

WingBeat

VOLUME 57 ISSUE 2 SUMMER 2005

Florence Merriam Bailey: An Amateur Birder's Friend

This is the first in a series of occasional articles exploring little-known personalities in ornithology, both historical and modern. John James Audubon was a fine naturalist, but his silhouette looms so large that it frequently obscures other figures, namely those of women, such as Florence Bailey, who chose to study birds. Bailey was born in 1863 in Locust Grove, New York, and learned about birds and other wildlife during camping trips with her parents and older brother, C. Hart Merriam, who was later the first chief of the U.S. Biological Survey.

Following completion of studies at Smith College, Bailey began to observe birds on her family's estate by creating a blind of foliage and spending many patient hours making notes of their behavior. These notes grew into articles for *Audubon Magazine* and then into a book for young people entitled *Birds Through An Opera Glass*, published in 1889. After a two-year sojourn in the Southwestern U.S., she created the first popular guide for amateur birders in 1898: *Birds of Village and Field*. She felt that any interested person could be a birder, not just scientists—all that was required, in her words, was “a scrupulous conscience, unlimited patience, a notebook, and an opera glass.”

In the early twentieth century, however, Florence Bailey did turn to more scientific writings and produced the *Handbook of Birds of the Western United States*, which remained a standard field guide well into the 1950's. Her most famous publication was *Birds of New Mexico*, which appeared in 1928 and represented more than 20 years of work. This book resulted in her acceptance as the first woman member (“Fellow”) of the American Ornithological Union in 1929 and her winning of the AOU's Brewster Medal two years later. In 1939, still fascinated with southwestern bird life, Bailey published her last book, *Among the Birds in the Grand Canyon Country*. She died in 1948 after 50 years as a groundbreaking woman ornithologist.

— Elizabeth Stokes

References:

Bonta, Marcia M. *Women in the Field: America's Pioneering Women Naturalists*. College Station, TX: Texas A&M University, 1991.

General Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month, September through June, at the Missouri Department of Conservation's Discovery Center, 4750 Troost, Kansas City, Mo.

2005

Thursday, Sept 1: “**State Parks in the Kansas City Area**” by Diane Russell, Department of Natural Resources, Weston Bend State Park

Thursday, Oct. 6: “**Birding ID Workshop: Sparrows**” by Craig Hensley, Missouri Department of Conservation, Burr Oak Woods

Thursday, Nov 3: “**Birding the Confluence of Rivers: Manaus, Brazil**” by Greg Griffith

Thursday, Dec 1: “**Holiday Pot Luck Dinner and Member Slide-Show.**” Quizzes and prizes. Plan to attend!

2006

Thursday, Jan 5:
“**Adventures in Alaska**” by
Photographer Priscilla Wilson.

Speaker suggestions? Contact Marilyn Koshland at 816-537-5966 or by e-mail at koshland@mindspring.com.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S NEST:

Greetings,

Something old, something new, something borrowed, something black and white.

Allow me to adapt this little ditty about a bride's wedding attire to reflect not only on the rediscovery of a species, but a symbol. Officially undocumented in the continental U.S. in over 60 years and widely believed by most naturalists to be extinct, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker has achieved iconic status as a sad example of the lack of cooperation between private, government and corporate interests. Structurally, much has changed since 1944 in the way the interests of these three domains are met, but "old" thinking that is dismissive toward the need for plant and wildlife habitat is still persistent, both in the U.S. and abroad.

With the rediscovery of this magnificent bird, there are new opportunities to preserve this, and other species, for future generations. As conservationists (which birders are, whether they admit it, or not), let's use this occasion of an icon's "second chance" to renew our pledge to educate our fellow citizens and those in government and industry about the need for habitat preservation. In addition, let's try to work with these players in such a way that everyone wins more than they lose.

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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, clip and send the coupon below to Heidi McCullough, 5915 NW Caney Creek Drive, Kansas City, MO 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.**

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WingBeat is the quarterly publications of the Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City. BAS is a non-profit membership organization whose members share an interest in birding and our natural heritage and wish to preserve and enhance it for future generations. We share and promote this interest through a variety of activities which are open to the public.

Your participation helps to make Burroughs Audubon an effective, dynamic voice and center for birding and conservation in the Kansas City region.

From the President's Nest, *con't*

At the risk of sounding trite (and this has been stated more eloquently by many others), the natural heritage that we think we possess is but a loan from future generations. Prior generations of Americans have not been as successful in returning to us what they borrowed, but that does not excuse us from trying to return to future generations a natural heritage at least as rich as presently exists.

Like an Ivory-billed Woodpecker's plumage, the WHAT that needs to be done is black and white.

— Mike Stoakes, *President*,

Shorthand Typing

Are you tired of typing in a lengthy list of birds seen when reporting your sightings to the listserv? Do you remember if and where a hyphen is located in those three and four part bird names? Save yourself time by learning how to type "shorthand." Here is an example with step by step instructions.

Let's say you are writing an article about the Northern Saw-whet Owl. Let's also say that you want the species name to appear in italics in the article. You can save precious keystrokes by setting up an entry in the Auto Correct feature in Microsoft Word.

Open a Microsoft Word document.

Type the longhand version into the blank document. It should appear like this:

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Modify the version with any special punctuation, italics, bolding, font size, style and color that you want. Now it looks like this:

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Highlight the text.

Click **Tools** | **Auto Correct Options**.

The **Auto Correct** Tab should appear with the text located in the **With** field.

Select the option **Formatted Text**.

Type the "shorthand" word or acronym you want to use in the **Replace** field. For this example you could use the four letter banding code *nsw*, the six letter banding code *nswowl*, or an entirely different code that makes sense to you, since you are the only one that will ever see it.

Click **Add** | **OK**.

Now any time you type "nsw" the program will automatically change it to *Northern Saw-whet Owl*. The Auto Correct feature will work in related Microsoft Programs such as Word, Power Point, and most Outlook fields.

Don't want the Auto Correct feature to "fix" your typing this time? Type the shorthand, let the Auto Correct feature change it, then type **Ctrl + Z** and it will "undo" what you just typed.

*These instructions are written specifically for Word 2003. The steps needed for other versions may vary slightly.

—Lisa Weeks

MIGRATIONS

Harold Hedges

Legendary birder Harold Hedges, considered in the '40s and '50s by experts across the country to be the best birder in the Midwest, died March 5, 2005 in his yard at Harrison, Arkansas, at age 92. He and Margaret, his wife of 66 years, had just returned from a nature walk, and he died with his walking stick in hand.

Harold kept meticulous notes on every birding trip throughout his residence and tenure as fire chief at Lake Quivira, 1941-1968. His notes are being incorporated into a natural history of Lake Quivira.

Harold was a charter member of the Kansas Ornithological Society, and many considered him to be "the father of birding in Kansas." He was an avid ornithologist and had a collector's permit.

In the late '50s he was a founder of the Ozark Wilderness Waterways Club and successfully helped lead the fight to protect our native rivers from the Corps of Engineers. He and Margaret wrote the canoeing guide for the Buffalo River in Arkansas and lived for years in a house within the national river way, but he remained a birder.

— Mike Cooper and Dick Dawson

Evelyn Schutty

Evelyn Schutty, long-time BAS activist, passed away on February 8, 2005. Those who started birding in the late '60s will recall the tall, thin, strawberry blonde with the funny straw hat. She drove a '66 Volkswagon and was ready to go birding any place, any time. Her husband, Clarence, was the keeper of champion tree records and a retired rail-roader. Whether it was for trees in the ground or birds in the air, they had a keen awareness and fascination that was contagious.

In the '60s and '70s Evelyn and other BAS members were conduits for twelve and thirteen year-old youngsters with interests in birds and nature. She encouraged them and often took them birding at the James A. Reed Wildlife Area.

— Bob Fisher and Chris Hobbs

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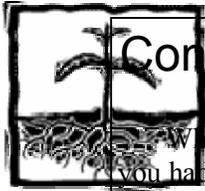
Burroughs Audubon Society Top Ten Birds of 2004

(Birds found within a 75-mile radius of Kansas City, Missouri)

The following list was presented at the Burroughs Audubon Annual Dinner and Silent Auction on April 9, 2005. A Top Ten Birds list has been a tradition at Burroughs' Annual Dinner for, at least, the past two decades.

10. Common Nighthawk, Roeland Park, KS (Johnson Co.) 4 Dec 2004. Found by Alan Godwin, an unusually late seasonal record for this species.
9. Rock Wren, Apache Motel, Rich Hill, MO (Bates Co.), 23-26 March 2004. Found by Larry Herbert. Seen by many other observers. Eleventh MO record.
8. Snowy Plovers, northwestern MO, 28 Apr - 1 May 2004. At least three Snowy Plovers appeared in northwestern Missouri during this period. One was discovered on 28 April at Squaw Creek NWR (Holt Co.) by Kyle Driggers and Doug Willis. On 30 April, Larry Lade discovered one Snowy Plover at Lake Contrary (Buchanan Co.); the next day, birders responding to this sighting found a total of two Snowy Plovers at the same location. Many birders reported that these birds were their first sighting of the species in the state. Rare transient in northwest MO.
7. Lazuli Bunting, near Kingsville, MO (Johnson Co.), 7 July 2004. Found by Don Arney. Second summer record.
6. Black-Headed Grosbeak, apparent juvenile in Leavenworth, KS (Leavenworth Co.) 11 January 2005. Found by John Schukman. Unusual species and season for this observation. Adult male Black-Headed Grosbeak appeared at Roger McNeill's home 2 May 2004 during spring migration and was observed singing in tandem with a male Rose-Breasted Grosbeak.
5. White Ibis, Lawrence, KS (Douglas Co.), 16 Sept 2004. Found by Adolfo Navarro. This would represent only the 14th record for Kansas (if submitted) with the last sighting being in 1999 at Cheyenne Bottoms. A very unusual sighting for the KC area.
4. Red Phalarope, Squaw Creek NWR, MO (Holt Co.), 10 May 2004. Found by Mark Robbins, Kirby Goslee, Alexis Powell. Casual transient.
3. Lesser Goldfinch, Olathe, KS (Johnson Co.) 19 Aug - 28 Aug 2004. Found by Mark and Elaine Corder at their bird feeders (Black-Backed form). Fifteenth State Record for Kansas; unusual this far East.
2. Say's Phoebe, Chillicothe, MO (Livingston Co.), 6 Sept 2004. Found by Myrna Carlton in her back yard. Casual transient.
1. Tropical Kingbird, Sunshine Lake, MO (Ray Co.), 30 Oct 2004. Found by Kristi Mayo. Remained at location 30 Oct through at least 9 Nov and seen by many observers. First Missouri state record.

— Matt Gearheart, Mark Land and Kristi Mayo



Conservation Matters

*Plant it,
and They
Will
Come*

9814
Pleasant
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Jefferson
City MO
65109
email:
mowild-
flowers.

What does our region stand to gain by actively addressing and promoting conservation issues? If you had envisioned the Kansas City region ten years ago, would your dream look like Kansas City looks today? How will the region look in another ten years? As Burroughs' Conservation Committee meets, we address issues of significance for the region's conservation future. We're not afraid to face issues that would substantially affect the health of birds and bird populations, as well as our own well-being.

Will Burroughs' sanctuaries continue to provide sufficient nesting habitat for pileated woodpeckers and migratory songbirds in the face of increasing sprawl? Will we see more prairie gardens and urban wilderness stopovers for migratory songbirds and butterfly populations? Will today's children know that conservation matters? Will area birding trails be designated—or disappear? Can Burroughs Audubon increase the number of classrooms that receive Audubon Adventures? Can our region make energy-efficient choices that will keep our air, soils and water safe for birds and other living things?

Here are some recent local developments that merit recognition: Kudos to Kansas City's Mayor Barnes for signing the Mayor's Climate Change Agreement. Let's tip our hats to KC Wildlands Coordinator Linda Lehrbaum and Wildlands' partner organizations for preservation of pre-settlement landscapes within the metropolitan area. Our appreciation to Lenexa's Mike Beezhold for engaging Burroughs conservationists in the City's watershed-based Rain to Recreation program. Here's to Marty Kraft's designated urban wilderness residence, and his outreach efforts in the urban core. Anything noteworthy in your neighborhood?

What's your vision of the future? If conservation issues resonate with your desire to make a difference in our region, join us on third Tuesdays in the fall for regular Conservation Committee meetings—and give us a call if you have an hour this summer. We've got a "to-do" list that could jumpstart a few great adventures!

Keep us posted—and join us for regional action that makes a difference!

— Jill DeWitt, jdewitt1@kc.rr.com
Conservation Chair (816) 333-3293



Karen Stair, Willodean Johnson (pictured above), Jill DeWitt and Jennifer Hammet represented Burroughs Audubon at the Shawnee Mission East Earth Fair, April 9, 2005.

Field Trips

Sunday, June 5: Parkville Nature Sanctuary/English Landing Park with Mike and Elizabeth Stoakes. Come out and help us look for late warblers and early summer residents north of the river! We will meet at 7:30 AM in the nature sanctuary parking lot (on Hwy. 9, behind the Parkville City Hall and adjacent to the Park University track and soccer field). Possible species include tanagers, orioles, Yellow Warblers, flycatchers, vireos, and bluebirds. English Landing Park (by the river) offers swallows, buntings, Eastern Kingbirds and possibly a look at nesting Western Kingbirds. This will be a half-day trip. Dress for moderate hiking. For directions or more information, please call Mike or Elizabeth at 913-341-8147 or email mstoakes@juno.com or lizkvet@yahoo.com.

Saturday, June 11th: Blue River (near Minor Park) breeding bird census with Don Arney (816-931-8536) or sora@kc.rr.com. Find birds along this excellent riparian tract and help collect data for a KC Wildlands project.

Saturday and Sunday, June 18-19th: *Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira* with Ed McCullough. Come see these great Kansas destinations during the breeding season with many species of waterfowl, shorebirds and waders. We'll encounter various ages of young birds, including American Avocets, Snowy Plovers and Black-necked Stilts. Spotlight birds usually include Snowy Plover, Burrowing Owl, Western Grebe and sometimes Barn Owl. Participants travel via their own means to Great Bend, KS on Friday evening and stay in the lodging of their choice Friday and Saturday night. We'll meet outside the Highland Hotel and Convention Center at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday (full-day) and Sunday (half-day) for birding. Bring plenty of drinks and munchies, due to the remoteness of some locations. Lunch on Saturday can either be picnic or fast food from Great Bend. Contact Ed McCullough at 816-718-3861 or ejmccullough@moltensystems.com for more information.

Lakeside Nature Center Monthly Birdwalks with Elizabeth Stoakes:

Plan to attend the bird walk held the *last* Sunday morning of each month in and around Swope Park. Participants will meet in the LNC parking lot at 7:45 a.m. for an 8:00 a.m. departure. These will be half-day (2 to 4 hours) excursions to various types of habitat. Dress appropriate for moderate hiking. For more information, contact Elizabeth Stoakes 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 8:00 a.m., 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 7:30 a.m., bird for 2-3 hours, then return to the store. (816-478-9399)

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 e-mail at mgearheart@gwhm.com.

Subscribe to BurroughsAnnounce for notification of Burroughs Events at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BurroughsAnnounce>.

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.

Note: Articles, photos, art, ads and announcements for the next issue are due July 20, 2005. Please mail to Jill DeWitt, 525 East 54th St. Kansas City, MO, 64110 or e-mail to jdedwitt1@kc.rr.com

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