Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas

wingbeat



Burroughs Audubon

Volume 55 Issue 3

July August Sept 2003

General Meetings

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

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

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:

PRI NCESS 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.

PAGE 2 WINGBEAT BURROUGHS

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

President:

Ed McCullough 816-505-2840

ed@mcculloughweb.com

Vice President:

Michael Stoakes 913-341-8147

mstoakes@juno.com

Secretary:

Steve Bingham popstar16@mindspring.com

**Treasurer: Phil and Nancy Reicher 816-333-9870

preicher@kc.rr.com

Board of Directors

Vic Miles 816-444-2459 816-223-7100

vicmiles@juno.com

Larry Rizzo 816-655-6250 x246

Elizabeth Kohler 816-483-1681

lizkvet@yahoo.com

Don Arney 816-931-8536

sora@kc.rr.com

Gary Johnson 816-356-0954

gjohnson35@kc.rr.com

Committees and Chairs

Audubon Adventures:

Kelly R. Gillespie 816-779-7391

kelly. gillespie@leesummit.k12.mo.us

Media and Programs:

Marilyn Koshland 816-537-5988

koshland@mindspring.com

BAS Library/Center:

Anne Duffer 816-795-8177

Conservation:

Jill DeWitt 816-333-3293

jdewitt1@kc.rr.com

Field Trips:

Jim and Ellen Zellmer 816-228-3955

towhee@discoverynet.com

Membership:

Heidi McCullough 816-505-2840

heidi@mcculloughweb.com

Historian:

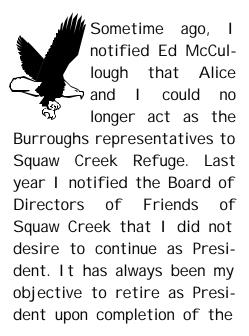
Dick Dawson 816-361-9141

dick_yodar_dawson@hotmail.com

Speakers Bureau:

Kevin Hogan 816-444-7705

SQUAW CREEK RETIREMENT



the future of the Friend's organization with 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-

new auditorium and leave 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

resident's rest column in this issue, starting on rage 2.	
I would like to continue receiving ALL <i>Wingbeat</i> 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.

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. I mmature 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.

The Northland's largest selection of feeders, houses, quality seed mixes and birding optics.

We carry a full range of optics including:
betterviewdesired.com's Reference Standards:
Nikon Superior E 8X32
Nikon Superior E 10X42
Nikon Venturer 8X32
Nikon Venturer 8X42
Pentax ED80 Spotting

Backyard Bird Center

Scope

For all your wild bird and nature viewing needs! Boardwalk Square Center @I-29 and NW Barry Rd. 746-1113

Singles Luncheon

SUNDAYS AT 12:30

September 28th

Grand Street Café

4740 Grand

(behind Winsteads on the Plaza)

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





VISIT BURROUGHS AUDUBON CENTER AND 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		
(If you are renewing, please use the	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	IBERSHIP OR CHANGE OF ADDR	ESS:
Please check the annual members	hip 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 Non Profit Org U. S. Postage PAI D Kansas City, MO Permit 231

Address Service Requested