



Buckley Hills Audubon Society NEWSLETTER

Vol. 33, No. 2

JULY 2001

Published at Lexington, Ky

From Your President

All of us are excited about the coming of summer months and the many exciting and enjoyable things it brings. The same is true for Buckley Hills Audubon Society's members as they participate in the wonderful outdoors watching birds and wild life and observing the many wonders of nature.

Mark your calendar for Sunday August 5, 2001 for *Family Fun Days* at Audubon's Clyde E. Buckley Wildlife Sanctuary located between Frankfort and Versailles off Route 60. Last years event was blessed with great weather and provided a very large turnout of Audubon members and family. It was tremendous to see all the children enjoying and participating in the activities.

Co-sponsored by the Kentucky Audubon Council and your Chapter Buckley Hill's Audobon Society, the 3rd annual event has many new attractions for this years outing. Again, fun for the entire family will be the theme also for this summer.

In addition to the list of events, come early to enjoy the many walking trails and an Air Conditioned bird blind.

Your Board of Directors will be meeting Wednesday July 11th at its Annual meeting to nominate a slate of Directors and the election of Officer's.

As I leave the Board having served as your President, I wish to express my appreciation to the many members who have made my tenure so enjoyable and successful. The Chapters growth shall continue to flourish and increase it's membership.

— Jim Cain



Family Fun Days

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2001

Family Fun Day in the Country

What better way to spend a pleasant summer afternoon than enjoying a free lunch in the shade of a tall tree with a cool breeze delicately dancing across your skin? Why do all these great things while attending the Family Fun Day in the Country at the Buckley wildlife Sanctuary and Audubon Center? Just ask any of the hundreds that attended last year.

August 5th, 2001 will be especially exciting with:



1:00 PM - Lunch

Fill your tummies with ham and other fixin's..

2:00-2:15 PM- Introductions/Welcome

A brief introduction will update you on the Sanctuary events and projects. You may wish to bring a chair or blanket to sit upon to enjoy the very special presentations to follow

2:15-3:00 PM- WLEX TV's Chief Meteorologist Bill Meck with Bill's Weather 101. Mr. Meck will enlighten you, as only he can, with this very special technique he has perfected to dramatize various weather conditions.

3:00-4:00 PM- Dr. Thomas Crawford, Professor of Chemistry, Emeritus with Popullution. Dr. Crawford will use several chemical demonstrations that relate to world population and pollution.

4:00-5:00 PM- Carol & Laura Reynolds with their Birds of Prey back by popular demand, the humor and knowledge of Carol and Laura Reynolds as they inform us of the values and identification of many of our local birds-of-prey. They may release one or two rehabilitated birds, so bring your cameras.

Weather permitting-Hay rides will follow.

Admission to Buckley for this event and lunch is free compliments of Buckley Hills Audubon Society in conjunction with the Kentucky Audubon Council. Lunch will start at 1:00 PM & will be served till it is gone.

BUCKLEY HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Officers

— *President* —

Jim Cain (859) 277-1711

— *Vice President* —

Stuart Butler (859) 873-4076

— *Treasurer* —

Joe Childers (859) 225-1861

— *Secretary* —

Pat Tuttle (859) 277-1757

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Carol Reynolds, *Program Chair*

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Buckley Hills Audubon Society is to build an organization to support environmental education, conservation, and recreational programs for the mutual benefit of the National Audubon Society, the members of the Buckley Hills Audubon Society, and the Community.

2001 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Clyde E. Buckley Wildlife Sanctuary

1305 Germany Road • Frankfort, KY

(859) 873-5711

Sunday, July 8, 2:00 P. M. Amphibians and Reptiles of Kentucky

\$4.00/adult and \$3.00/child

(Friends of Buckley Admitted Free)

Jeff Hohman from East Kentucky Power-Touchstone Energy will teach us about the physiological differences between reptiles and amphibians and their niche in Kentucky's environment with lots of harmless creatures and "critter handling". A guided hike will follow.

Sunday, August 5, 1:00 P. M. A Family Fun Day In The Country

Free admissions

Grab a sandwich and fixin's from 1:00 until 2:00, or while it lasts. Take a hike or hayride and watch the live animal presentations.

Saturday, September 15, 7:30 P. M.

AN EVENING ADVENTURE

\$4.00/adult and \$3.00/child

(Friends of Buckley Admitted Free)

We will walk approximately one mile through the forest and fields to discover some of nature's night things without the aid of flashlights and participate in sensory activities along the way. Afterwards, we will meet in the nature Center for cider and cookies.

Saturday, October 20, 6:30 P. M. Night Things

\$4.00/adult and \$3.00/child

(Friends of Buckley Admitted Free)

East Kentucky Power-Touchstone Energy will share the truth about bats and their role in ecology. This will include mist nets and Beanie Baby Bats to demonstrate how they collect and study these creatures. Mike Lynch will then provide us with views and descriptions of the moon, planets, stars, and other astronomical objects visible this fall. Come and enjoy the evening. Bring telescopes or binoculars if you have them.

Saturday, December 15, 7:00 A. M. Audubon Christmas Bird Count

\$4.00/adult and \$3.00/child

(Friends of Buckley Admitted Free)

Come join us on this cool crisp morning to learn more about our winter wonders of the bird world. Bring binoculars and a hot cup of coffee.

BUCKLEY HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY BULLETIN BOARD

Web Site is Up and Running

Buckley Hills is one of two chapters who have managed to get their Web pages ready. You may access the page as follows: <http://audubon.wku.edu/buckleyhills/>



32nd Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting will be held at Kentucky American Water Company, 2300 Richmond Road in Lexington.

- 5:00 PM Nature Walk
- 6:00 PM Annual Meeting
- 7:30 PM Pot Luck Dinner

Each member is asked to bring their favorite covered dish. The meat will be provided by BHAS. We hope we will see a large group of our membership attending this event.

Treasurer's Report

Joe Childers reports that the membership is higher this year and our income is higher than anticipated. Joe says the National Audubon Society will change the way they pay our chapter. They will pay us once a year (in Sept. or Oct.), instead of paying on a quarterly basis as they have been. He said the way they calculate what they will pay our chapter now the amount will probably be lower than it has been. The National Society is going out of the business of membership solicitation and will leave it up to the chapters. Last year's budget was \$2000 more than expected. The birdseed sale did better as well. Joe has not received a bill for the Audubon Adventures used this past year. National will pay 75% to our Chapter this year.

Membership Matters

It's going to be a busy fall And winter And spring And this is a good thing! And what is going to make it so busy? Projects that's what! And we need help from the membership to get it all done. We will need all types of skills from carpenters and scholars to bird watchers. If you're interested in contributing to the conservation effort read on!

The Conservation Committee is in the process of acquiring data to validate the nomination of the Kentucky River Palisades as an

Important Bird Area. To do this we have identified several locations along the River to document breeding and migratory sites to study. The first sites we have chosen to study are Floracliff and Raven Run.

Floracliff: The Mary E. Wharton Nature Sanctuary at Floracliff is one of central Kentucky's most beautiful natural areas. Located on 287 acres in southwest Fayette County, the sanctuary forms a unique ecosystem featuring steep slopes, mixed hardwood forests, Kentucky River bottoms, swift running streams and limestone palisades.

Raven Run Park: Raven Run is a nature sanctuary owned and operated by Fayette County Parks and Recreation. It is located near Floracliff on the River and topographically is very similar. It is, however, much larger than Floracliff.

To help the program along we need volunteers to help with:

Cataloging bird species through at least one breeding and migratory season. This will involve site visits to Floracliff and Raven Run.

Researching scholarly journals and other sources for breeding and migratory data. This will involve some trips to places like the W. T. Young Library, Internet searches and interfacing with organizations like the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources and the American Bird Conservancy.

The folks at Floracliff have also asked for our help in cataloging other wildlife species and wildflowers. I personally admit to having a soft spot in my heart for butterflies and fritillaries so I will have lots to look for and do. They also have asked our help in the construction of a bird blind, so if you are not inclined to tramp thru the woods and meadows there are still many activities to become involved in.

To those who are still at the novice stage in learning to identify (and enjoy) our feathered and furry friends and those who would like to begin but just do not know how to go about doing it, now is a perfect chance to become acquainted with people who would love the opportunity to share their experience with you. It is common knowledge that I have great enthusiasm but no talent when it comes to identifying all critters from two to six legs.

But you know what, it doesn't matter 'cause I still have a good time. So if I can show up and give it a try so should you. If you are interested in helping out a good cause please let me know. I hope to hear from you soon.

— **Barry Ray Atkins**
Membership Chairman

Riverboat Excursion by Conservation Committee

The Conservation Committee toured the Kentucky River last month in order to sample first-hand the flora and fauna of one of our region's most important bird areas. The group included Barry Atkins, Dan Petry, Bill & Larabeth Sheets, Carey Bateman and Dan Hendricks.

Putting in at the Cummins Ferry Landing on Saturday May 12th at 8 AM, the group floats up river with the morning sun sparkling on the dark green water. Millions of years of erosion have cut the channel deep into the rock. At points on our journey, we float more than 100 feet below ground level with the magnificent stone-walls of the Palisades rising out of the water. Along the ancient rock face, outcroppings of tree and bush grow on narrow shelves or claim a precarious toehold in the soft stone.

We shut the motor down on our pontoon boat and drifted along, carried by a river in no hurry to get anywhere in particular. The morning air is filled with the sweet cacophony of bird song ---the song sparrow, phoebe, peewee, warbler and lark. In the first moments of our drifting sojourn, we see more than twenty different species including bank swallows who sweep over our boats with lively aerial abandon. A member of our party notices a spot along the river bank where two, perhaps three, swallows are entering nest cavities, wedged in breaks in the rock. For a birding novice like me, seeing the bank swallow is a real triumph.

The moment to remember, however, comes later in the morning when we spy a brilliant yellow bird perched over the water on a sun-bleached snag. It turns out to be a warbler. A vigorous discussion ensues as people page through their bird books trying to determine whether the magnificent creature is a blue

winged or prothonatory warbler. As though proud of the academic stir he has caused, the warbler pauses for several moments allowing us to become even less certain of his precise identity.

Birds are not the only attraction. A water snake undulates toward our boat as if he aims to board. We see goats grazing on the rock cliffs above and pass an antebellum hotel that once serviced lusty riverboat men on the long journey to New Orleans. After lunch, we reluctantly return to the dock, muttering gratefully that we have enjoyed such a spring morning on the Kentucky River.

— Dan Hendricks

Raven Run Nature Sanctuary Bird Tour is a Big Success!

This past May eight Audubon members (several brand new) and two guides went on a three-hour program through many of Raven Run Nature Sanctuary's diverse habitats. They were rewarded with near-perfect weather and displays of 20 of Raven Run's 200 bird species.

The tour began with a walk around the Prather house, built between 1804-1812. The house is the oldest historical site at Raven Run and also includes several other small buildings and a family graveyard. The land was donated by descendants of the Prathers and is the site of many of the park's history programs. This area is one of our best birding spots. Early morning hikers can almost be sure to see red-wing blackbirds, meadowlarks, bluebirds, vultures, and several species of sparrows.

Passing by the nature center we were entertained by a prairie warbler calling from atop a tall tree. The tour continued through our meadow trails along the highest points in the park. These fields and early successional forests are excellent areas to view singing birds in the morning. This day the meadows were filled with the sounds of the common yellowthroat, indigo buntings, field sparrows, and rufous-sided towhees. The highlight of this part of the tour was a juvenile scarlet tanager perched in bright sunlight, singing furiously.

The program was a great success and we will definitely be setting up more tours in the future. Keep watching in your Audubon newsletter for upcoming programs.

—Brian Perry

SUPPORT THE ANNUAL FUND FRIENDS OF BUCKLEY HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY

The Annual Fund consists of gifts from members who want to additionally support the educational and conservation Bird program. The Annual Fund is above and beyond the income from the National dues program.

Our Chapter has established this annual fund to provide operating funds for the Budget. In addition, a portion of your contributions will be added to the Endowment Fund for future Campaign projects.

FRIENDS OF BUCKLEY HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY

YES! I'd like to become a Friend of the Buckley Hills Audubon Society. My contribution is enclosed.

Please make check payable to:
Buckley Hills Audubon Society
and mail to:
Treasurer, Buckley Hills Audubon Society
Joe Childers
99 Hampton Ct.
Lexington, KY 40508

_____ \$500 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ \$10 _____ Other
NAME _____ PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

**Welcome to the
National Audubon Society!**

Your membership benefits include:

- Membership in your local chapter
- One year subscription to AUDUBON
- Membership in our grassroots network
- Exciting travel opportunities
- Invitations to our Nature Centers
- Special offers on select Audubon products

Remember, all members of BHAS are welcome to attend any Board meeting.
32nd Annual Meeting
Wednesday, July 11, 2001
at Kentucky American Water Company
2300 Richmond Road
Lexington, Ky
5:00 PM

If you have an article or topic you would like to see in our Newsletter, send it to:

Buckley Hills Audubon Society,
Attn: Dan McLemore
433 Southland Drive
Lexington, KY 40503 or
email: pipit@aol.com

**Buckley Hills
Audubon Society**

Chapter #J51

201 West Short Street, Suite 310
Lexington, KY 40507

JOIN US TODAY!

Take advantage of this great offer. Please use the application below to ensure that Buckley Hills receives full credit for both new and renewal memberships. A portion of the membership dues are returned to us helping support our education programs and other expenses. This is a great opportunity to give subscriptions or to renew your own, even if it's not due yet.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY #J51**

J51
7XCH

Check the appropriate box (Includes Audubon Magazine and Chapter Newsletter)

- New \$20 2-Year \$35 Senior Citizen or Student \$15

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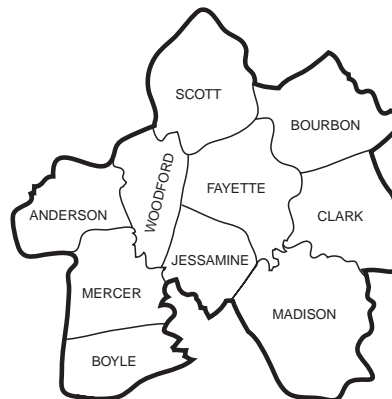
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Please make check payable to: National Audubon Society
and mail with application to:
National Audubon Society
P.O. Box 5 1001
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

Please contact Barry Atkins @ 859-271-3022 or via email @ batkins1@prodigy.net if you have suggestions for membership recruitment opportunities in your area(groups, organizations, activities, etc.) or if you would like to become more involved in your local chapter.



Family Fun Days
Sunday, August 5th, 2001
Food - Fun - Comaraderie
Come join us from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Buckley Wildlife Sanctuary



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