

Field Trips

SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH AND SUNDAY, MARCH 20TH: Sandhill Crane Migration, Nebraska's Platte River. Join us as we travel to witness the migration of the Sandhill Crane. This is one of nature's true spectacles as hundreds of thousands of cranes pass through this area each spring.

We will meet Saturday at the Holiday Inn located just south of I-80 at the Grand Island exit at 7:30 am, and travel the roads around the area to watch Sandhills as they feed, dance, interact, and then return to the river to roost at dusk. Sunday we will arrive early at a Greater Prairie Chicken lek to watch the display of the males. Last year, we were fortunate enough to see a Sharp-tailed Grouse displaying as well. We will visit some of the pothole region to watch for migrating waterfowl, raptors, and a possible Northern Shrike or two.

Please remember, it is still winter. Bring your cold weather wear. We have experienced mild temperatures to extreme wind chills on these trips. Travel, food, and accommodations are up to you, but we may be able to put you in touch with someone else if you wish to car pool. If you have any questions, or to RSVP, contact Mark Land at 913-381-4324 or email him at kestrelland@aol.com.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22ND: Jerry Smith Farm Woodcock Watch with Larry Rizzo (816-655-6254 x246, or larry.rizzo@mdc.mo.gov). Come to our traditional Woodcock haunt to witness the fascinating courtship display of this bird. Directions from Holmes Road: Go East on 139th Street (the first road South of the Blue River Bridge), then go 3/4 mile to the park entrance on the left. Meet at 6:00pm. Call Larry during the day (after 12:00 noon) for confirmation if there is inclement or windy weather.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22ND to SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH : The 2005 Kansas Ornithological Society Spring Field Trip. Excursions will be made into Barber, Comanche and Kiowa counties with views at birding sites in Pratt County, approximately 75 miles west of Wichita, 58 miles southwest of Hutchinson, 50 miles south of Great Bend and 72 miles east of Dodge City. This is the operational headquarters of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, which is currently celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Three full-day birding trips will be held on Saturday (4/23), which will explore a large variety of ecological habitats. One will cover southeastern Pratt County and eastern Barber County from the Pratt area, through the Isabel Wetlands Wildlife Area, and on south to Hargis Lake near the Oklahoma Border. Pete Janzen gave a detailed description of the Hargis Lake area in the December issue of The Horned Lark (KOS newsletter). This trip will be led by Pete, Kevin Groeneweg, and Chris and Kristen Hase.

Two of the trips will include visits to lesser prairie chicken leks in Kiowa County as well as prairie dog towns, with an opportunity to view burrowing owls. One trip will then head south into the Red Hills of Barber County and Swartz Canyon in Comanche County, with its local specialty, rufous-crowned sparrow. This trip will be led by Stan Roth and Ken Brunson.

The second trip to the prairie chicken leks will then continue into central Kiowa County, including several sites around Greensburg, then back into northwestern Pratt County, including Texas Lake and the Pratt Sandhills Wildlife areas. This trip will be led by Gregg Friesen, and Lee and Jane Queal.

Sunday's activities will feature half-day trips in the immediate vicinity of Pratt itself, along the Ninnescah River in eastern Pratt County, and into areas in northern Pratt County. If there is enough interest, we will again include lesser prairie chicken viewing in Kiowa County. Membership in KOS is not required for participation in the Spring Field Trips. There will be a registration fee to cover cost of meals and related expenses; \$15 includes the catered Saturday evening dinner featuring beef brisket, or \$20, which will also include the lunch on Sunday. Saturday evening activities will include a *Birds of Kansas* presentation by Mike Blair, photographer for KDWP. We hope to have David Seibel, and perhaps others, talk to the owls in nearby Lemon Park.

The specific itinerary for the Spring Field Trip will be published in the March issue of the KOS Horned Lark, along with a registration form. Additional information will be posted on the KSBIRD - LISTSERV site in another three or four weeks.

If you are not a member in KOS but are interested in joining or finding out more about the organization, contact Mark Land, Membership Development Coordinator, at kestrelland@aol.com. Mark's snail mail address is 8447 Lamar, Overland Park, KS 66207.

Lakeside Nature Center Monthly Birdwalks with Elizabeth Kohler:

A bird walk will be held the LAST Sunday morning of each month in and around Swope Park. Participants will meet in the LNC parking lot at 7:45 am for an 8:00 am departure. These will be half-day (2 to 4 hours) excursions to various types of habitat. Dress appropriately for moderate hiking. For more information, contact Elizabeth Kohler at 816-353-1784 or lizkvet@yahoo.com.

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

Corinth Square Store: First Saturday each month, 4046 West 83rd, Prairie Village, KS. Meet at the store at 8:00am, bird for 2-3 hours, then return to the store. (913-381-5633)

Noland Road Store: First and Third Saturdays each month, 4201 South Noland Road, Independence, MO. Meet at the store at 7:30am, bird for 2-3 hours, then return to the store. (816-478-9399) Destination will be determined the morning of the walk. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them.

MORE INFORMATION: For more information about one of our field trips or to volunteer to lead a field trip, you can contact our field trip coordinator, Matt Gearheart at 913-568-4678 or mgearheart@gwhm.com.

NOTE: 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. Below: **Prairie Chickens, Kyle Gerstner, www.lightshooter.com**



Burroughs Audubon Center And Library

At Fleming Park, Lake Jacomo

Open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

12:30-4:30

The center has a selection of bird feeders, bird guides and birdseed for purchase at nonprofit prices.
Directions: From Hwy 291 take Exit 12 east on Woods Chapel Road two miles. At the Fleming Park sign, turn south at the first road on the right. (816) 795-8177.

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

Forwarding and return postage guaranteed.
Address Correction Requested

Note:

Articles, photos, art, ads and announcements for the next issue are due March 20. Please mail to Jill DeWitt, 525 East 54th Street, KCMO 64110 or send by email to jdewitt1@kc.rr.com

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