

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S NEST:

Question: What does NWR stand for?

If a proposed 'light goose' hunt happens as planned next year at Squaw Creek, NWR could stand for "Nail 'em With a Rifle." For the past three-quarters of a decade, its been well known among wildlife biologists, naturalists, and birders that the unbridled Lesser Snow Goose population is wreaking havoc on the tundra ecosystem where they breed. An abundance of southerly winter forage and flocking locales created by human activity, together with less hunting pressure and predation has led to a sizeable population increase.

But in nature out-of-balance, one species' road to success is often at the expense of others. The goose's population increase has had a negative impact on species with which they share the fragile tundra. Over time, the Snow Goose's success will become its undoing, not to mention that of other species. In an effort to hasten the rebalancing of nature, Congress has passed legislation which aims (pun intended) to reduce Snow Goose numbers.

From a wildlife management standpoint, the intent is all well and good, but other locales exist where hunting can, and should, take place besides the protective confines of a wildlife refuge. After all, what is the purpose of a refuge but a place where native wildlife can feed, rest, and seek haven from hunting pressures? Waterfowl hunting of any one species on refuge property will be disruptive to others, as well.

I urge you to contact Squaw Creek NWR manager, Mr. Ron Bell (Ron_Bell@fws.gov), and ask that the management team reconsider the proposed hunt. For more information on the light goose hunting plan, visit: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/SquawCreek/>

Send regular mail to: Attn: Mr. Ron Bell, Manager, Squaw Creek NWR, P.O. Box 158, Mound City, MO 64470.

—Mike Stoakes, President

Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City

Gift memberships: Care to send the newsletter to a friend? If you'd like to share our activities with someone who may be interested in joining the group, send this coupon to Heidi McCullough, 5915 NW Caney Creek Drive, KCMO 64151 (or email information to heidi@mculloughweb.com.) Include your name and "Gift Membership" at the top of the form.

Your contribution helps Burroughs Audubon send Audubon Adventures to area classrooms, upgrade the Burroughs Nature Center and Library, and assist with Shirling Sanctuary restoration activities. Send contributions to Treasurers Phil and Nancy Reicher, 301 W. 48th Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64113. Burroughs is a 501(c)3 organization. **Contributions are tax deductible.**

If you are renewing—please use the form from National Audubon
APPLICATION FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP

Please check the annual membership category you desire

New Membership / \$20.00 Senior Citizen / \$15.00 Contributing \$250.00
 Individual / \$35 Senior Citizen Family / \$\$23.00 Donor/\$500.00
 Family / \$38 Sustaining / \$50.00 Life / \$1500.00
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Name _____
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Make checks payable to National Audubon Society and mail to: Heidi McCullough, 5915 NW Caney Creek Dr., Kansas City, MO 64151. Questions: Call (816) 505-2840. Moving? Fill out this form with new change of address, check 'CHANGE OF ADDRESS', above, and mail to Heidi McCullough.

National Audubon/Burroughs Audubon Application for Joint Membership N-027XCH

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WingBeat is the quarterly publication of the Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City. BAS is a non-profit membership organization in the Kansas City area whose members 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.

Your participation makes Burroughs Audubon an effective, dynamic voice and center for birding and conservation in the Kansas City region. Contact us to join in activities!