

wingbeat

Burroughs Audubon

Volume 55 Issue 1

February/March 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

February 6: "Birding in Bolivia" Dr. Roger Boyd will share his slides and commentary on birding this lesser-known South American country. Dr. Boyd is always a treat. Don't miss him.

March 6: "Birding Southern Africa" Priscilla and Rodney Wilson show spectacular slides and tell of their adventures while exploring Africa. Their programs are delightful—mark the date now.

April: NO GENERAL MEETING BURROUGHS ANNUAL DINNER see article below and more information inside about the dinner and *Silent Auction!*

May 1: "Greater Prairie Chicken Update" Sharon Gough, MDC Biologist, keeps us informed of how BAS's help and habitat restoration is making an impact in this bird population.

Dr. Paul Johnsgard, Saturday, April 12th, "Great Wildlife of the Great Plains"
Check out this website for information on his new Kansas University Press Book!
<http://www.kansaspress.ku.edu/johgre.html>

Paul Johnsgard is a zoology professor at the University of Nebraska, having arrived in Lincoln in 1961. He has also traveled to many exotic places in the world including rainforests.

He grew up in the Red River Valley of North Dakota where he spent much time by himself as a child exploring the prairie. He attended

North Dakota State University where a professor suggested he write a survey of the state's waterfowl. He earned a doctorate at Cornell University and then worked at The Wildfowl Trust in Gloucestershire, England and then within two years wrote and illustrated his first book, "The Handbook of Waterfowl Behavior," published in

1965. He went on to write and illustrate over 40 books. He also works hard in conservation and opposing many hunting activities, has upon occasion taken on the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission such as when they decided to open a prairie grouse season in 2000.



From the President's Nest

Welcome to a new year of birdwatching and membership in Burroughs!

If you are considering ways to improve your birding this year, consider one of these activities:

1) Join a Burroughs Field Trip! Exposure to other birders and birding new locations is a sure way to improve your skills and have a great time in the process.

2) Join the Audubon Society of Missouri's listserv. This is an email based discussion group that reports interesting sightings and chat about birds from all over the state. (Visit <http://www.mobirds.org>)

3) Participate in the Audubon Society of Missouri's Challenge Of Missouri Annual Listers (COMAL). This is a friendly competition with birders from all of the state taking part. No matter what your level of skill or frequency of birdwatching, you are welcome. See the listserv for more details.

Between the COMAL activities and other sightings posted on the listserv, you'll learn a lot about birdwatching in Missouri.

Ed McCullough

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.

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:

Mark Land 913-381-4324

Board of Directors

Doris Cobb 816-331-1119
drscbb@aol.com

Jo Ann Garrett 816-322-1580
Vic Miles 816-444-2459 or
(cell) 816-223-7100
vicmiles@juno.com

Mary Mira 913-236-8736
marymira@compuserve.com

Larry Rizzo 816-655-6250 x246

Committees and Chairs

Adopt a Refuge:

George and Alice Scheil 816-353-9024
glsch@comcast.net

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

Newsletter Editor:

April Armstrong 816-452-6970
birdstrong@yahoo.com

Squaw Creek News

George and Alice Scheil 816-353-9024

The water levels are greatly improved due to our pumping 24 hours a day for last 2 months. You will notice a big improvement and while it will not help the snow geese on their migration south, it will greatly enhance the northern migration this spring. The Bald Eagles can't seem to make up their minds and they have started a new nest on the western edge of the auto tour road, just south of the water control structure that leads to Mallard Marsh. Matt Gear-

heart has taken some fantastic close-up photographs of the pair and you may view them at - <http://groups.msn.com/SawWhetOwl/pictures> . The auditorium is really progressing. The concrete floor is in, the walls are up and covered with sheathing, the A/V room and the a/c closet are framed up as well as the new restroom. The staff entrance door and the glass panels have been removed and it won't be long before we have a dedication ceremony. The response

to our plea for donations to the propane fund have been remarkable and we still have funds for three more refills of the 1,000 gallon tank. We will cease pumping after that. Good birding to all.

www.squawcreek.org



Audubon Missouri to hold Annual Meeting March 1, 2003

Your invitation is in the mail! Members of the National Audubon Society in Missouri will be invited to gather at Powder Valley Nature Center in Kirkwood, Missouri, on March 1, 2003, hosted by the Saint Louis Audubon Society.

Under the theme, The Vision of One Audubon, the meeting will feature Dan McGuinness, Director of the NAS Upper Mississippi River Campaign and Tony Robyn, Executive Director of the Joplin Audubon Center, to name a few. After a delicious lunch, catered by Hendri's, concurrent sessions discussions will include: IBA's (Important Bird Areas), State Conservation Forum, the Joplin Audubon Center as the new Audubon Center Model, and Chapter Fundraising.

The gathering will begin at 9:30 am and adjourn at 4:00 pm. The cost will be \$20/individual and \$35/couple. Please plan on attending this conference and meet other members from around the state! Look for the registration flyer in your mailbox soon! Call the Audubon Missouri State office with any questions: 573-447-2249.



UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, February 22: Baker Wetlands and Clinton Lake (near Lawrence, KS) with Matt Gearheart (913-568-4678 or mgearheart@gwhm.com). Meet at the Einstein Brothers at 8600 College Blvd. in Overland Park, KS (just south of I-435 and Antioch Road) at 7:00 a.m. or at the Baker Wetlands at the 31st Street entrance at 8:00 a.m. Snacks are recommended, but a stop for lunch will be made. There will be some walking on the wide footpath at Baker Wetlands as that is the only way to see this area. Wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather.

Saturday, March 1 - MARAIS DES CYGNE with Mark Land, Mike Stoakes and Joe Alburty. Join us on this late winter / early spring trek to Miami and Linn Counties, KS about 45 minutes south of the metro area. We'll stop at La Cygne Wildlife Area in Miami County, a location with good riparian woodland habitat, to look for resident/winter species and early migrants such as Eastern Phoebe. Next, we'll go through the Marais des Cygne Wildlife Area in adjacent Linn County to look for woodland species and waterfowl on one of the conservation area's large impoundments. We'll then stop for lunch at La Cygne Lake, a man-made, warm water lake which is made so by its role as source of water for the nearby power plant's steam-driven turbines. The water on this lake remains unfrozen throughout the winter and is a virtual waterfowl spa. After lunch, we will likely drive through the (strip) mined land area south of the power plant to look for open grassland species. Plan to bring lunch and/or snacks for this all-day trip. We'll meet at 8AM at the Wild Bird Center store at 83rd and Mission in the Corinth Square Shopping Center and carpool to La Cygne. This trip will have minimal walking and is mainly an auto tour. Call Mike Stoakes at 913-341-8147 or Mark Land at 913-381-4324 if you have any questions.

Woodcock Watch : Tuesday, March 11th (backup date: Wednesday, March 12) at Jerry Smith Park: Meet at dusk to see the unusual twilight courtship display of the woodcock. To get to Jerry Smith Park: From Holmes Road, go east on 139th (first road south of the Blue River Bridge just south of Martin City) exactly $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to the park entrance on the left. Park at the top of the hill at the parking area by the barn. **NOTE: Call Larry at 816-655-6250, ext 246 sometime during the day of the 11th for time and confirmation since the trip could be cancelled or rescheduled due to inclement or windy weather.** Expect to do some walking. A flashlight is recommended.

Saturday, March 15: Watkins Mills State Park with Kristi Mayo (816-903-6124 or KristiG810@aol.com). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot near the dam at Watkins Mill State Park (first turn after going through the entrance gates). Watkins Mills SP is located northeast of Kearney, MO. Take Mo 92 east from I-35 to RA north and follow the signs. Waterfowl will be the focus, but at this time of year, it is possible to see early spring migrants in the trees. There will be light hiking on the trail around the lake. This is planned to be a half-day trip.

Martha Lafite Nature Sanctuary

Birds and Breakfast: Martha LaFite has scheduled a Birds and Breakfast on Saturday, February 15th and Saturday, March 22. This indoor program is sure to delight. Relax by the birding area and enjoy a complete breakfast prepared by the Sanctuary's finest chefs. A great menu will make your taste buds sing with the birds. There will be a program highlighting their favorite bird visitors. Limited 15 people. Reservations needed by February 7 for the February session and March 15 for the March session. Time: 8-10 a.m.

Ages: Adults Fee: \$12.

Project Feederwatch: Join anytime on February 12-13, February 26-27, March 12-13 or March 26-27 to count the birds at the feeders for Project Feederwatch. Sit inside to watch and learn about the winter birds that visit feeders. The count is an important resource for tracking data about bird populations, general health and more. No experience needed.

Reservations are not required for Feederwatch, but if you want a staff person to help you, call and tell what time you are coming. For reservations call the Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary at (816) 781-8598.

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:** Contact the store for dates. 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).

Saturday Morning Bird Walks: 1st & 3rd Saturdays in February and March.

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@discoverynet.com.

Report for the January 1ST Field Trip To Lake Jacomo & Prairie Lee Lake Seven birders ventured out to get the year off right with a day of birding at Lake Jacomo, Prairie Lee Lake and the new lake in Lee's Summit near the 2 aforementioned lakes. Due to the warm temperatures and drought conditions in the area, birds were few and far between. A total of 40 species were seen by the group. Birds of note were American White Pelican, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Bald Eagle, Killdeer, Belted Kingfisher, Carolina Wren, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Tree Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, and American Goldfinch. Though there weren't that many different species to view, the camaraderie among the group was fun. It was good just to be out birding. Jim and Ellen Zellmer

Report for the ASM State Bird Day Trip To Smithville Lake on Saturday December 7th:

ASM sponsored a State Birding Day on Saturday, December 7, 2002 at Smithville Lake, Clay County, Missouri. Jim and Ellen Zellmer of Burroughs Audubon Society in the Greater Kansas City area hosted this all-day birding event for birders from all across the state of Missouri. There were 35 people at the Litton Visitor's Center located on DD Highway just east of the dam.

Red-breasted Mergansers were seen in silhouette against the rising sun along with Gadwalls, Buffleheads and very little else. The decision was quickly made to try other areas. The group caravanned to Lake Jacomo where two White-winged Scoters had been reported. Upon arriving at the south boat dock area at Lake Jacomo, we in fact did locate the two White-winged Scoters along with a female Common Merganser. This was a life-bird for most in the group. At Shelber #2 we were able to locate a first-winter plumaged **RED-NECKED GREBE**.

This bird was a life bird for 9 of the 14 people who returned to the lake. All were able to get great views of this first-winter bird from this location and also from the north boat dock (looking back up the channel toward the dam). After this, we went to the Burroughs Library where we had the usual feeder species.

We had a productive day, not only with a few very good birds but with good company and fellowship. We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the 35 dedicated birders from across the states of Missouri and Kansas who came out to join this field trip.

Jim and Ellen Zellmer

Report for the November 23rd Field Trip To Lake Jacomo & Longview Lake

Eleven enthusiastic birders participated in the Burroughs Audubon of Greater KC field trip held Saturday. The intention of this half-day trip was to observe waterfowl at Longview Lake and Lake Jacomo, both in Jackson Co., MO. The question we and other observers in western Missouri asked yesterday was "where are all the ducks and geese?" Unfortunately for us, the answer was "not around here." Highlights here included two Common Loons, a cooperative female Belted Kingfisher and a medium-sized flock of Ring-billed Gulls consisting of about 200 individuals. Closer inspection of the flock didn't produce any odd looking individuals or other gull species. Moving on to Lake Jacomo, between Lee's Summit and Blue Springs, we found few birds on the lake's north end, but a respectable (and reliable) number of birds on the lake's south end. Highlights here included the chance to observe Greater and Lesser Scaup swimming together in the same scope view and the chance to observe a first winter Horned Grebe, which at first glance, might lead one to believe that they were instead looking at an Eared Grebe.

The placement of the crown peak in this individual, however, was not above the eye, nor were the dimensions of the head such that it appeared as though the top to bottom and front to back distances were roughly equal, as it appears in Eared Grebe. Other waterfowl here included Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, copious American Coot and two female Common Mergansers.

While at Jacomo, we also checked the pine groves for Red-breasted Nuthatches and Crossbills. Neither species was found, but the highlight here was a "game" of chase between a Ruby-crowned Kinglet and a Golden-crowned Kinglet. It was clear that the only winner was the group of birders watching the comical contest. In all, 48 species were found on this beautiful autumn day.

Mike Stoakes

**BIRD SEED SALE
CONTINUES.....**



An ongoing fund raiser to benefit the Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City through the Burroughs Nature Center in Fleming Park (see page 10 for directions)

Choose from 9 different types of bird seed. This year we are offering seed throughout the season that can be delivered to you home in the metropolitan area!

If you have questions: **Call Mark Land. 913-381-4324**

special blend, black oil, millet, sunflower chips, peanuts, cracked corn, niger thistle, finch mix, safflower.

Audubon Singles Lunch

SUNDAYS AT 12:30

February 23—FIRSTWATCH

1022 Westport Rd.

March 23—ODOWD'S LITTLE
DUBLIN

4742 Pennsylvania (Plaza)

April—no luncheon, attend the banquet and hear Dr. Johnsgard!

For further information

Doris Cobb, 816-331-1119

April Armstrong, 816-452-6970

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

We carry a full range of optics including:

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Nikon Venturer 8X32

Nikon Venturer 8X42

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

How to become a Burroughs member:

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

Report for the Lyon County State Lake Field Trip on November 9th

15 people, including 8 Missourians and 2 Ohioans, attended the BAS field trip to Lyon County State Lake in Kansas led by Bob Fisher on Saturday, November 9th, 2002. The best bird of the day was a gray-phased GYRFALCON at the west end of Melvern Lake. The group watched the Gyr Falcon for about a half hour as it stooped several times on various targets, including a Ring-billed Gull and a crow, and harassed a Bald Eagle. The group was also able to scope it while perched at several locations. The Gyr Falcon was a life bird for all but 2 of us and a Kansas state bird for everyone but the leader.

Other good birds included: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on K-31 north of I-35, 4 species of geese and 14 species of ducks, including 1 AM. BLACK DUCK - in lake below Melvern Lake Dam, Gr. White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, Greater Scaup -- Redmond sewage lagoons, Redhead -- Redmond sewage lagoons, Hooded Merganser -- in several locations, 5 Eared Grebes, Kingfisher, 2 Common Loons -- near bridge to Sundance area, 75 SMITH'S LONGSPURS - at Lyon State Lake, 5 Bald Eagles, 2 Eurasian Collared Doves in Lebo., 1 Merlin in Sundance area, 3 Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cedar Waxwings -- in 2 locations, Hooded Merganser -- in several locations, 7 species of shorebirds; 1 Avocet, 7 L-B Dowitchers, 1 Greater Yellowlegs, 1 Spotted sandpiper, 1 Least Sandpiper, Several Pectoral Sandpiper, Hundreds of cormorants, Many White Pelicans, Harris's Sparrow (lifer for the Ohioans), 2 WESTERN GREBES (one of which may have been a Western x Clark's hybrid, as it was quite pale and showed a somewhat orange bill, although it had other features more like Western Grebe). Off bridge to Sundance area of Melvern Lake.

Bob Fisher

SILENT AUCTION: VERSION 2003

This spring, as part of the **April 12th Annual Dinner**, we will have another exciting Silent Auction! This is a major fundraiser for Burroughs, and now is the time to start planning how, and what, you can contribute to help make this event a success. We encourage donations of the following types: items you craft or buy, possessions you want to get rid of, services or skills which you are willing to share, or third-party donations which you solicit from vendors and merchants for the benefit of our group. Donations solicited from businesses where you spend money are important.

Emphasize that Burroughs is a **non-profit 501(c)(3) organization** of over 2000 members, and that we birders spend money! Also, let them know that their business' name will be prominently displayed at the dinner and in an upcoming issue of the *Wingbeat*. Examples of donations might include a gift certificate from your favorite restaurant; an item from a pet care or lawn and garden shop; a hand-sewn pillow or sweater; a free appointment from a beauty salon, dentist or veterinarian; a promise to clean out someone's garage or wax their car; and, of course, home baked goods. Things relating to birding and natural history are great; but other items and services, no matter how small, are welcome. Go nuts!

SILENT AUCTION: VERSION 2003 continued

There will be a prize for the individual who makes the most unique donation!

We have letters of request for you to present to merchants and printed receipts to give for donations received. Call Mike Stoakes at (913) 341-8147 with suggestions, or to volunteer to join the Silent Auction Committee. We would like to have all donations prior to the day of the dinner/auction on April 12th. For your convenience, we have several locations where donations may be dropped off, and with prior notice, arrangements can be made to pick up items.

Donation drop-offs:

Eastern Jackson County—Burroughs Library at Lake Jacomo (816) 795-8177

South Kansas City—Roger and Megan McNeill (816) 943-8557

Central Johnson County—Mike Stoakes (913) 341-8147

Southern Johnson County—Joli Winer and Cecil Sweeney (913) 768-8967

North Kansas City—Ed and Heidi McCullough (816) 505-2840

Burroughs 2003 Annual Dinner

Saturday, April 12th

ADAMS MARK HOTEL, I-70 at Truman Sports Complex

Silent Auction 6PM—Dinner 7PM (Cash Bar from 6 to 7)

Guest Speaker: Dr. Paul Johnsgard, Foundation Professor of Biology, University of Nebraska—Lincoln

Cost: \$28.95 per person, includes: 3 entrée buffet, salad, vegetable, dinner roll, beverage and dessert

Please use form below to reserve your meal(s). **Reservations must be received prior to April 4th**, but dinners may be paid for at the door. If paying ahead of time by check, make payable to: BAS

(Sorry, all persons attending this event must pay for a meal)

Name(s): _____

in party: _____ X \$28.95 per person

Total: \$ _____ () Payment with reservation () Payment at door

Please send reservation and, if paying ahead of time, payment to:

Mr. Mark Land, 8447 Lamar Avenue, Overland Park, KS 66207 Phone (913) 381-4324

Local Links:

<http://www.burroughs.org>

<http://www.squawcreek.org>

<http://www.kcconservation.org>

<http://www.kckpl.lib.ks.us/schlagle>

<http://www.kcwildlands.org>

<http://www.bridgingthegap.org>

<http://www.kcnature.org>



Visit Burroughs Audubon Center and Library in 2003!

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

The center has a selection of bird feeders, guides and
bird seed for purchase at non-profit prices.

5915 Caney Creek Dr.,

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Please Note:

Articles, art, ads, announcements

For the next issue are due to the

Editor **by March 1st, 2003.**

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