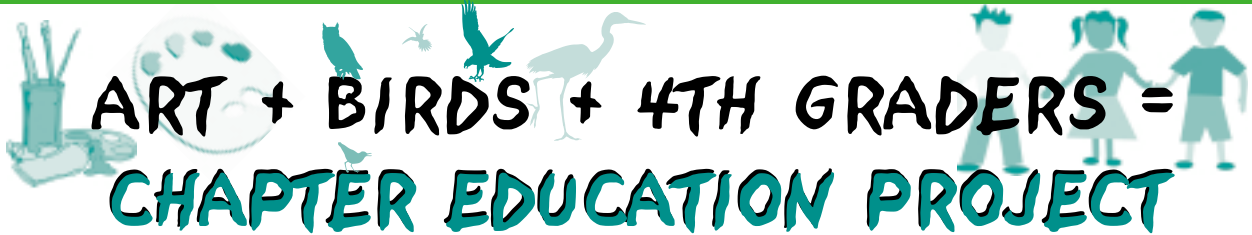


"A Quarterly Resource for Audubon Chapter Leaders Across the Nation and Beyond"



ART + BIRDS + 4TH GRADERS = CHAPTER EDUCATION PROJECT

Ozark Rivers Audubon Society (Missouri) has designed a unique program combining art with bird identification. Chapter President Mike Doyen offers a detailed look at this special project.

In the year 2000, Ozark Rivers Audubon Society realized the need for a more hands on approach to education, especially one that involved young people. Our challenge was to institute a program that would teach children about birds and bird habitat while creating a desire to learn more. We knew that purchasing binoculars and field guides and taking 400 fourth graders on birding field

trips would be impossible, but we also realized that every fourth grader gets involved in art projects in their school. What better way to teach young people about birds than through art!



To develop a pilot program, we worked directly with Lucy Myers, a local art teacher in the public schools, who put together a lesson plan and inspired local teachers and the school administration to agree to take part. Before we knew it, we were on our way! The program aims to help every fourth grader in Rolla recognize a minimum of seven local birds, and then pick one to draw for a

Continued on Page 5

ACT FOR THE BIRDS

We have a window of opportunity. Today, the vast majority of bird species in North America still exist in viable numbers in some remnant of suitable habitat. Today, we who love birds and the natural world in general exist in greater numbers than ever before, and those numbers are growing rapidly. And today, we have the tools that allow us to know and monitor that fragile world with depth and breadth that was unimaginable ten years ago, let alone 102 years ago when the first Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held. With these elements in place, we are all able to participate in conservation efforts. In fact, it is our mandate - our obligation - to become citizen scientists.

Over one hundred years ago, a handful of Christmas Bird Counters began a tradition by recording the species and

their numbers in 25 circles around the continent. This year you can be among the tens of thousands who gather data in some of those same circles along with over 1900 additional sites. But now, rather than waiting months to enjoy or study those data, you'll be able to see the results as soon as they are entered into the on-line database. And right now 102 years of CBC reports are available for many uses, but especially for conservation. Using this immense vault of CBC data (found at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/hr/index.html>), you can now conduct your own local, regional, or national study with relative ease. Please tell us what you find.

More than 15 years ago, Project Feeder Watch (visit <http://www.birdsource.org/pfw>) became a continent-wide project sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the Canadian Nature

Federation, Bird Studies Canada, and Audubon. Following a careful protocol, thousands of dedicated observers - some elderly, some housebound - have collected data about the status of feeder birds across the continent from November to April.

When participants reported an illness among House Finches, the network of Feeder Watchers made it possible to track the disease, identified as avian conjunctivitis, as it spread throughout the eastern half of the country. Additionally, the huge amount of data gathered during this project is precious to the understanding of climate's impact on bird populations as well as of the general health of these populations. All of this information is now submitted and quickly available on-line.

Continued on Page 2

THE CHAPTER NETWORKER is published quarterly by National Audubon Society as a resource for Chapter leaders, and sent to all Chapter officers, committee chairs, and board members, as well as Audubon board members and staff. It is posted on the Audubon Web Site.

- Send *Networker* articles and any Chapter Services inquiries to: AUDUBON CHAPTER SERVICES: Bldg 30, Fort Missoula Rd. Missoula, MT 59804 phone/fax: 800/542-2748 <chapter_services@audubon.org> Lynn Tennefoss, Director of Field Support
- Contact Audubon-Policy Office: 1150 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 600 Washington, DC 20036 202/861-2242, fax 202/861-4290
- Contact Audubon-HQ: 700 Broadway New York, NY 10003 212/979-3000, fax 212/979-4290
- E-mail all Audubon staff: <First initial and last name @audubon.org> (e.g. jdoe@audubon.org)
- Access the Audubon World Wide Web Site: <<http://www.audubon.org/local/cn/>>
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- Printing: Signal Graphics
- Contributors: Steven J. D'Amato, Mike Doyen, Daniel S. Kilby, Kirsten Munson

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

for Submitting Materials to the *Chapter Networker*:

SPRING 2003 ISSUE:
Friday, January 10, 2003

SUMMER 2003 ISSUE:
Friday April 11, 2003



The *Chapter Networker* is printed on 100% recycled paper using soy ink.

Act for the Birds cont.

The Great Backyard Bird Count or GBBC (available at <<http://www.birdsource.org.gbbs>>) will be six years old this February 14-17. Submitted entirely on-line, the approximately 50,000 checklists from every state and province provide a winter snapshot of the status of our birds on that count weekend. A monitoring project that is designed to allow beginners and experts alike to participate, GBBC aims to engage and educate families and individuals in the hopes that they will continue their involvement through other bird monitoring projects. As with other projects, GBBC data become more and more valuable with each year that the information is compiled. Explore the results from your state or province, a region of the continent, or all of North America.



The use of eBird and other citizen science tools may give us more opportunity to monitor bird declines before they become critical. The Eskimo Curlew, now thought to be extinct, could have benefited from such an approach.

When we began to receive letters, emails, and phone calls in August about dwindling bird numbers in a variety of neighborhoods around the east and mid-west, we were alarmed and concerned. These reports seemed to coincide with the spread of the West Nile Virus. As this year's warm months came to an end, we could do little but provide information (available at <<http://www.audubon.org/bird/westnilevirus.html>>), caution against inappropriate reactions like rampant pesticide application, and educate regarding alternative responses. We had no broad scale, summer monitoring data to compare to recent 2002 surveys.

However, this winter, we can all do much more. While no one was thinking of a scenario like the West Nile threat when these citizen science monitoring projects were developed, in the end, we have built a platform for an informed response to just

such an event. The winter projects are in place and years of data have been collected. So let's use these tools to learn as much as possible about the impact of this disease on our winter bird populations as we continue to collect long-term data. It is, of course, critically important that we maintain the same protocol as in previous years when we collect data this winter.

Heading into the future, take a look at eBird (available at <<http://www.birdsource.org>>), a new BirdSource tool that allows anyone to report any species, anywhere, and anytime. eBird opens a new era of citizen science when we can have all of the baseline data as they are needed, which will help our birds in a time of increasing threats from

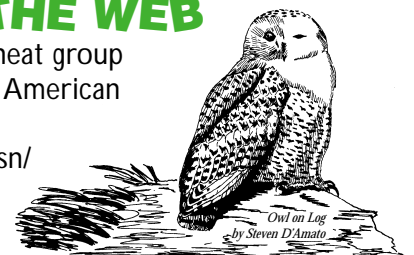
habitat loss to West Nile virus. All citizen scientists can participate in eBird and other projects through BirdSource at their level of expertise and as their time allows.

The window of conservation opportunity through which we gaze must become a door through which we step into action. Report banded, tagged, and marked birds as well as your observations of rarities and unusual occurrences. Get involved with your local Important Bird Area program <<http://audubon.org/bird/iba/index.html>>, helping to monitor birds at some of their most important places. And participate in citizen science projects at your level of ability and comfort. Remember, you will double your impact if you take along a friend; and you'll multiply it many times over if you include a scout troop or a class of kids.

FOR MORE INFO.: Contact Sally Conyne, Director, Audubon Citizen Science, <sconyne@audubon.org> or 215/355-9588.

BIRDING FESTIVALS ON THE WEB

Want to find a venue for outreach or experience a neat group birding event? A continuously updated list of North American Birding Festivals is now available online at: <http://www.birdinghotspot.com.futuresite.register.com/_wsn/page5.html> (or go to <<http://birdinghotspot.com/abd>> and click on "Birding Events.")



Audubon's WatchList Helps You Protect Birds!



With more than 800 bird species in the United States and limited resources available to protect them, it is critically important to know which species need the most help. Identifying species at risk, but which are not yet endangered or threatened, provides the best chance we have to protect bird populations before their declines qualify them for endangered species status. Endangered species can require millions to save, and many do not recover: we need to act to help birds before this costly extremity is reached.

Conservationists from professional wildlife managers to Chapter volunteers need information on which to base their action. Audubon's WatchList 2002 fills that need.

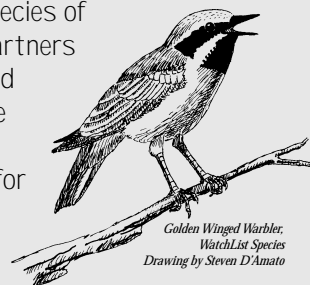
I'm very excited to announce the launch of WatchList 2002, and invite you to explore and use the new list. It is a system designed to highlight those bird species that have the greatest conservation needs. As all of us in Audubon work to identify and protect Important Bird Areas, we can now refer to what the new WatchList tells us about the birds and places that need to be saved. Since many migratory WatchList species winter south of the U.S., Audubon's Latin American and Caribbean program will help to protect vital habitats there. At the same time, Audubon's BirdLife International partners are protecting critical habitat for WatchList species across the hemisphere and all over the world.



Audubon WatchList 2002 is rooted historically in Audubon's Blue List, an early conservation assessment for U.S. birds, which was published yearly by Audubon from 1971 to 1986 in *American Birds* magazine. The Blue List served a similar role

as an early-warning system that called attention to birds in decline or those which were of conservation concern, but that were not listed as endangered species, and were not receiving any special attention. It was a system that successfully noted the decline of several bird species and brought their troubles to the attention of a wide audience.

The First WatchList - published in 1996 in conjunction with Partners in Flight - sought to improve the accuracy and reliability of the Blue List and to expand its capability. Now, six years later, we are very proud of the work Frank Gill's team - led by Bird Conservation Director Jeff Wells - has accomplished with WatchList 2002.

Audubon WatchList 2002 reflects species of global concern as identified by BirdLife International (Audubon is the U.S. Partner Designate) and species of national concern as identified by Partners in Flight. Wildlife managers here and abroad are being encouraged to use the WatchList. The following items include some suggested activities for you and your Chapter to make use of the WatchList and support WatchList species:



-  Nominate a site that supports WatchList species as an Important Bird Area. Contact your state IBA coordinator to find the status of nominations in your state.
-  Organize an Avian Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) Team bird survey at an IBA or potential IBA for a WatchList species. Contact your state IBA coordinator for information.

Continued on Page 4



The Audubon Camp in Maine is seeking scholarship sponsors for teen programs ages 14-17: Coastal Maine Bird Studies, June 29-July 5, 2003 and Coastal Kayaking Adventure, #1 July 6-12, #2 July 22-28, 2003. For more details, please contact Laura Councell, <loucuncell@maineaudubon.org>. For a general description, visit the Web at <www.maineaudubon.org>.

Great Backyard Bird Count 2003 Dates

Mark your calendars. Enjoy President's Weekend, Valentine's Day, and the **6th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count on February 14-17, 2003.**

For more information, see "Act for the Birds" on Page 1.




BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPCOMING MEETINGS


Mar. 14-16, 2003: Little Rock, AR
 June 6-8, 2003: St. Louis, MO
 Sept. 5-7, 2003: Los Angeles, CA


Audubon members are welcome at all Board of Directors Meetings. For copies of agenda or minutes for the Board meetings, or FOR MORE INFO: Please contact Lynn Teneffoss at 800/542-2748 or <lteneffoss@audubon.org>.


Watch List cont.


 Follow Audubon at Home guidelines for a healthy yard and neighborhood to encourage habitat management that is beneficial to WatchList species.


 Participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count or a Christmas Bird Count to help monitor WatchList species.


 Go birding! And then submit your observations to eBird, Audubon's new online birding initiative, in partnership with the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.


 Get others interested in birding and teach children about birds.


 Become an advocate for changes in laws and policies that would benefit WatchList species. See Audubon's Policy Web pages for ideas about how to help.

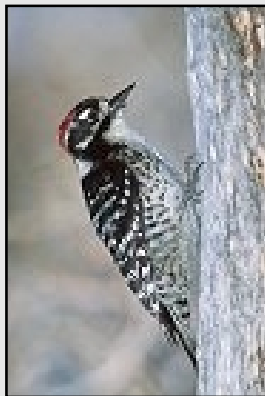
 Adopt an IBA that is important for WatchList species and help to develop a conservation plan for the site in partnership with IBA staff and local stakeholders.

 Develop a WatchList birding field trip program to IBA's and other natural places in your area.

 Design and build a WatchList trail at a nature center or park in coordination with center or park staff.

 Develop a slide show or children's education program to teach people about WatchList species in their area.

 Write WatchList features and articles for newsletters, magazines, newspapers, and other outlets to teach the public about the WatchList species in their area.



*Nuttall's Woodpecker; WatchList Species
Photo by Peter LaTourrette*

There's quite a lot here that can become a Chapter activity, and I am sure that you have additional ideas to contribute and implement. Many of you are already very knowledgeable about the birds on this list and may have existing programs that require little modification to put focus on WatchList species. I encourage you to contact the WatchList staff via the Web site listed below and let them know of your specific successes in using the WatchList to save birds in your area, or if you would like assistance in creating a WatchList-based project. Local programs are among the most effective outreach opportunities we have. Birds are great emissaries; they capture people's attention and also serve as indicators of the health of the environment that they and we both inhabit, a fact that people seem intuitively to understand.

As a science-based organization, we need the best information available when considering action. As conservationists, we also need a focal point for that action. With WatchList 2002, we have both and something more - the ability to open new eyes to nature.

John Flicker, *President*



*Black Rail; WatchList Species
Drawing by Daniel Kilby*

Web Site Contact Information for WatchList:

2002 WatchList: <<http://audubon2.org/webapp/watchlist/viewWatchlist.html>>

Aim Team: <<http://www.audubon.org/bird/aim/index.html>>

Audubon At Home: <http://www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/index.html>

Audubon Public Policy Website: <<http://www.audubon.org/campaign>>

Christmas Bird Count: <<http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc>>

eBird: <<http://www.birdsource.org/>>

Great Backyard Bird Count: <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/toc_page.html>

State IBA Coordinators: <http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/state_coords.html>

COME JANUARY, CONGRESS MAY CHANGE, BUT AUDUBON'S MISSION WON'T

On November 5, voters flocked to polls in numbers not witnessed for a mid-term election in decades. When the U.S. Congress convenes for its 108th session in January, America will witness something our nation hasn't seen in 70 years: the Republican party will hold court in the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, and of course, the Presidency. Regardless of which political party holds the majority in Congress, we will continue our efforts

to improve special places and ecosystems important to birds, other wildlife, and people. We will continue to reach out to new constituencies to build support for effective conservative policy.

Audubon will continue to educate policy makers on improving our environment, but all indications are that we need to remain vigilant in the coming Congress fighting against proposals that will jeopardize the

quality of our air, our water, and other habitat critical to humans, birds and other wildlife alike and we'll be counting on your support and asking for input more than ever to help ensure success!

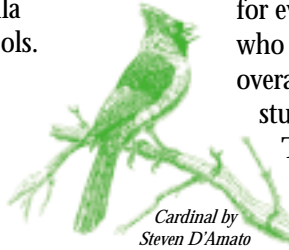
FOR MORE INFO.: Look for more on the 108th Congress by logging onto <<http://www.audubon.org>> and clicking on "Issues & Action" for the latest information.

Art+Birds+4th Graders cont.

competition. We initiated the pilot program with seven fourth grade classrooms in three Rolla elementary public schools.

Besides designing the program, Ozark Rivers Audubon Society purchased field guides for every fourth grade classroom, including copies of Audubon Missouri Board Member Brad Jacob's BIRDS IN MISSOURI. An Audubon membership is provided to every school in the program and the Chapter also purchased and donated bird feeders, feeder support poles, and birdseed for each school. Working with the Missouri Department of Conservation, Ozark Rivers Audubon Society donated bird portraits and posters to each classroom, and designated seven local birds seen and heard daily in the Missouri Ozarks as the subjects to be studied and drawn using any choice of media. The seven birds are the American Robin, Eastern Bluebird, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Goldfinch, Blue Jay, Northern Cardinal, and Carolina Chickadee.

At the time of the competition, all student artwork was put on display in their classrooms and each classroom's teacher and art instructor selected the best three or four entries for each common bird species. Every fourth grade participant received a biodegradable bird tattoo to put on their hand or arm and



wear until it wore off. (These were very popular!) The best art from every classroom and school was then displayed for evaluation by two independent judges, who chose the best of each species and the overall best show. In addition, one student was identified as overall winner.

The seven students who placed as best each received a new Peterson field guide at a school-wide assembly, and the overall winner also received a new pair of binoculars which was presented to the winning student at the Chapter's annual Celebration of Missouri Artists Festival, held in July. The seven winning students' paintings were framed and placed on display at the same festival to be viewed by Audubon members, the public, local artists, and patrons from across the state.

At the end of the school year, we invited all the students judged best in each bird category, their parents, teachers, local press, and other invited guests to a special gathering. With all the art on display (as well as pieces receiving an Honorable Mention), the local press interviewed the young artists, took pictures, and recorded the event. This social event featured soft drinks, coffee, tea and snacks, and offered our Chapter the opportunity to make a small speech about the program and its benefits to young artists, birders, and, of course, Audubon.



This year we will open the program to all public and private fourth grade schools throughout the area, the farthest being over 20 miles from Rolla. The Chapter is also looking at making "book markers" featuring pictures of the winning birds along with the artist's name, year and school, for use in Chapter events and as gifts to each fourth grade student.



The art program is instrumental in teaching young kids about birds and bird habitat and it heightens the anticipation of visiting the new John J. Audubon Regional Nature and Artist Center that our Chapter is building in our community. Nature and art complement each other in so many ways and, as we are finding out, today's young artists soon become tomorrow's birders, active Audubon members, and leaders.

A word of caution for those considering adopting the program: we highly recommend that each Chapter find out what works best by beginning slowly and then expanding. The program is very interactive and takes a lot of logistics, personpower, and planning.

FOR MORE INFO.: Contact Mike Doyen, President, Ozark Rivers Audubon, P.O. Box 429, Rolla, MO 65402, <mdoyen@yahoo.com>.

AVAILABLE FROM THE CHAPTER SERVICES OFFICE

MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM AND YOUR CHECK, made out to National Audubon Society to: NAS Chapter Services, Bldg. 30, Fort Missoula, Missoula, MT 59804. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

QTY.	ITEM/COST	SUBTOTAL	MAIL ITEM(S) TO: (please print)
_____	Guide to Home Pesticides, Packet of 5 copies @ \$0.75	_____	Name: _____
_____	Newsletter Committee Guide @ \$3	_____	Street Address: _____
_____	Membership Committee Guide @ \$3	_____	_____
_____	Membership Recruitment Handbook @ \$3	_____	City/State: _____
_____	Guide to Chapter Planning @ \$3	_____	ZIP Code: _____
_____	USFWS Clip Art Booklet @ \$3	_____	Phone: _____
_____	Wetlands Clip Art Booklet @ \$3 or CD @ \$5	_____	
TOTAL \$ ENCLOSED:		_____	



CHAPTER NETWORKER

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Missoula, MT 59804

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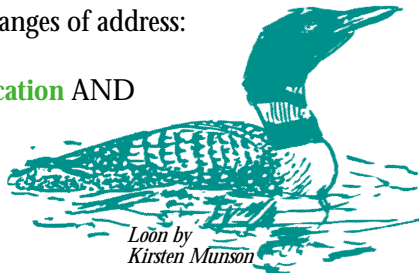
ADDRESS CHANGES FOR AUDUBON OFFICES

Several Audubon offices have moved this fall to new locations. Please note the following changes of address:

Audubon Centers and Education AND Audubon Field Operations

771 University Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95825
Phone: 916/649-7600
Fax: 916/649-7667

Tamar Chotzen, *Senior Vice President for Centers and Education*
Glenn Olson, *Senior Vice President for Field Operations*



Audubon Public Policy

1150 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202/861-2242
Fax: 202/861-4290

Bob Perciasepe, *Senior Vice President for Public Policy*

Grassroots Coordinators provide key contacts for Chapters, and can be reached by email or the Audubon Public Policy Office phone. Current state assignments for the Coordinators have changed slightly, and are detailed below:

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NORTHEAST – Janine Clifford

(CT, DE, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT)

MID AND SOUTH ATLANTIC – Catherine Grant, *Director*

(FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA)

SOUTH – Emily Byram

(AR, AL, KY, LA, MS, OK, TN, TX, OH)

MIDWEST – Desiree Groves

(IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD, WI, WV)

WESTERN MOUNTAIN – Kristen Berry

(AK, CO, ID, OR, MT, WA, WY, UT, IL, IN, MI)

WEST – Judd Klement

(AZ, CA, HI, NV, NM)