement of Red-breasted Nuthatches in the history of the project—part of an expected influx of northern birds that fly farther south when their food supplies run short. Other northern species showing up in record numbers included Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins. Among the rare birds reported was a Streak-backed Oriole in Loveland, Colorado—the state's first report of this bird, native to Mexico. A

December nor'easter deposited a Dovekie in Newton, Massachusetts, the first time this North Atlantic seabird has ever been reported to Project FeederWatch.

Long-term data show some species increasing in number, such as the Lesser Goldfinch in the Southwest. Other populations continue a downward trend, such as the Evening Grosbeak throughout their range. Once one of the most common species seen at feeders in the northern half of the continent, the grosbeaks are declining for unknown reasons.

Beyond the benefits to birds and science, however, is the benefit to participants. "Nature is not merely an amenity; it is critical to healthy human development and functioning," says Nancy Wells, Cornell University assistant professor of design and environmental analysis. Her studies find that a view of nature through the window or access to the environment in any way improves a child's cognitive functioning and reduces the negative effects of stress on the child's psychological well-being. Wells also notes that when children spent time with nature early in life it carries over to their adult attitudes and behavior toward the environment.



Carduelis pinus (A. Wilson, 1810) (Pine Siskin) - Errol Taskin

Project FeederWatch welcomes participants of all ages and skill levels, from scout troops and retirees to classrooms and nature center visitors. To learn more and to sign up, visit [www.feederwatch.org](http://www.feederwatch.org) or call the Lab toll-free at (800) 843-2473. In return for the \$15 fee (\$12 for Lab members) participants receive the FeederWatcher's Handbook, an identification poster of the most common feeder birds in their area, a calendar, complete instructions, and the FeederWatch annual report, Winter Bird Highlights.

Many FeederWatchers echo this comment from Mary Strasser of Wisconsin: "The greatest reward for me as a participant in Project FeederWatch these many years has been observing birds and behavior that I might have missed had I not been part of this project."

After each season, FeederWatch scientists merge all the data submitted over the Internet and on paper data forms. After the reports are run through a series of editing programs, the data are summarized into two variables for each species: percentage of feeders visited and mean group size. The Top 25 lists are based on these two variables.



Carduelis psaltria (Say, 1823) (Lesser Goldfinch) - David F. Smith

**Kentucky's Top 25 Most Frequently Reported Feeder Birds for Winter 2007-2008 (reported by 91 FeederWatchers)**

| Rank within Kentucky | Common Name       | Scientific name                        | Percentage of feeders visited | Mean group size (when seen) | FeederWatch Abundance Index |
|----------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1                    | Northern Cardinal | Cardinalis cardinalis (Linnaeus, 1758) | 100.00                        | 5.43                        | 4.87                        |
| 2                    | Mourning Dove     | Zenaida macroura (Linnaeus, 1758)      | 96.70                         | 4.66                        | 3.11                        |

|    |                         |   |       |      |      |
|----|-------------------------|---|-------|------|------|
| 3  | American Goldfinch      | Carduelis tristis (Linnaeus, 1758)          | 94.51 | 6.85 | 4.63 |
| 4  | Dark-eyed Junco         | Junco hyemalis (Linnaeus, 1758)             | 94.51 | 3.69 | 2.01 |
| 5  | Downy Woodpecker        | Picoides pubescens (Linnaeus, 1766)         | 93.41 | 1.64 | 1.19 |
| 6  | Blue Jay                | Cyanocitta cristata (Linnaeus, 1758)        | 92.31 | 2.63 | 1.22 |
| 7  | Tufted Titmouse         | Baeolophus bicolor (Linnaeus, 1766)         | 92.31 | 2.08 | 1.53 |
| 8  | Carolina Wren           | Thryothorus ludovicianus (Latham, 1790)     | 86.81 | 1.28 | 0.57 |
| 9  | House Finch             | Carpodacus mexicanus (Statius Muller, 1776) | 85.71 | 4.48 | 2.30 |
| 10 | Red-bellied Woodpecker  | Melanerpes carolinus (Linnaeus, 1758)       | 85.71 | 1.17 | 0.58 |
| 11 | White-breasted Nuthatch | Sitta carolinensis Latham, 1790             | 83.52 | 1.36 | 0.65 |
| 12 | White-throated Sparrow  | Zonotrichia albicollis (Gmelin, 1789)       | 78.02 | 2.75 | 1.00 |
| 13 | European Starling       | Sturnus vulgaris Linnaeus, 1758             | 75.82 | 4.61 | 1.03 |
| 14 | American Robin          | Turdus migratorius Linnaeus, 1766           | 74.73 | 2.45 | 0.31 |
| 15 | Carolina Chickadee      | Poecile carolinensis (Audubon, 1834)        | 72.53 | 2.56 | 1.21 |
| 16 | Song Sparrow            | Melospiza melodia (A. Wilson, 1810)         | 70.33 | 1.45 | 0.34 |
| 17 | Common Grackle          | Quiscalus quiscula (Linnaeus, 1758)         | 68.13 | 5.19 | 0.36 |
| 18 | House Sparrow           | Passer domesticus (Linnaeus, 1758)          | 65.93 | 5.28 | 1.21 |
| 19 | Northern Mockingbird    | Mimus polyglottos (Linnaeus, 175)           | 57.14 | 1.07 | 0.23 |
| 20 | Purple Finch            | Carpodacus purpureus (Gmelin, 1789)         | 56.04 | 2.31 | 0.28 |
| 21 | Red-winged Blackbird    | Agelaius phoeniceus (Linnaeus, 1766)        | 53.85 | 3.55 | 0.23 |
| 22 | Brown-headed Cowbird    | Molothrus ater (Boddaert, 1783)             | 48.35 | 3.74 | 0.17 |
| 23 | Hairy Woodpecker        | Picoides villosus (Linnaeus, 1766)          | 47.25 | 1.20 | 0.19 |
| 24 | Cooper's Hawk           | Accipiter cooperii (Bonaparte, 1828)        | 43.96 | 1.01 | 0.05 |
| 25 | Red-breasted Nuthatch   | Sitta canadensis Linnaeus, 1766             | 41.76 | 1.27 | 0.20 |

The [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) is a nonprofit membership institution interpreting and conserving the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds.

## CHAPTER NEWS

### **Falls of the Ohio Chapter News-Chris Bidwell, Chapter President:**

Yes, it is cold, windy, and harsh but if not for winter we would have no spring. Things in nature, like man, must have time to rest and rejuvenate. Seeds need time to undergo scarification so they may open and bloom in spring – only winter's freezing, watery conditions can do this vital part in awakening plants. Winter is a great time to get out and see what has been hidden by leaves. Dried plants, naked trees, and wildlife still needing to forage for food to survive are all now more visible. To see wildlife surviving some of the harshest conditions is extremely reflective and makes us appreciate what we have. This late November, a group of us nature lovers from the [Falls of the Ohio Chapter](#) had one of the most exciting outings at [Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge](#) in southern Indiana. The temperature was right at 30 degrees. On this cold, gray, wintry day we saw Trumpeter swans, a screech owl, and were rewarded with a view of a family of 5 river otters playing and eating fish on one of the iced over lakes. None of us would have rather been anywhere else. Nature has surprises every season. Winter is no exception. All seasons have their special something to contribute to life and share their wonders with man if we only get out in nature and use our senses to grasp the big picture. Don't forget to winterize and enjoy this winter's gift of beauty to man.

WINTER 2009 NEWSLETTER PHOTO CONTEST – TOPIC IS SNOW



A



B



C



D



**WINTER 2009 Newsletter Photo Contest –  
Topic = Snow**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)



**Newsletter Photo Contest Topics for 2009:**

**Spring 2009 – Clouds**

**Summer 2009 - Kentucky Amphibians  
and/or Reptiles**

**Fall 2009 – Fall Color**

**Winter 2009 – Kentucky Winter Bird Residents**

**KENTUCKY NATURALISTS' CALENDAR**  
(added as space allows)

**2009:**

**January 24, 2009: Lake Barkley Trail Days @ Lake Barkley State Park.** Volunteers will assist in maintaining old trails and creating new ones for hiking, mountain biking, and wildlife watching. Lake Barkley State Resort Park is 29 miles west of Hopkinsville. Take U.S. 68W to KY 1489. For more information contact Park Naturalist Jenny Howard at (800) 325-1708 or see the Lake Barkley State Park website at <http://parks.ky.gov/findparks/resortparks/lb/>.

**January 30, 2009: Writing Grant Proposals for Teachers and Environmental Educators @ Perkins Center, Eastern Kentucky University.** The day-long workshop will focus on matching programs to grants, proper budgeting, proposal writing as well as finding free resources from community organizations and business partners. Participants will develop an idea and work through the grant proposal writing process using that idea. Registration will be limited to 25 participants. For more information contact Karen Pratt of Eastern Kentucky University's Division of Natural Areas by phone at (859) 622-1476, or visit the ECU-DNA website at <http://www.naturalareas.eku.edu/currentevents/default.php>.

**February 6-7, 2009: Arches Hiking Weekend @ Natural Bridge State Resort Park, 2135 Natural Bridge Road, Slade, KY 40376-9701.** There are hundreds of natural arches and bridges within a few miles of Kentucky's Natural Bridge, and winter is the best time to see them! Join experienced guides for a day of hikes throughout the area ranging from short easy walks to long treks in the back country. Evening speakers will focus on the geology and history of the area. On site registration fee is \$8 per adult and \$3 per child ages 2-12. Call the park at (606) 663-2214 or visit their website at <http://parks.ky.gov/findparks/resortparks/nb/> for details.

**February 21, 2009: Geo-scavenger Hunt @ Floracliff Nature Sanctuary, P.O. Box 4006, Lexington, KY 40544.** If you are a fan of geocaching and own a GPS, this hike is for you. It will be a great way to learn more about the preserve and provide fun for the entire family. For more information contact Floracliff Nature Sanctuary by phone at (859) 351-7770, via email at [floracliff@aol.com](mailto:floracliff@aol.com), or check the website at <http://www.floracliff.org>.

**February 26-27, 2009: The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Chapter of The Wildlife Society (KCTWS) @ Barren River State Park.** The Keynote Speaker for the meeting is Dr. Bruce Leopold, President of The Wildlife Society. Additional Guest Speakers are Dr. Virginia Burkett, US Geological Survey (USGS) Chief Scientist for Global Change Research, Charles Baxter, USGS Senior Advisor for Strategic Habitat Conservation, and Lee Andrews, Kentucky Field Office Supervisor, United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). For more information see their website at <http://joomla.wildlife.org/Kentucky/?CFID=15031982&CFTOKEN=65676678>, by phone at 502-695-0468 (President Brent Harrel)

**February 28, 2009: Lake Barkley Trail Days @ Lake Barkley State Park.** Volunteers will assist in maintaining old trails and creating new ones for hiking, mountain biking, and wildlife watching. Lake Barkley State Resort Park is 29 miles west of Hopkinsville. Take U.S. 68W to KY 1489. For more information contact Park Naturalist Jenny Howard at (800) 325-1708 or see the Lake Barkley State Park website at <http://parks.ky.gov/findparks/resortparks/lb/>.

**February 28, 2009: 5th Annual Ohio Natural History Conference @ the Ohio Historical Society, 1982 Velma Avenue (intersection of I-71 and E. 17th Avenue), Columbus, OH.** This conference encompasses the broad range of topics inherent in the term "natural history". The keynote speaker, Gary Meszaros, will present "Endangered Species of Ohio". Mr. Meszaros is a resident of northeast Ohio and a renowned nature photographer. Sponsored by the [Ohio Biological Survey](#) & the [Ohio Division of Wildlife](#). For more information contact the Ohio Biological Survey by phone at (614) 457-6005, by email at [Ohiobiosurvey@rohio.com](mailto:Ohiobiosurvey@rohio.com), or on the OBS website at <http://www.ohiobiologicalsurvey.org/>.

**March 4, 2009: Wildlife Diversity Conference 2009: Wildlife in Full Color @ Aladdin Shrine Center, 3850 Stelzer Road just south of Morse Road, Columbus, OH.** Conference is sponsored by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Diversity and Endangered Species Program. Topics will include ecotourism, eastern red bats, federally endangered American burying beetles, honeybees, smooth & rough green snakes, cerulean warblers, indigo buntings, and violets. For more information contact them at their website <http://www.wildlifediversity.com/>, or please call 1.800.WILDLIFE (945-3543), or watch for information on <http://www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife>.

**March 7, 2009: Mushrooms for Beginners @ Floracliff Nature Sanctuary, P.O. Box 4006, Lexington, KY 40544.** Beverly James will lead this hike to search for spring mushrooms and discuss their basic identifying characteristics. For more information contact Floracliff Nature Sanctuary by phone at (859) 351-7770, via email at [floracliff@aol.com](mailto:floracliff@aol.com), or check the website at <http://www.floracliff.org>.

**March 14, 2009: Lake Barkley Trail Days @ Lake Barkley State Park.** Volunteers will assist in maintaining old trails and creating new ones for hiking, mountain biking, and wildlife watching. Lake Barkley State Resort Park is 29 miles west of Hopkinsville. Take U.S. 68W to KY 1489. For more information contact Park Naturalist Jenny Howard at (800) 325-1708 or see the Lake Barkley State Park website at <http://parks.ky.gov/findparks/resortparks/lb/>.

**March 14, 2009: Wilderness Survival @ Audubon Museum, John James Audubon State Park, 3100 US 41 North, Henderson, KY 42420 (Noon – 3:00 p.m.).** Have you ever tried to make a fire without matches, find your way in the forest, or build a temporary shelter? Youths ages 10-16 will study and practice these survival skills while learning how to make use of the surrounding resources. Please call to register. Contact Julie McDonald at (270) 826-2247 or by email at [juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov](mailto:juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov), or visit the park website at <http://parks.ky.gov/findparks/recparks/au/> for more. Program fee: \$5.00 per person

**March 21, 2009: Signs of Spring @ Floracliff Nature Sanctuary, P.O. Box 4006, Lexington, KY 40544.** Join us on this hike to Elk Lick Creek for a chance to see the first wildflowers of spring. It should be a great time to catch trout lilies and bloodroot in bloom. For more information contact Floracliff Nature Sanctuary by phone at (859) 351-7770, via email at [floracliff@aol.com](mailto:floracliff@aol.com), or check the website at <http://www.floracliff.org>.

**March 28, 2009: Pollinators with Blake Newton @ Floracliff Nature Sanctuary, P.O. Box 4006, Lexington, KY 40544.** Join Blake Newton, UK Extension Specialist for 4H and Youth Entomology, for a program about pollinators and their relationships with the spring wildflowers. For more information contact Floracliff Nature Sanctuary by phone at (859) 351-7770, via email at [floracliff@aol.com](mailto:floracliff@aol.com), or check the website at <http://www.floracliff.org>.

**April 1, 2009: Mid-week Wildflower Hike @ Floracliff Nature Sanctuary, P.O. Box 4006, Lexington, KY 40544.** This hike will provide an opportunity to catch the spring wildflowers for those with some free time during the week. For more information contact Floracliff Nature Sanctuary by phone at (859) 351-7770, via email at [floracliff@aol.com](mailto:floracliff@aol.com), or check the website at <http://www.floracliff.org>.

**April 3, 2009: 9th Annual Ohio Botanical Symposium @ Villa Milano ([villamilano.com](http://villamilano.com)), 1630 Schrock Road Columbus, Ohio, 43229.** Symposium is sponsored by [Ohio Division of Natural Areas & Preserves \(DNAP\)](http://ohiodnr.com), [The Cleveland Museum of Natural History](http://clevelandmuseum.com), [The Nature Conservancy](http://natureconservancy.org), and the [Ohio State University Herbarium](http://ohioherbarium.org). Award-winning and world-renowned botanist and conservationist Dr. W. Hardy Eshbaugh will give our keynote address, "The Challenges to Biodiversity Conservation in the 21st Century: Where does Ohio fit in the Equation?" There will be additional talks, posters, vendors, and exhibits from non-profit environmental and conservation groups, park districts, federal and state agencies, and universities. For more information see the Natural Areas & Preserves website at <http://www.ohiodnr.com/tabid/20259/Default.aspx> or call them at (614) 265-6453.

**April 4, 2009: The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Bluebird Society @ Shakertown, KY (near Harrodsburg).** More info to come. See their website at <http://www.biology.eku.edu/kbs/>.

**April 4, 2009: Medicinal Wildflowers with Ciara Lockstadt @ Floracliff Nature Sanctuary, P.O. Box 4006, Lexington, KY 40544.** Experience the spring wildflowers of the Inner Bluegrass during this hike. The hike is focused on the historical and present day medicinal and useful traits of plants. For more information contact Floracliff Nature Sanctuary by phone at (859) 351-7770, via email at [floracliff@aol.com](mailto:floracliff@aol.com), or check the website at <http://www.floracliff.org>.

**April 4, 2009: Wildflower Extravaganza @ John James Audubon State Park, 3100 US 41 North, Henderson, KY 42420.** Join us for three leisurely hikes to see the vibrant forest flora as well as participate in programs for all ages. We'll also learn about "problem" plants and how they affect the native plant species during an outdoor invasive species removal. Contact Julie McDonald at (270) 826-2247 or by email at [juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov](mailto:juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov), or visit the park website at <http://parks.ky.gov/findparks/recparks/au/> for more.

**April 10-12 or April 17-19, 2009: The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists (SKL) Spring Field Trip @ Somerset, KY.** For details see the SKL website at <http://bioweb.wku.edu/faculty/Marcus/KYLeps.html> or contact trip leader Loran Gibson via email at [kymothman@fuse.net](mailto:kymothman@fuse.net), or call President Bill Black

**April 17-19, 2009: Wildflower Weekend @ Natural Bridge State Resort Park, 2135 Natural Bridge Road, Slade, KY 40376-9701.** The park area is home to hundreds of native plant species; enjoy them this weekend with other botanists, gardeners, and nature lovers. Our field trips are for all levels of participation, and from short, easy walks to longer hikes at Natural Bridge State Park and the Red River Gorge National Geologic Area! Evening speakers will focus on the native plants in the region. Registration fee upon arrival. For more information, contact park naturalist Brian Gasdorf at [brian.gasdorf@ky.gov](mailto:brian.gasdorf@ky.gov) or call 1-800-325-1710, ext 2104. Call the park at (606) 663-2214 or visit their website at <http://parks.ky.gov/findparks/resortparks/nb/> for details.

**April 17-19, 2009: Wildflower Weekend @ Pine Mountain Settlement School, 36 Highway 510, Pine Mountain, KY 40810.** For over thirty years, Pine Mountain Settlement School has invited the public to enjoy the impressive display of spring wildflowers found on its campus on the north side of Pine Mountain and at other special natural areas close by. You'll enjoy hikes to see wildflowers and other spring phenomenon, interesting evening presentations on natural or cultural topics, great meals and the comradeship of others interested in nature! Fee based. Contact the Pine Mountain Settlement School at 606-558-3571 or 606-558-3542 for details. You can also visit their website at <http://www.pinemountainsettlementschool.com/>.

**April 24-26, 2009: Kentucky Society of Natural History (KSNH) 2009 Spring Meeting @ Pine Mountain Settlement School, 36 Highway 510, Pine Mountain, KY 40810.** See upcoming newsletter for details or go to the website at <http://www.ksnh.org>.

**April 24-26, 2009: Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS) Annual Spring Meeting @ Mammoth Cave National Park.** The featured speaker for the weekend will be Ted Floyd (<http://www.aba.org/birding/editor.html>) who is editor of Birding, the primary publication of the American Birding Association. For more information contact KOS at P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY 41005 or via their website at <http://www.biology.eku.edu/kos/default.htm>.

**May 1-2, 2009: Herpetology Weekend @ Natural Bridge State Resort Park, 2135 Natural Bridge Road, Slade, KY 40376-9701.** Discover nature's most misunderstood critters! Experienced herpetologists will lead field trips into the Red River Gorge National Geologic Area to observe reptiles and amphibians in their native habitat. Most Saturday fieldtrips will be offered at 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Collection is prohibited. Friday and Saturday evening presentations will focus on reptile and amphibian natural history and conservation. Some demonstrations will include live venomous snakes! Registration fee upon arrival. For more information contact park naturalist Brian Gasdorf at [brian.gasdorf@ky.gov](mailto:brian.gasdorf@ky.gov) or call 1-800-325-1710, ext. 2104. Call the park at (606) 663-2214 or visit their website at <http://parks.ky.gov/findparks/resortparks/nb/> for details.

**May 1-3, 2009: Ohio Valley Birding Festival @ John James Audubon State Park, 3100 US 41 North, Henderson, KY 42420.** Join birders and educators from throughout the region at the Tri-State Bird Festival. Learn about birds, birding, and bird habitat through seminars, workshops, hikes and crafts. All ages. This festival is sponsored by Audubon State Park, Wesselman Nature Society, Evansville Audubon Society, and Evansville Wild Birds Unlimited. Contact Julie McDonald at (270) 826-2247 or by email at [juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov](mailto:juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov), or Susan Haislip at (812) 479-0771 (ext 100). or visit the festival website at <http://www.ohiovalleybirdingfestival.org> for more.

**May 1-3, 2009: Black Mountain Weekend @ Pine Mountain Settlement School, 36 Highway 510, Pine Mountain, KY 40810.** Wildflower lovers will enjoy visiting Black Mountain where wildflowers are abundant and some Kentucky wildflowers are only found there, such as the painted trillium. As with the Wildflower Weekend, you'll have the opportunity to appreciate spring in the mountains, enjoy presentations by experts in natural and cultural topics, eat good food, and visit with other folks who love nature! Fee based. Contact the Pine Mountain Settlement School at 606-558-3571 or 606-558-3542 for details. You can also visit their website at <http://www.pinemountainsettlementschool.com/>.

**May 1-3, 2009: Flora-Quest '09 - Shawnee and the Edge @ at the Shawnee State Park resort, Shawnee Lodge and Conference Center, 4404 State Route 125, Portsmouth, Ohio 45663-9003.** Flora-Quest is a hand's-on learning adventure focusing on wild plants centered at the 65,000-acre Shawnee State Park, Ohio's largest contiguous forest. Just to the west of Shawnee State forest is the sprawling Edge of Appalachia preserve, filled with unusual habitats and possessing one of the state's highest concentrations of rare plants. For more information call (800) 282-7275 or go to the website at <http://www.flora-quest.com>.

**June 2-16, 2009: Junior Naturalist Programs @ John James Audubon State Park, 3100 US 41 North, Henderson, KY 42420.**

June 2, 2009; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Junior Naturalist Programs Ages 10-12; Audubon Museum

June 9, 2009; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Ages 8-9; Audubon Museum

June 16, 2009; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Ages 6-7; Audubon Museum

June 16, 2009; 7:00 p.m. S'mores Celebration and Awards Ceremony for all Junior Naturalists and their families (Audubon Campground Shelter).

Open your eyes to the amazing wonders in your own back yard. Learn about how we protect these beautiful resources. Programs meet at the Audubon Museum. Kids who attend any one of these dates will receive a patch and certificate. Children ages 10-12 will meet on June 2, Children ages 8-9 will meet on June 9. Children ages 6-7 will meet on June 16. Pre-registration is required. Maximum 20 attendees per date. Contact Julie McDonald at (270) 826-2247 or by email at [juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov](mailto:juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov), or visit the park website at <http://parks.ky.gov/findparks/recparks/au/> for more. Program Fee: \$10.00



*Eurycea lucifuga* Rafinesque, Cave salamander - Barry Nichols, 2009

**June 6, 2009: Creatures of the Night Adventure Trek/National Trails Day @ Audubon Museum, John James Audubon State Park, 3100 US 41 North, Henderson, KY 42420 (6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.).** Venture out with our Interpretation staff on National Trails Day and discover the mysticism of nighttime creatures. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight. Contact Julie McDonald at (270) 826-2247 or by email at [juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov](mailto:juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov), or visit the park website at <http://parks.ky.gov/findparks/recparks/au/> for more.

**June 10-14, 2009: In the Footsteps of Lucy Braun @ Pine Mountain Settlement School, 36 Highway 510, Pine Mountain, KY 40810.** This four-day forest study workshop is named in honor of one of the first and foremost conservationists of the 20th century, E. Lucy Braun. Dr. Lucy, as she was called by her colleagues, devoted her life to the study of plants and to conservation campaigns to save wilderness areas and other natural sites. The four-day workshop will combine field trips, lectures, and slide presentations in the study of forest types found in Eastern Kentucky. Daily field trips will include four- to eight-mile hikes. The workshop is geared toward adults. Fee based. Contact the Pine Mountain Settlement School at 606-558-3571 or 606-558-3542 for details. You can also visit their website at <http://www.pinemountainsettlementschool.com/>.

**June 21-24, 2009: 4th Hellbender Symposium @ Cumberland Falls State Park, in Corbin, Kentucky.** More details to follow.

**July 24-26, 2009: Midwest Native Plant Conference @ Hope Hotel at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, OH.** This event is hosted by the newly formed Midwest Native Plant Society, [Flora-Quest](#) and the [Greater Cincinnati Wild Ones](#). This conference will include educational programs and field trips designed to connect people and nature. The focus will be on native prairies and wetlands with emphasis on the importance of native plant communities. For more information see their website at [http://cincinnatiwildones.com/MWNP\\_Society/preregister.php](http://cincinnatiwildones.com/MWNP_Society/preregister.php) or call (513) 941-6497.

**June 27, 2009: The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists (SKL) Annual 4th of July Oldham County Butterfly Count @ Horner Wildlife Sanctuary.** For details see the SKL website at <http://bioweb.wku.edu/faculty/Marcus/KYLeps.html> or contact trip Leader Charlie Covell via email at [covell@louisville.edu](mailto:covell@louisville.edu).

**August 12-16, 2009: In the Footsteps of Lucy Braun @ Pine Mountain Settlement School, 36 Highway 510, Pine Mountain, KY 40810.** This four-day forest study workshop is named in honor of one of the first and foremost conservationists of the 20th century, E. Lucy Braun. Dr. Lucy, as she was called by her colleagues, devoted her life to the study of plants and to conservation campaigns to save wilderness areas and other natural sites. The four-day workshop will combine field trips, lectures, and slide presentations in the study of forest types found in Eastern Kentucky. Daily field trips will include four- to eight-mile hikes. The workshop is geared toward adults. Fee based. Contact the Pine Mountain Settlement School at 606-558-3571 or 606-558-3542 for details. You can also visit their website at <http://www.pinemountainsettlementschool.com/>.

**August 28-30 or September 12-14, 2009: The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists (SKL) Summer Field Trip @ Jackson Purchase (Western Kentucky).** For details see the SKL website at <http://bioweb.wku.edu/faculty/Marcus/KYLeps.html> or contact trip leader: [Gerald Burnett gdburnett@brtc.net](mailto:Gerald.Burnett@brtc.net).

**September 12 & 19, 2009: Monarch Butterfly Migration Mysteries @ Audubon Museum, John James Audubon State Park, 3100 US 41 North, Henderson, KY 42420 (8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. - both days).** Bid a farewell to the Monarch Butterflies migrating south for the winter. We will meet at the Audubon Museum for a 45-minute introductory indoor presentation. Next, we will carpool to the Sloughs Wildlife Management Area for some outdoor Monarch tagging. The outdoor portion (2-3 hours) is weather dependent. Please dress for potentially marshy conditions. We will meet at the Audubon Museum for an introduction into these extraordinary insects and carpool to the Sloughs Wildlife Management Area to capture and tag them on their way to Mexico. Tags and nets will be provided. Contact Julie McDonald at (270) 826-2247 or by email at [juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov](mailto:juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov), or visit the park website at <http://parks.ky.gov/findparks/recparks/au/> for more. Program Fee: \$5.00 per person, Family rate (up to five members, extra members \$2.50 each) - \$13.00; FOA Members - \$4.00 per person

**September 17-20, 2009: Midwest Birding Symposium @ Lakeside, OH.** This event is hosted by [Bird Watcher's Digest](#), [The Ohio Ornithological Society](#), and the [Lakeside Association](#). For more information see their website at <http://www.midwestbirding.org> or call (888) 896-6927.

**September 18-19, 2009: Kentucky Association for Environmental Education (KAEE) Annual Meeting @ General Butler State Resort Park, 1608 Us Highway 227, Carrollton, KY 41008.** The confluence of the Kentucky and Ohio Rivers provides opportunities to figuratively and literally explore this year's theme, Currents in Environmental Education. For more information, contact Jennifer Adler by phone at (859) 707-7421, or visit the KAEE website at <http://kentuckyassociationforenvironmentaleducation.org>.

**September 25-27, 2009: Kentucky Ornithological Society's Fall Meeting @ Lake Barkley State Resort Park.** For more information contact KOS at P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY 41005 or via their website at <http://www.biology.eku.edu/kos/default.htm>.

**October 16-18, 2009: Fall Color Weekend @ Pine Mountain Settlement School, 36 Highway 510, Pine Mountain, KY 40810.** Fall Color Weekend at Pine Mountain Settlement School offers activities for people of all ages. Features include hikes, multi-media presentations, and the opportunity to enjoy some of Kentucky's most beautiful natural areas and stunning autumn foliage. Fee based. Contact the Pine Mountain Settlement School at 606-558-3571 or 606-558-3542 for details. You can also visit their website at <http://www.pinemountainsettlementschool.com/>.

**October 18, 2009: 12th Annual Indiana Bluebird Society Meeting @ Quaker Haven Camp, 111 Ems D16c Lane, Syracuse, IN.** There will be two featured speakers, Jerry Sweeten, Director of Environmental Studies at Manchester College and Dena Purcell with Wild Birds Unlimited in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Jerry will be speaking about birds native to Indiana and demonstrating the use of mist-netting to show how birds are captured to study and band. Dena will be presenting a program on the basic needs of birds and how to make your garden and yard more enticing to birds. In addition, there will be a panel discussion and question & answer session concerning bluebirds with time to hear from district coordinators with news from their districts. For more information, see the IBS website at <http://indianabluebirdsociety.org/> or contact Ted Vesa by phone at 260-248-8636 or via email at [tjvesa@embarqmail.com](mailto:tjvesa@embarqmail.com).

**November 7, 2009: Fall Foliage Fiesta @ Audubon Museum, John James Audubon State Park, 3100 US 41 North, Henderson, KY 42420 (1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.).** How does nature transition from sunny, warm summer days to crisp and wintry conditions? During this PowerPoint presentation, visitors will peek inside nature's bag of seasonal tricks that allow for life to exist in seemingly unbearable conditions. Afterwards, take a walk outside and soak in the colors and

sounds of Audubon State Park's most colorful season. Contact Julie McDonald at (270) 826-2247 or by email at [juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov](mailto:juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov), or visit the park website at <http://parks.ky.gov/findparks/recparks/au/> for more.

**Fall 2009 TBA: Kentucky Society of Natural History 2009 Fall Meeting @ Reelfoot Lake.**

**Fall 2009: The Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists (SKL) 2009 Annual Meeting @ Entomology Department, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky.** For details see the SKL website at <http://bioweb.wku.edu/faculty/Marcus/KYLeps.html>.

## **2010:**

**April 23-25, 2010: Kentucky Ornithological Society's Fall Meeting.** Jenny Wiley State Resort Park. For more information contact the Kentucky Ornithological Society at P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY 41005, or via their website at <http://www.biology.eku.edu/kos/default.htm>.

**Spring 2010 TBA: Kentucky Society of Natural History 2010 Spring Meeting @ Shawnee State Park, Ohio.**

**Fall 2010: Kentucky Ornithological Society's Fall Meeting @ Paducah/Ballard Wildlife Management Area (dates to be announced).** For more information contact KOS at P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY 41005 or via their website at <http://www.biology.eku.edu/kos/default.htm>.

**Fall 2010 TBA: Kentucky Society of Natural History 2010 Fall Meeting @ Shakertown National Historic Landmark**

## **2011:**

**April 29-May 1, 2011: Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS) Annual Spring Meeting @ Barren River State Resort Park.** For more information contact KOS at P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY 41005 or via their website at <http://www.biology.eku.edu/kos/default.htm>.

**Spring 2010 TBA: Kentucky Society of Natural History 2011 Spring Meeting @ Shawn Carter Caves State Park**

**Fall 2010 TBA: Kentucky Society of Natural History 2011 Fall Meeting @ Cumberland Falls State Resort Park**

## **BUY STUFF & SUPPORT KSNH!!!**

**Merchandise:** KSNH has a number of items ranging from window clings, stickers, and apparel. Plan now for the people on your Christmas list! We have many t-shirts available. Due to the popularity of Dan Dourson's "Kentucky's Own" design, it is once again available in short and long sleeve versions. For those who like fall colors, we have shirts with leaves showing their autumn glory. These are priced reasonably at \$11 for the short sleeve version and \$13 for the long sleeve shirts. There are still a few of the popular ball caps (\$14) that have our logo embroidered on them and the sweatshirt jackets (\$27) that also have the embroidered logo and the fall leaf design. These items available for purchase at the regular Falls of the Ohio Chapter meetings and at our statewide conferences.



"Two feet long, black above and dusky beneath. It is of an eel-like form, lives in the muddy water of the rice swamps, and feeds on worms and insects."

— S. G. Goodrich describes *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis* (Daudin, 1803) (Eastern Hellbender) in *Animal Kingdom Illustrated*, Volume 2 (New York: Derby & Jackson, 1859).

**KSNH SPRING CONFERENCE: PINE MOUNTAIN SETTLEMENT SCHOOL APRIL 24-26, 2009**

Your Name: Last: \_\_\_\_\_ First: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Names (In your group, please print ): \_\_\_\_\_,  
 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**All inclusive package prices include Friday and Saturday nights lodging, 6 meals (Friday supper through Sunday noon dinner) and KSNH registration. Prices below are Per Person.**

|                                      |   | # Attending | Total |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|-------|
| <b><u>Westwind</u></b><br>(25 Rooms) | \$116.00 - Adults . . . . .               | x _____ =   | _____ |
|                                      | \$ 85.00 - Children (13-18yrs.) . . . . . | x _____ =   | _____ |
|                                      | \$ 75.00 - Children (5-12 yrs.) . . . . . | x _____ =   | _____ |
|                                      | Children 4 and Under - Free               |             |       |

|   |  |           |       |
|---|--|-----------|-------|
| <b><u>Hill House</u></b><br>(4 Rooms/Living Room) | \$122.00 - Adults . . . . .                | x _____ = | _____ |
|   | \$ 85.00 - Children (13-18 yrs.) . . . . . | x _____ = | _____ |
|   | \$ 75.00 - Children (5-12 yrs.) . . . . .  | x _____ = | _____ |
|   | Children 4 and Under - Free                |           |       |

|   |                             |           |       |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------|-------|
| <b><u>Laurel House</u></b><br>(6 Rooms) | \$122.00 - Adults . . . . . | x _____ = | _____ |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------|-------|

|  |                             |           |       |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------|-------|
| <b><u>Big Log</u></b><br>(4 Rooms/Living Room) | \$132.00 - Adults . . . . . | x _____ = | _____ |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------|-------|

**Total Due** \_\_\_\_\_

None-I'll make my own elsewhere (please check the box)

**Waiver of Liability for the Spring Conference (Must be executed by All Registrants)**

**EVENT: Pine Mountain Settlement School Conference**

**DATE: April 24 – 26, 2009**

**I understand that I am a participant in this field trip/event. I release the Kentucky Society of Natural History and/or its officers from all liability for accident, injury, illness, or loss of property for myself and/or my dependent(s) and agree to indemnify and save harmless the sponsors from accident, illness, or injury to others or loss of their property caused partly or wholly by me and/or my dependent(s) while engaged in any voluntary activity supported by the sponsors.**

Please note: In Kentucky and most other states an individual may accept a particular risk of harm resulting from another party's conduct. An express release by which one party agrees to assume the risk of harm arising from another party's negligent conduct will be enforced by the courts so long as it does not release liability for willful or gross negligence and does not otherwise offend public policy.

By signing this release, you are not only agreeing that you will not sue the Kentucky Society of Natural History or its officers should one or more of its members or officers cause you harm; you are also protected from being held liable as long as your conduct is not grossly negligent or intentional.

Signatures: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to KSNH **no later than April 13, 2009** and send this form with payment to Cindy Payne, KSNH treasurer, 9109 Hawthorne Pointe Dr., Louisville, KY 40272-2576. **Payment is due at the time of registration.**

The mission of the Kentucky Society of Natural History is to actively promote study and interest in Kentucky's rich natural heritage throughout the Commonwealth. Members are typically interested in a broad spectrum of natural sciences and related fields. Among the more prominent activities of the society, are the annual Spring and Fall Conferences, selection of a "Naturalist of the Year", nature photography contests, and a variety of knowledgeable speakers and field trips. We invite anyone who shares our interests to join us. For membership information or the address of the nearest affiliated chapter, please contact:

**KSNH, P.O. Box 72777, Louisville, KY 40272-0777, or visit our website <<http://www.ksnh.org>> for the membership form. Membership dues are: Individual \$15, Family \$25, Full Time Student \$5, Life: \$300.**

**The Kentucky Society of Natural History is an official 501(c) (3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization** which was formed in 1939, and incorporated in 1943 in Louisville, Kentucky. All contributions to THE KENTUCKY SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY are tax-deductible to the full extent of income tax laws.

Published Quarterly, The Kentucky Naturalist News is the official newsletter of KSNH. Unsolicited contributions are encouraged. Please send articles to: Barry Nichols, KNN Editor, P. O. Box 21182, Louisville, KY 40221. You can also email newsletter submissions by sending them to [kyfauna@iglou.com](mailto:kyfauna@iglou.com).

**Kentucky Naturalist News Deadlines:**

| <u>Issue</u> | <u>Deadline</u>   | <u>Newsletter to be Published</u> |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Spring Issue | February 15, 2009 | March 7, 2009                     |
| Summer Issue | May 1, 2009       | June 1, 2009                      |
| Fall Issue   | August 1, 2009    | September 1, 2009                 |
| Winter Issue | November 1, 2009  | December 1, 2009                  |

For submissions, please cite references. To assist, you may use: <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/lobo2/citationbuilder/citationbuilder.php>.



**Kentucky Society of Natural History,  
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Louisville, Kentucky 40272-0777.**