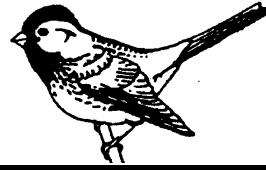


wingbeat



Burroughs Audubon

Volume 55 Issue 3

July August Sept 2003

General Meetings

**General meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.
Conservation meetings precede at 6:30 p.m.**

When? The first Thursday of each month. Cookies and coffee start at 6:30 p.m.

Where? Missouri Department of Conservation Discovery Center 4750 Troost K.C. MO

SEPT 4 "Birding Africa" Matt Gearhart will WOW us with his use of the digital camera and his energetic commentary! A sure winner!

OCTOBER 2 "Birding England" Roger Boyd shows us the proper way, the English Way, to bird! Roger is a good friend of Audubon and has always given delightful insights into the art of birding! Don't miss!



NOVEMBER 6 "Birding the Midwest" Ed McCullough tells us tips in digital photography and where to go birding in our area. A knowledgeable birder reveals his secrets! Come hear!

DECEMBER 4 "Birding ID Workshop" Roger McNeill will give us pointers and tips on how to recognize certain species of ducks and raptors. Come listen to one of KC's best birders!

All Audubon members who are interested are invited to meet and eat with the speakers before the meeting at:

PRINCESS GARDENS, 89th & WORNALL, KCMO, AT 5:30 PM.

Please call Marilyn Koshland to make reservations: **816-537-5988.**

wingbeat is a bimonthly publication of the Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City. BAS has over 2500 members in the Kansas City area who share an interest in birding and our natural heritage and wish to preserve and enhance it for future generations. Our members share and promote this interest through a variety of activities that are open to the public.



From the President's Nest

I hope you've all had a good summer with chances to get out and see some good birds! Heidi, Karsten and I ran a couple of Breeding Bird Survey routes, plus I led a field trip to Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira NWR in June. The field trip highlights included the Wood Stork and the Reddish Egret at Quivira, plus a beautiful American Golden Plover at Cheyenne. This year is shaping up to be another good year for Burroughs, but some important changes are in the works.

Due to changes in the way that the National Audubon organization works with the local chapters, Burroughs will have to make some adjustments in its policies and strategies as well. For many years, Burroughs has received a \$5.50/member "Dues Share" from National each year, which is supposed to help pay for some of the services that Burroughs provides to the local members, such as the newsletter. This Dues Share has amounted to approximately \$12,000 per year and is in the process of being eliminated.

This represents approximately 25% of our past annual budgets. The Dues Share changes are being put in place by National to reflect the change in the way that they recruit members, and to reflect the investment that National has made at the state level organizations, which has been significant. While we understand and agree with these changes, it doesn't change the fact that we can't keep operating in the same fashion with this drop in yearly revenue. Other chapters in the region have addressed this and other changes in a variety of different ways, including eliminating their newsletter in its entirety.

continued on page 6

Burroughs Audubon Officers

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Speakers Bureau:

Kevin Hogan 816-444-7705

SQUAW CREEK RETIREMENT



Sometime ago, I notified Ed McCullough that Alice and I could no longer act as the Burroughs representatives to Squaw Creek Refuge. Last year I notified the Board of Directors of Friends of Squaw Creek that I did not desire to continue as President. It has always been my objective to retire as President upon completion of the

new auditorium and leave the future of the Friend's organization with newer members. After working 47 years for a large corporation and retiring in 1984 it was a pleasure to have time to do other things. Along came the refuge and its need for a Friends organization. After leading that organization to the present time, I am stepping down effective July 1st. My de-

clining health will not allow me to do any physical work at the refuge (and at home) and it's time for my 2nd retirement. We have enjoyed our activities in the past and regret that we cannot continue those activities in the future. Like General MacArthur, we'll just fade away. Thanks to everyone for their assistance and "Good Birding to all."

George & Alice Scheil

IMPORTANT INFO; EVERYONE PLEASE READ — NEWSLETTER OPT-IN PROGRAM

WingBeat is now on-line at: www.burroughs.org

The on-line version is freely available to anyone with a computer and internet, can be printed on your printer, and it will appear the same as the mailed version.

In order to continue receiving ALL *Wingbeat* issues by mail, we ask that you reply by mail-in form, or e-mail (heidi@mcculloughweb.com), by November 30, 2003.

After November 30, 2003, Burroughs will mail regular issues only to those who indicate that they wish to receive all *Wingbeat* issues by mail. Special *Wingbeat* issues will continue to be mailed to every member. For more details on this program, please read the *President's Nest* column in this issue, starting on Page 2.

I would like to continue receiving ALL *Wingbeat* issues by mail (please print or write clearly)

Name: _____

Address/City/State/Zip: _____

Mail completed form or a facsimile to:

**Burroughs Audubon Society, c/o Heidi McCullough, 5915 NW Caney Creek Dr.
KC, MO 64151 or e-mail this information to: heidi@mcculloughweb.com**

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, August 9: Powell Gardens led by Roger McNeill (913-226-3254) and Alan Branhagen. Come learn about butterflies. Meet at Powell Gardens at 9:00 a.m. and be prepared for a 4 mile hike around the loop trail. Bring water and snacks. The trip will be over around lunchtime. Up to 35 species of butterflies are expected including some regional specialties: Giant Swallowtail, Olive Hairstreak, Hayhurst's Scallopwing and Gorgon Checkerspot.

Birds likely to be encountered include Chat, Blue-winged Warbler, Lark Sparrow, Bell's Vireo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and about 50 others.

Dress appropriately for the summer weather. Bring your field glasses and butterfly paraphernalia, if you have any. Powell Gardens is located east of Lone Jack, MO on US 50 Highway. Also, there is a nominal day-use charge to enter Powell Gardens. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Roger.

Saturday, August 23: Beginning Birdwatching Workshop, with Ed McCullough (816-505-2840 or ed@mcculloughweb.com). Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Burroughs Library and Nature Center at Lake Jacomo. We will do some light birding around the nature center and Lake Jacomo, along with an indoor workshop on birdwatching tips and techniques for bird identification, bird songs, optics, backyard bird feeding and field trips. Bring your field guide(s), binoculars, spotting scope (if you have one) and anything else you'd like to share or discuss. This workshop will last until noon or later, depending on conditions and participation.



Audubon field trip participants usually carpool; riders chip in for gas. Cars leave at the stated departure time. From beginning birders to experts, all are welcome! All-day trips include restroom stops. If you have doubts about whether a field trip is "on" because of inclement weather, call the trip leader up to one hour before scheduled departure. The trip leader can also provide additional details on the trip. To list a trip, contact Jim or Ellen Zellmer at 816-228-3955 or towhee@discovernet.com.

Saturday, September 27: Road Trip with Fred Young Fred will be leading a field trip either down 7 Highway in Missouri to include areas around Urich, Poague WLA, upper end of Truman Lake, LaDue Bottoms, and Montrose Lake or to include areas around Urich, Poague WLA, area where SR Calle crosses an arm of Truman Lake, then on to where SR Calle crosses on the next arm of Truman, and then turn on to NE Road 1001 and down to the lake.

Meet at McDonald's in Harrisonville (just off of 71 Hwy) at 7:00 a.m. Bring lunch, snacks and drinks. The group will decide whether to go from Poague east or south before leaving McDonald's.

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, September 26-28 Audubon Society of Missouri Fall Meeting. The fall meeting is always held at Camp Clover Point at the Lake of the Ozarks State Park. Plans are being finalized now for the weekend's activities which will include field trips led by members of the Missouri Bird Records Committee, a workshop presented by Bill Rowe (his ever popular Bird I D Quiz), a Mo Dept of Conservation workshop, and a Saturday evening program featuring Mo Dept of Natural Resources Director, Steve Mahfood. Info will be available after August 1st on the ASM website www.mobirds.org. If you've never been to an ASM fall meeting, come see how much fun it is, and if you've been before, we look forward to seeing you again.

Sue Gustafson, Vice President, ASM

Saturday Morning Bird Walks offered by the two Wild Bird Centers:

Noland Road Store: 4480 S. Noland Road, Noland South Shopping Center, Independence, MO (816-478-9399). **Saturday Morning Bird Walks:** Destination to be determined the morning of the walk. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. Meet at the store at 7:30 a.m., bird for 2-1/2 or 3 hours, then return to the store. **Corinth Square Store:** 4046 W. 83rd, Prairie Village, KS (913-381-5633 or 913-648-8437). **Saturday Morning Bird Walks:** 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month. Meet at the store at 8:00 a.m.



From the President's Nest (cont. from page 2)

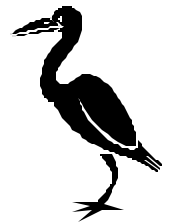
Burroughs has decided to address these changes by adopting a newsletter "opt-in" program starting in December of this year. What this means is that all existing members and new members will receive two newsletters per year by default (the dates of the issues to be announced in the next issue). These newsletters mailed to the entire membership will address important "annual" issues, such as the upcoming season's programs, the annual dinner, etc. By only distributing two issues per year to all members, this will decrease our costs and cut dramatically the amount of paper and resources we consume with Wingbeat.

We will still print the other issues of the newsletter, but with a smaller print run and we will only mail to those members that specifically request to "opt-in" to all issues. Members that receive these issues will see no change from the way that the newsletter works today; they will have to notify us just once that they choose to continue to receive all issues in printed form. (See the form on Page 3.) For those that don't wish to receive all issues in print form, the issues will be available in an electronic format (PDF) on our website at www.burroughs.org.

The June Wingbeat, and this edition are available on the website at this time, and each new issue will be posted as soon as it's available (usually 2 weeks faster than you receive your current newsletter in the mail). We'll put another notice in the next newsletter and make sure that everyone understands the new program as it is implemented. If you have any questions, feel free to call any of the board members and we'll help you out! Remember, this does not affect you in any way if you send in the "opt-in" form today! But if you want to help Burroughs and decrease our impact on the environment, start reading Wingbeat online.

BIRD PROFILE: CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis* by JoAnn Garrett

The cattle egret is short-legged with a thick neck and snow white plumage. It is the smallest (20") of the egrets. The plumage is the same in both sexes. As if by magic the all white plumage is transformed during breeding when it acquires long golden-buff tinted hair-like tufts on its head, neck, chest and back. Sometimes it is referred to as "buff-backed heron." Breeding adults show yellowish bill and legs. Bill and legs are bright red just before egg laying. Immature and non-breeding adults have pure white plumage with yellow bills and legs.



Cattle egret are an Old World immigrant that reached the Western Hemisphere on its own from Africa. Perhaps it was blown by a storm across the Atlantic to South America in the 1930's. It was first recorded at Lewiston, Florida in the early 1940's and the first breeding record in 1953 at Lake Okeechobee; first North American record. Missouri's first recording was from St. Charles Co. on April 19, 1955 and Kansas April 26, 1964. First nesting record was May 1963 at the Bertrand Heronry, Mississippi Co. Cheyenne Bottoms, Barton Co., KS recorded nesters in 1973.

continued. on page 8

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For further information, contact
Doris Cobb, 816-331-1119



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LIBRARY**

Fleming Park, Lake Jacomo

(from Hwy 291 take Exit 12
and go 2 miles East on Woods
Chapel Road)

**Open Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday and Saturday
12:30-4:30
816-795-8177**

How to become a Burroughs member:

N02 7XCH

Please use the following form for **NEW** membership:

(If you are renewing, please use the form from National Audubon)

APPLICATION FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Please check the annual membership category you desire:

_____ New Membership/\$20.

_____ Senior Citizen/\$15

_____ Contributing/\$250

_____ Individual/\$35

_____ Sr. Citizen Family/\$23

_____ Donor/\$500

_____ Family/\$38

_____ Sustaining/\$50

_____ Life/\$1,500

_____ Student/\$15

_____ Supporting/\$100

_____ CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City,State,Zip: _____

Make check payable to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY and mail to Heidi McCullough, 5915 NW Caney Creek Drive, Kansas City, MO 64151. Questions? Call 816-505-2840. Moving? Fill out this form with new address, check CHANGE OF ADDRESS above and mail to Heidi McCullough. National Audubon/Burroughs Audubon Application for joint membership. You can also email Heidi for more information: heidi@mcculloughweb.com

BIRD PROFILE: CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis* by JoAnn Garrett (cont. from pg. 6)

Cattle Egret are mostly silent except at the breeding colonies when this monogamous breeder is vocal, uttering short croaks and squawks. The nesting colony in large trees is comprised of other species such as cormorants, night herons, great egrets and snowy egrets, or they nest in a smaller colony of their own.

This gregarious short-necked stocky white heron frequents pastures, plowed fields, fresh and salt water marshes, orchards, median strips, lawns and grassy areas. They are seen foraging in pastures with feeding cattle as they stir up grasshoppers and other small prey. They follow the farmer as he plows the fields to feed on freshly turned worms and insects. The cattle don't mind the cattle egrets feeding around their feet, under them or occasionally on their backs. However, I have seen young calves run from the egrets.

1970—gravel orbited as I hit the brakes and backed up to observe cattle egrets in a marshy grassland in Cass Co. MO near Pleasant Hill. I zoomed in on one egret as it slowly strutted step by step with its short neck outstretched, then with a short explosive dash and quick stab it procured what looked to be a small lizard. It jabbed it several times and dipped it in the water after each jab then gulped it down after which it had a drink of water. Most impressive!

Cattle Egrets usually arrive in Kansas and Missouri in early to mid-April and depart in the mid-September to early October.

Burroughs Audubon Society
Of Greater Kansas City
5915 NW Caney Creek Dr., Kansas City, MO 64151

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