



Knob & Valley Audubon Society

P.O. Box 556 - New Albany, IN 47150

[Http://www.kavaudubon.org](http://www.kavaudubon.org)

Spring 2004

KAVAS Officers - 2002 - 2003

President - *David Coyte*

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Birdathon 2004, Earth Day & more

Spring is here which means it is time for the Birdathon, Earth Day, and numerous other outdoor activities. In fact this newsletter is filled with local and regional events of interest to KAVAS members.

Birdathon 2004 is your chance to spend the day with Mother Nature, see lots of birds, meet some great people, and help Audubon. We offer two dates in two different dates and two settings or you participate from your own backyard.

As our only fund raiser, KAVAS needs your help obtaining pledges for our bird count. Prizes will be awarded to all who get at least \$5.00 in total "per species" pledges and to the birding group with the highest species count. A grand prize includes a week-long birding vacation along the National Scenic and Wild Rivers in northwestern Wisconsin complete with lodging, breakfast, and canoe trip. Other Prizes include binoculars, field guides, feeders, and Audubon Memberships. For further details see page 3.

And let's not forget Earth Day. Now more than ever protecting Mother Earth is a critical priority. For details on activities at the Falls of the Ohio, see page 4.

And don't overlook all the other local and regional activities listed on pages 2 & 5. There are birding events, wild flower walks, canoe trips, and more.

Finally, consider getting more involved with KAVAS your local Audubon chapter. Our annual meeting is May 13th - see details on page 2. Please consider becoming a board member or even an officer. How about taking over as editor of the newsletter?

Sam Sloss

Retiring editor

Coming Local Events

April 8th (Thursday) - Bill Adams will present a travel slide show at 7:00 p.m. during the general meeting of KAVAS at the Lapping Park lodge in Clarksville.

April 24th (Saturday) - *Earth Day* at the Falls of the Ohio State Park. See page 4 for details.

May 8th(Saturday) - KAVAS naturalist, Bill Adams, will lead a *Spring Wildflower Walk* at Lapping Park lodge in Clarksville at 1:00 p.m.

May 13th (Thursday) - *Annual KAVAS business meeting* will be held Thursday, May 13, 6:30 P.M. at Turtle Island, behind the home of Bill and Maggie Adams on Corydon Ridge Road near Edwardsville. For directions please call 945-1207. Those wishing to serve on the Board of Directors should send a letter of intent to Bett Etenohan, Secretary, Knob and Valley Audubon Society, POBox 556 New Albany, IN 47150. We welcome new blood on the Board. Following the Meeting will be the Birders' Banquet – A Pizza Party celebrating our annual Birdathon.

May 15th (Saturday) - KYANA Geological Society presents *Minerals of Indiana & Kentucky*, Falls of the Ohio Interpretive Center at 2:00 p.m.

May 16 (Sunday) - Explore an urban wetland only five minutes from downtown Louisville. Loop Island Wetlands is a 46-acre area at the confluence of the Ohio River and Silver Creek. Privately owned, it features 275 sited bird species, Civil-War era iron railroad bridge, and a former Henry Clay and Humphrey Marshall dueling grounds. Located near a 7 mile greenway planned for the Indiana shore of the Ohio River. (Optional tour of 140-year-old leather tannery which utilized a vegetable dying process, after the hike). Approximately a one mile hike. Contact Marty Hanka at 812-952-1121 or check the Sierra Club website for details.

July 31 (Saturday) - *Silver Creek Clean Sweep* from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Lapping Park shelter house, 2404 Greentree North, Clarksville Join us as we splash around in Silver Creek for the annual Clean Sweep. Please volunteer to help us remove trash and debris from the banks for Silver Creek. In reward for your great efforts, pizza will be provided, along with various demonstrations, and door prizes. Learn about water quality and how to keep our surroundings clean and beautiful. Pre-registration not required. Will take place rain or shine. Wear old clothing! Rubber gloves will be provided. For further information contact: BJ Hammond, Recreation Director of Clarksville Parks & Recreation at www.clarksvilleparks.com or 812.283.5313; FAX 812.288.1380

Websites for other local events

Falls of the Ohio - The Falls of the Ohio offers education programs, films, and workshops. Of course their exhibits are great for the whole family. Check them out at <http://www.louisvillnaturecenter.org/>

Louisville Nature Center - The Louisville Nature Center offers educational programs, summer camps and numerous activities for children. Check them out at <http://www.louisvillnaturecenter.org/>

Science Fair Audubon Award Winners

Knob and Valley would like to recognize this year's winners of the Environmental Prize at the regional science fair.

In the Junior Division, Heather Ratliff, of Salem, for her project: "Determining the Allelopathic Effect of Selected Evergreens on Germinating *Ratifus Sativus*."

In the Senior Division, Clayton Carr, for his project: "The Effects of Salicylic Acid on Organisms in a Trated Pond Ecosystem."

Our Congratulations and a membership in the Audubon Society.

DEADLINE

Deadline for the Summer 04 issue (July - Sept) of the KAVAS newsletter is June 26, 2004. Please e-mail your articles, events, etc. to Sam Sloss at gsloss@ius.edu or gsloss@insightbb.com.

Birdathon 2004

The Birdathon is Knob and Valley's only annual fund raising event. Fund raising for the Birdathon is where the wings meet the wind. You can help by making your own pledge, or get pledges from your friends and co-workers. It's not hard to do, and even small pledges of ten cents make a big impact. Proceeds go to local and state environmental education activities. Participate as a Birder, a fund raiser, or both. Birdathon is a dawn to dusk marathon to sight as many different species as possible. Birders cover a variety of habitats from backyards to the Muscatatuck Nature Preserve near Seymore. Join one of our teams or form your own birding team (up to 4 members) by calling David Coyte at (502) 893-5172. This year we hope to attract new teams by allowing flexibility on the actual birding date. Our Birder's Banquet will follow the Annual Meeting on May 13th at 6:30 PM. This is a great party as we tally the count and tell stories of the hunt.

If you can't join a team, you can still bird in your own backyard. It is amazing how many species you can see. Keep a list and send it to our P.O. Box or bring it to the annual meeting. To join a group please call the leader of the group you wish to join. Anyone can gather pledges. Use the form at the bottom of this page and make copies if you need. For further information call David Coyte. Our work in environmental education is more important now than ever. Thank you

Birding Group 1: April 10th Led by Dr. Dick Maxwell: This group will meet at Mount St. Francis Seminary off of Highway 150 at 9:00 a.m. in the rear parking lot. Let Dick know you plan to be there - 944-4977.

Birding Group 2: April 17th Led by David Coyte: This group will begin the day at the Loop Island Wetlands in New Albany at 7:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight time. The Loop Island Wetlands are located where Silver Creek meets the Ohio River. We will meet at the offices of Al Goodman & Associates, 232 Silver St., in New Albany. Simply take Silver Street towards the river and you will come to the gates to the Goodman property. Be prepared for wet hiking. The afternoon will be spent at Charlestown State Park off Indiana 62.

Prizes: The top Birders and Fund raisers – (up to 8 individuals) will be given a week-long birding vacation along the National Scenic and Wild Rivers in northwestern Wisconsin. The group will stay in a rustic cabin lakeside cabin(with plumbing) on Deer Lake near beautiful St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin. Activities include a day-long canoe trip down the St. Croix River, trips to various birding areas near St. Croix Falls, and excursions to the Crex Meadows State Wildlife Refuge - a nationally recognized Important Birding Area, 30 minutes away. At Crex are established Sharp-tailed Grouse dancing grounds, breeding pairs of Trumpeter Swans, Sandhill Cranes, and Shrikes. This time of year offers tremendous numbers of water birds, waxwings, orioles, yellow headed blackbirds, and warblers as they migrate to the Great Lakes and beyond. Deer Lake itself has nesting bald eagles, hiking trails, great fishing and canoeing. The tours will be guided by Knob and Valley's president, David Coyte, an experienced canoeist and birder familiar with the region. This prize includes housing, breakfast, the canoe trip and transportation within the area. Winners will be transported to/from the airport, train or bus stations in Minneapolis/St. Paul if necessary. Carpooling from S. Indiana will be arranged if possible. Other Prizes include binoculars, field guides, feeders, and Audubon Memberships. Winners will be contacted immediately and announced at the Annual Meeting, May 9th.

2004 Birdathon Pledge Form

We usually see between 70 and 90 Species during our Birdathon, so a \$.10 cost you between \$7 and \$9.

Pledge what you can afford, and we will send you a complete list of this years sightings. Thank you.

Name	Address	Phone	Fixed Amt.	Per species

Regional Events

April 17 (Saturday) - *Birding Field Trip by the Potawatomi Audubon Society*. 8:30 a.m. at Kingsbury Fish and Wildlife Area. 5344 W. Hupp Rd., LaPorte, IN 46350.
Information: <http://www.alco.org/audubon/> or
Contact: Mary Jo Pflum mjpfum@csinet.net

April 30, May 1, & May 2 (Friday-Sunday) - *Indiana Audubon Society's Annual Spring Meeting* at Mary Gray Sanctuary near Connersville, IN. Lectures, bird walks, field trips, and the finest of Hoosier fellowship. Fee for weekend motel or camping on your own. Information:
<http://www.indianaudubon.org/aboutus/springmtg.htm>
Contact: indianaudubon@yahoo.com

May 1 (Saturday) - If you are looking for an alternative to local Derby Day madness, consider a moderate 7 mile day hike at Natural Bridge State Park in Slade, Kentucky.
Contact Jerry Redden at 606-768-2400.

May 8 (Saturday) - *International Migratory Bird Day* at the Hoosier National Forest at Hardin Ridge Recreation Area Free family fun, including bird walks, owl prowls, boat trips, crafts, and games. Contact: Cynthia Basile, (812) 547-9229, cbasile@fs.fed.us

May 22 (Saturday) - Evansville Audubon Society *Field trip to Sauerbeber Slough*. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Audubon State Park Museum parking lot. Information: <http://clubs.homeearth.com/eas/events.htm>. Contact: Lois Schmidt, 812-867-5253

June 10 - 19 (Thursday - Saturday of the following week) *Birding trip to Trinidad & Tobago* by Amos W. Butler Audubon Society, Inc. Leader: Bill Murphy, author of *A Birder's Guide to Trinidad & Tobago*. \$1,575 from Trinidad. Information: http://www.amosbutleraudubon.org/TT_06_04/index.htm. Contact: Kathy Feldman, KFBbeccaARM@aol.com

Every Sunday (year-round) - *Eagle Creek Bird Hikes* at Eagle Creek Park Nature Center at 7840 W. 56th St., Indianapolis. Leader: Bud Starling. 9 a.m. Gate fee \$4; hikes free. Contact: Donna McCarty, ddmccarty@att.net
Information: <http://www.indygov.org/eGov/City/DPR/Parks/List/Eagle+Creek+Park.htm>

WEBSites to for regional events

Sierra Club - The Sierra Club sponsors several great hikes, bike rides, and canoe trips in both the Kentuckiana area and throughout Kentucky. Check it out at
<http://kentucky.sierraclub.org/outings/upcoming.asp>.

Pine Mountain Settlement School - The Pine Mountain Settlement School offers wild flower weekends, naturalist workshops, weaving workshops, and more. Many of their activities are several day events. Check them out at
<http://www.pinemountainsettlementschool.com>.

New KAVAS Membership

KAVAS now offers a new local membership for those interested who are not interested in or cannot afford national Audubon membership. The local membership fee is \$15 (\$10 for student members) compared to \$35 for national Audubon membership.

If you are interested, fill out the membership form at the bottom of this page and send it in with your check. A membership for the national Audubon Society (which also includes local KAVAS membership) is on the back page of the newsletter.

Knob and Valley Audubon Society

Chapter Only Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Please make your checks payable to KAVAS and send to:

KAVAS
P.O. Box 556
New Albany, IN 47150

Knob & Valley Audubon Society (HO6)
of Southern Indiana - 7XCH



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 200

Membership in the

National Audubon Society

- ✓ A one year subscription to *Audubon Magazine* four magnificent issues.
- ✓ Membership in one of our local Audubon Chapters.
- ✓ Admission to many Audubon Centers and Sanctuaries throughout the country. (Most are free, but there is a small fee for a few.)
- ✓ The opportunity to purchase books, gifts, and Collectibles of particular interest to nature lovers.
- ✓ The opportunity to attend Audubon ecology camps and study with the experts.

Plus, the satisfaction of adding your voice to the Audubon Cause

Knob and Valley Audubon Society Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I want to join.

Please enroll me as a member of the **National Audubon Society** and of my local chapter.

Please send *Audubon Magazine* and my membership card to the address below.

My check for \$35 is enclosed

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Please make your checks payable to the *National Audubon Society*. Send this application and your check to:
National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 51001, Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001

Knob & Valley Audubon Society (HO6)
of Southern Indiana - 7XCH