Neal Doying

WDD130

W05 Assignment: Personal Website Proposal

I would like to design a website that provides information for a local birdwatching club. The website would provide a simple introduction to the club and birdwatching and children pages would provide information on major club events.

Audience: Darien Birders club members and other bird watching enthusiasts.

Why Become a Birder: The first page will introduce people to the Darien Birders Club and to the benefits of bird watching. Among the many benefits are:

1. Birding helps you connect with nature – there are over 380 bird species in Connecticut and approximately 10,000 across the world. They come in many sizes and shape with unique colors and habits. Observing how they interact with the world around them and other animals helps us appreciate the beauty and complexity of nature and our role in nature and the world around us.

2. Birding is good for your health (physical, mental and emotional) – getting out to observe birds brings us health benefits from being outside and walking. Using our mental faculties to watch and listen and remember minute details keeps us mentally active. Observing how birds interact with their environment helps us appreciate the balance that nature provides and can bring emotional balance to our lives as well.

3. Birding helps you make friends – participating in monthly outings and other events helps us make connections within our community and neighborhoods and develop supporting relationships based on common interests.

Getting Started: The second page will focus on getting started and include three sections:

1. The Merlin Bird ID app by the Cornell University’s Lab of Ornithology is a free global guide to help you identify birds and record your sightings. This easy to use app allows you to identify birds with a simple Bird ID Wizard using just three questions, as well as by song/call and by picture. You can also create a digital scrapbook of the birds you identify recording when and where you made the sighting. The app can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play.

2. You don’t need a pair of binoculars to start bird watching but they do make it more enjoyable. There are almost as many styles and sizes of binoculars as there are birds! Here are some tips and a couple of recommendations to help you on your search. Full-size 8x42 binoculars are the most popular and versatile for general birdwatching. The budget category for this size is $130 to $240. Try as many as you can at stores before purchasing to see how they feel in your hand, how easy it is to adjust the focus and how well the image fills your eyes. To models to start are:

- Opticron Oregon 4 PC Oasis 8×42 Binoculars

- Nikon ProStaff P7 8×42 Binoculars

3. A list of places to go for birding:

1. Greenwich Point Park: Located in Greenwich, this park provides a variety of habitats, including sandy beaches, grassy areas, and woodlands, attracting a wide range of bird species.
2. Sherwood Island State Park: Situated in Westport, Sherwood Island is Connecticut's oldest state park. Its diverse ecosystems, including salt marshes, woodlands, and beaches, attract numerous bird species throughout the year.
3. Audubon Greenwich: This sanctuary in Greenwich features trails that wind through woodlands, meadows, and wetlands, offering excellent birdwatching opportunities. They also organize bird walks and educational programs.
4. Silvermine-Fowler Preserve: Found in New Canaan, this preserve offers trails that meander through a mix of habitats, including woodlands, wetlands, and open fields, attracting a diverse bird population.
5. Birdcraft Museum and Sanctuary: Located in Fairfield, Birdcraft is the oldest private bird sanctuary in the United States. It features gardens and woodlands that provide an inviting environment for birdwatching.

and a challenge to identify the 10 most common backyard birds in our Connecticut community.

1 American Crow

2 Black-capped Chickadee

3 Northern Cardinals

4 Dark-eyed Junco

5 American Robin

6 Red-bellied Woodpecker

7 House Finch

8 Downy Woodpecker

9 American Goldfinch

10 House Wren

Upcoming and Past Events: The third page will list upcoming events highlighting the club’s monthly outing where we meet the second Wednesday of the month at a birding site for an hour walk and post-walk visit to the donut shop. This will include a section with a brief re-cap of the previous month’s outing and a list of bird seen. Other activities listed will include any upcoming speaker series events and the Greenwich Audubon Center’s Annual Fall Festival and Hawk Watch where families can come to learn more about nature and volunteer to participate in the Center’s raptor migration census.

July 15th – Darien Birders Club Monthly Outing: On the third Saturday of each month we meet for an outdoor bird watching excursion. This month we will be meeting at Selleck’s Woods Nature Preserve in Darien, a 28 acre nature preserve located between I-95 and Metro-North railroad. There are three entrances, we will meet at the Parkland’s Drive entrance where there is parking available. We will meet at 7:30am and plan for 90 minutes of bird watching. This outing will be followed by an informal gathering at Dunkin on Post Road for a donut and to compare notes. Hope to see you there.

June – Darien Birders Club Monthly Outing Report: Twenty-five members and friends met at Cove Beach North Park in Stamford on June 17. Although the day was overcast we spotted several water fowl including Snowy Egrets, Common Terns, Bufflehead and Hooded Merganser ducks. Our June outing is also our volunteer event and we collected three bags of trash in our efforts to beautify the area and provider a cleaner and safer habitat for our feathered friends. Thank you to all who participated.

August 26th – Hawk Watch Kickoff & Intro to Hawk ID at the Greenwich Audubon Center. This is one of the signature local events for raptor watching. On average 20,000 raptors migrate over Quaker Ridge every fall. This is a great event to learn how to identify hawks, eagles, falcons and vultures in flight. Tickets are required for the kickoff event (see the above link for details). In addition volunteers can assist with the official hawk counters every day from August 25th to November 30th 9am to 5pm.

September 21st – The Connecticut Ornithological Association’s (COA) Annual Meeting Online Event. Science writer and author of The New York Times best seller The Genius of Birds, Jennifer Ackerman will be the featured speaker. She will be sharing her experiences and first-hand adventures from her many travels and insights into the amazing bird geniuses she has encountered. Learn how birds make their own tools, teach one another and navigate over long distances. More details to be announced.

Example Websites:

<https://www.ctaudubon.org/migrationmadness2023/?gclid=CjwKCAjwhJukBhBPEiwAniIcNTaQAjXHJWNRfgKEk3mLg89-EOJ64yxodzhqEesv2d7TeQkNmQoN0xoCM6cQAvD_BwE>

<https://ebird.org/home>

<https://birdingoutdoors.com/top-10-must-know-websites-for-birders-a-detailed-list/>