Personal Site Project – The Darien Birders Club Website

Neal Doying

WDD130

July 18, 2023

Introduction

I designed a website that provides information for a local (my hometown) birdwatching club. The website provides a simple introduction to the club and birdwatching and has two child pages which provide information on how to get started birdwatching and on club and local birdwatching events.

The intended audience for the website is primarily for current and prospective club members. However, some of the information could be helpful to anyone wanting to learn more about birdwatching, its benefits and how to get started.

The URL for the website is: <https://ndoying.github.io/wdd130/dbc/index.html>

Goals/Objectives

My goal for the website was to create a visually appealing website with the information that would introduce visitors to the site, primarily members of the local community, to the joys of birdwatching. The information on the site would help them get started by providing information on useful birding Apps and binoculars, places to practice birdwatching and some common birds to start identifying. The site would also provide information on organized birding activities they could participate in.

My goal for the class was to learn and put into practice HTML and CSS coding skills. I wanted specifically to gain a deeper understanding of HTML structure, how to create an organized format that would make styling more intuitive. And I wanted to gain a better understanding of grid placement as well.

Design Process

To develop my website design I visited a number of birdwatching websites to see how they used headers and logos, organized information, incorporated pictures, and utilized color schemes. Here are some of the websites I visited:

<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/>

As one would expect there were a variety of designs but one thing many had in common was the judicious use of pictures of birds, so I tried to do likewise on my site. I chose a color scheme that was reflective of the autumn colors which New England is known for and would lend a ‘nature’ feel to the website. I was also drawn more to the sites that used ample white-space as opposed to a more dense or cluttered scheme and tried to build that into my website as well.

For the most part the finished website followed the wireframe from my site plan. I made one change on the home page worth noting. After the hero image and paragraph I staggered the layout of the next three images with their respective paragraphs rather than displaying them in a uniformly vertically descending order. I thought this looked more visually appealing especially given the different sizes of the images I chose to use. On the child pages I kept to the layout of their wireframes which worked for the type of information being presented.

Conclusion

I accomplished my goals for this project which taught me that I can do difficult things because it was definitely frustrating at times figuring out the right HTML format and the CSS that would display the layout and style I was attempting to create. I now have a better understanding of what goes into designing a website from the site plan to the wireframe to the finished product and am in a better position to work with someone doing that work.

I do not plan to develop these skills beyond what is required for these classes at this time. I plan to focus on software development instead. But the skills and knowledge I have gained from this course and the others I will be taking will benefit me in those endeavors as well. For example, in my Python class I coded a news headline web scraping program for my final project. Understanding how HTML works with tags and elements was essential to successfully execute that project. I am confident that the things I have learned will be put to good use in the future even if I don’t become a web designer.