

WingBeat



Volume 59 Issue 1 • March 2007

IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A...

Local Conservationists Protect Chimney Swifts

They're among the most aerial of birds – skimming thousands of insects as they soar high above us in summer skies. We listen for their quiet, high-pitched twittering. We love to watch them banking and turning, amazed at their fast, erratic flights.



Before European settlement, Chimney Swifts nested in caves and hollow trees. Recent rapid declines in their population have been attributed to urbanization and changes in chimney design.

The gregarious Chimney Swift has friends in Kansas and Missouri. Come to our March meeting and hear rehabilitator and conservationist 'Motherswift' Joyce Rossen, Russell Mende, and Roscoe Righter. Learn about the movement to reverse the downward spiral in numbers of this unique swallow – sometimes called a 'flying cigar'.

Join us March 1st at the Discovery Center for an enjoyable evening with these three dedicated conservationists. We'll learn a little about these fascinating birds and discover the secrets to keeping them alive and well in our region.

Napoleon and the Scientific Expedition to Egypt Natural history expedition influenced history

There's quite a story about the research behind the ornithology section of the *Description de l'Egypte*, the published account of Napoleon's scientific expedition to Egypt. Join us at Linda Hall Library at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 9 as Science Historian Bruce Bradley gives Burroughs Audubon members and friends a short introduction to the library's current exhibition, "Napoleon and the Scientific Expedition to Egypt".

Linda Hall Library's rare books collection contains J.J. Audubon and Caitlin editions.



General Meetings are held the **FIRST THURSDAY** of each month, September through June (except in April, when we hold our annual dinner), at the Missouri Conservation Department's **Anita Gorman Conservation Discovery Center**, 4750 Troost, Kansas City. Meetings begin at 7 PM; come at 6:30 for coffee and conversation.

Thursday, March 1, 2006: Chimney Swifts, with 'Motherswift' Joyce Rosson, Russell Mende, and Roscoe Righter.

Saturday, April 14: ANNUAL DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION. **Bob Gress**, Wildlife Photographer, author and Director, Great Plains Nature Center. Send in your reservations now. See details and insert, inside.

Thursday, May 3: Brad Jacobs, Chief Ornithologist, Missouri Department of Conservation will speak on initiatives to protect our migratory songbirds in their overwintering grounds. Learn about ongoing work in El Cielo and see photos of migratory and resident birds.

Thursday, June 7 (pending confirmation): Rob Moyle, Professor and Curator in The Bird Division of the University of Kansas Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center. Rob's field studies have been in Borneo, Polynesia, and West Africa.

Burroughs Audubon's Program Chair is retiring. If you are interested in serving in this position, or have suggestions for programming, please contact Elizabeth Stoakes at lizkvet@yahoo.com or Jill DeWitt at jdewitt1@kc.rr.com.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S NEST:

Audubon Friends,

Clean water – enough for birds to survive, enough for fish to thrive, enough for us to drink.

If you weren't around in the '70's, those of us who were could tell you about rivers so polluted they caught fire. We worked for legislation to protect our waterways. The Clean Water Act made it illegal to dredge, fill or pollute waters and wetlands in the United States. It is now safe to swim or fish in many lakes and rivers.

Two Supreme Court rulings are reversing this progress. Under the SWANCC decision, 'isolated,' non-navigable intrastate wetlands are not protected under the Clean Water Act. This could be half our federally protected waters. Midwestern wetlands are important to the success of waterbirds. They deserve protection under federal law.

We are working with National Audubon and other groups to defeat a proposed EPA rule that would undermine regulation of water transfers from polluted lakes. It defines water transfers as "an activity that conveys waters of the United States to another water of the United States without subjecting the water to intervening industrial, municipal or commercial use." In other words, you can dump polluted water – containing industrial waste, sewage, invasive species, agricultural waste, and other contaminants – into drinking water sources.

It happened in Lake Okeechobee. South Florida periodically discharges polluted water into the lake. The polluted plume of water goes nine miles into the lake, triggering algae blooms. The lake's carcinogen levels are several times greater than the legal limit. Pregnant women have been warned by the CDC not to bathe in their tap water due to an increased risk of birth defects.

To send a letter, go to www.audubon.org, click "Issues & Action," and click on "Clean Water." Then drop us a line to let us know you did. We're working together on this!

--Jill DeWitt, President

Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City

This year, we are offering a number of free books with new or gift memberships to Burroughs Audubon. Select from the following: and mail your form to our treasurer, Ellen Zellmer, 2001 NE 4th St., Blue Springs, MO 64014.

101 Ways to Help Birds (Retail \$16.95) The Singing Life of Birds (\$22.45)

Songbird Journeys (\$19.60) Bird-by-Bird Gardening (\$23.75)

The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior (\$33.50)

Sibley's Birding Basics (\$14.80)

Donations are fully tax deductible. BAS is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

If renewing membership, please use form and envelope received from National Audubon

NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / CHANGE OF ADDRESS

New Membership \$20 CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society** and mail to: MEMBERSHIP DATA CENTER, PO Box 52504, Boulder CO 80323-2504. Questions: Call (816) 554-1956.

Moving? Enter new address, check CHANGE OF ADDRESS, and mail to the MDC. **Your gift to Audubon is tax deductible except for the \$15 fair market value of AUDUBON magazine.**

National Audubon Society / Burroughs Audubon of Greater Kansas City N-02 7XCH

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Audubon Adventures: Kelly R. Gillespie

BAS Library/Center: Anne Duffer

BAS International: Kelly R. Gillespie

Conservation: Open

Field Trips: Matt Gearheart

KC WildLands: Dick Dawson, Mark

McKellar, Don Arney

Media, Programs: Open

Newsletter: Polly Swafford

Sanctuaries: Open

Squaw Creek: Vic Miles

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.

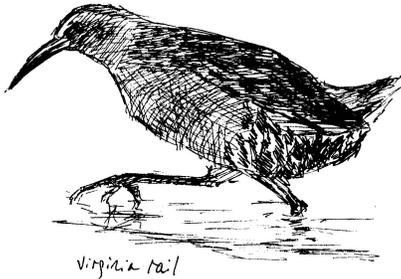
Your participation makes Burroughs Audubon an effective, dynamic voice and center for birding and conservation in the Kansas City region. Contact us to participate in activities!



Support Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge

To volunteer at Squaw Creek, contact Vic Miles, vicmiles@juno.com.

Contact the refuge headquarters for additional details (660) 442-3187.



Try James A. Reed WA for Great Winter Birding!

On January 28, Mike and Elizabeth Stoakes took four hardy birders on a walk at James A. Reed Wildlife Area, just one mile south of Hwy.50 in southeastern Lee's Summit (Ranson Road exit). This area, managed by Missouri Department of Conservation, has many manmade lakes. Normally, they're full of waterfowl, but now frozen by our prolonged cold spell. However, a walk through the fields and hedgerows produced 27 wintering species; 8 were sparrows. We had especially good sightings of foraging White-crowned, Harris's and Fox Sparrows, and even one Field Sparrow! A small flock of Northern Flickers (Yellow-shafted) provided hunting exercises for a determined juvenile Sharp-shinned Hawk, but his efforts were unsuccessful.

A Cooper's Hawk also made a brief appearance near our party. Screech and Great Horned Owls also frequent the area, but could not be enticed from their roosts. Birders need to make their presence known at MDC wildlife areas, to

encourage management for optimum songbird habitat as well as hunting and fishing uses. One way to do this is to participate in the **CACHE program (Conservation Area CHEcklists)**, operated jointly by Audubon Society of Missouri and MDC. You can provide bird lists from any trip to an MDC property at any time—even lists from past trips. (These lists preserve valuable population data for bird species on the areas over time as well.) The program is free and open to any birder of any experience level. Please visit the ASM website for full details on submitting data (click on the "CACHE/SPARKS" link on the top of the home page). ("SPARKS" is similar to CACHE, but operates in Missouri state parks and historic areas.) --Elizabeth Stoakes, Lee's Summit, MO

Songbirds along the Trolley Track Trail

Plant it and they will come! KC Brooksiders wanting to be involved in understory tree plantings, a prairie demo garden and a raingarden along the Trolley Track Trail can contact us for further information. We also have a parking strip segment under consideration along Troost for a low-maintenance native plant garden. If your neighborhood or trail area needs supplemental plantings, we'd enjoy hearing from you. Bird garden and sustainable landscape photos are solicited for our website. (816) 333-3293 or jdewitt1@kc.rr.com.

The Perfect Gift for Everyone

Don't know what to get that hard to buy for person? How about the guy who has everything? Want to do something different for a birthday, anniversary or graduation? Perhaps you would like to honor someone

with a memorial or send your sympathies?

The International Committee for Migratory Birds has created a card for you to send in the name of the person you would like honored, along with any amount you would like to donate. A beautiful card will be sent to them. All contributions will help the conservation and preservation of El Cielo's over wintering grounds for our migratory songbirds. Simply contact Marilyn Koshland at 816.537.5988 or 24406 Timberlake Trail, Greenwood MO 64034.

I would like a \$ _____ donation to be made in the honor of:

Honoree Name

Street address State ZIP Code
From

() _____
Donor Name Daytime Phone

Street address, State, ZIP Code
Checks Payable to: Burroughs
Audubon/El Cielo Fund.

SMALL BUSINESS AND TAX ACCOUNTING Craig Kirchner, CPA

Missouri River Birding Trails
To participate in this committee or to nominate a site,
Contact Jill DeWitt
Jdewitt1@kc.rr.com

Know anyone planning to move?

To Sell—or Buy, Missouri or Kansas

**Wallace Kilbourne
913-451-6660**

Reece and Nichols Realty

Migrant Songbirds Overwinter in Heaven

Please do not miss the May 3rd General Meeting to hear about work going on at El Cielo (Spanish for heaven) and see photos of migrants and resident birds. Brad Jacobs, Chief Ornithologist for the Missouri Department of Conservation, will talk on the efforts to protect our songbirds in their overwintering grounds. The Burroughs Committee for International Migratory Bird Conservation has teamed with the Missouri Department of Conservation to support El Cielo, a Biosphere Reserve in Tamaulipas, Mexico.

Saturday, May 5th, El Cielo's Principal Research Scientist and Ph D. candidate Rafael Brito-Aguilar will lead a field trip in Columbia, MO to visit local hot spots during peak migration and see returning migrants, along with Brad Jacobs. Participants will also tour rarely seen species at the MU Ornithological Lab, led by Curator Walter Wehtje. Transportation and lunch will be provided.

This \$50 Benefit Event will support the work in El Cielo. Space Limited and Reservations Required by April 15!

Contact Pat St. John today! Phone (913) 706-5569 or pstjohn@kumc.edu.

In the Company of Crows and Ravens

Fascinated by crows or ravens? Then you'll love this work by John M. Marzluff and Tony Angell. The authors explore the world of crows and ravens, including their social structure and adaptability to human environments. The authors also explore how corvids have influenced human culture throughout the ages and how we have influenced their behavior.

Both species have long been associated with death and the distraught (think of the Black Plague of the middle ages and Edgar Allen Poe's, "The Raven"). Consider also that their images adorn ancient pottery and cave walls. And let's not forget musical groups like the Black Crows and Counting Crows. Clearly these inquisitive creatures have permeated our culture.

The authors, with decades of research under their belts, explore the link between the Fish Crow and Northwestern Crow which they believe may intermingle with the American Crow to such a degree as to become subspecies of the American Crow. This thought-provoking book is just over 400 pages of interesting and educational text with excellent illustrations by Angell. Check it out today!

--Lisa Weeks

When one tugs at a single thing in nature; he finds it attached to the rest of the world.

-- John Muir

Bagels, Butterflies and Birds: Wildlife Walk and LIVE Benefit Auction at the home of Marilyn Koshland

Join us for a 10:00 a.m. June 3rd for a wildlife walk at James A. Reed led by Pat St. John, then coffee and camaraderie as we compete for items in, LIVE with MARILYN K!, our auctioneering hostess. Proceeds support conservation efforts and ongoing research at El Cielo.

Auction items will be accepted and can be brought to the May General Meetings, Field trips with Pat St. John, or Liz and Mike Stoakes, or Dr. Stephen Koshland's office, 7301 Mission Road, Suite 200, Prairie Village, KS (913) 722-6611. So clean out your cabinets for this worthy cause and come for some fun!

Try James A. Reed WA for Great Winter Birding!

On January 28, Mike and Elizabeth Stoakes took four hardy birders on a walk at James A. Reed Wildlife Area, just one mile south of Hwy.50 in southeastern Lee's Summit (Ranson Road exit). This area, managed by Missouri Department of Conservation, has many manmade lakes. Normally, they're full of waterfowl, but they were frozen during January's prolonged cold spell. However, a walk through the fields and hedgerows produced 27 wintering species; 8 were sparrows. We had especially good sightings of foraging White-crowned, Harris's and Fox Sparrows – and even one Field Sparrow! A small flock of Northern Flickers (Yellow-shafted) provided hunting exercises for a determined juvenile Sharp-shinned Hawk, but his efforts were unsuccessful.

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--Elizabeth Stoakes, Lee's Summit, MO

Photographer Bob Gress to Speak at BAS Annual Dinner

Please join us as we welcome an old friend as our speaker for the BAS Annual Dinner and Silent Auction on April 15, 2007. Many of you may remember Mr. Bob Gress from his previous dinner program in the late 1990's. Ever the prolific writer and photographer, he is now bringing us a new presentation! "Chasing Woodland Birds" documents his year-long adventure photographing colorful migrants from the Gulf of Mexico to the boreal forests of Wisconsin. Many of our favorite bird families are featured: orioles, buntings, vireos, tanagers, grosbeaks, and of course, the wood warblers! We will be privileged to be among the first nature enthusiasts to see these wonderful photographs, which will be published in 2008 in Bob's new book, *The Guide to Kansas Birds and Birding Hotspots* (with coauthor Pete Janzen).

Bob's career spans over 20 years and over 2,000 published photographs. His work has been showcased in many books, including *Faces of the Great Plains*, *Kansas Wildlife*, *Watching Kansas Wildlife*, and the *Kaufmann Focus Guide to Mammals of North America*. He has also provided pictures for a series of booklets published by the Friends of the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, Kansas; two of these are *A Pocket Guide to Common Kansas Mammals* and *A Pocket Guide to Kansas Raptors*.

Bob has generously agreed to provide FREE copies of his newest booklet, *A Pocket Guide to Great Plains Shorebirds*, for dinner attendees! Some copies of *Faces of the Great Plains* will be available for purchase. Not content with one illustrious career, Bob also continues to do an outstanding job as Director of the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, Kansas. Both of these avenues provide him with ways to introduce the public to the wonders of birds and other wildlife, and the expansive Kansas prairies.

See the registration form inside the newsletter for further details, and please return yours early! Don't miss this spectacular program and fun auction! Hope to see you all there!

--Elizabeth Stoakes

Auction Items Needed

The Annual Dinner is our yearly fundraiser for education, conservation and programs: we need intriguing items to interest bidders on April 14. Jewelry, art, quilts, gift baskets, event tickets, food items, services—the possibilities are limited only by your imagination! We've received some wonderful items in past years, and we greatly appreciate ALL donations; but

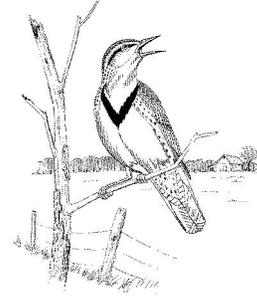
we must ask donors to adhere to some new rules that will facilitate a more organized and enjoyable auction:

1. Though most items need not be nature-related, all must be in usable condition—no missing parts or excessive wear, no obsolete electronic or household devices, etc.
2. No new donations will be accepted the night of the dinner. We ask that all donations be declared to the BAS Board of Directors (see contact information below) by **April 7**. We can arrange to have items picked up prior to the dinner, or at least reserve space for them and create bidding cards in advance. If items are brought to the dinner, please bring them by 5:30 PM to allow maximum bidding time.
3. Due to space limitations, any books donated must be bird, nature, or gardening-related, and be in good condition.
4. Final acceptance or rejection of any auction item(s) will rest with the Silent Auction committee members and/or BAS officers and board members.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation! Please remember, all donations are tax-deductible! If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Stoakes at (816) 554-1956 or lizkvet@yahoo.com.

Stephen Koshland, D.D.S.

Comprehensive Dentistry



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Your ads support Burroughs Audubon programs and reach over 2000 KC metropolitan area birding households. 3 lines, \$15; Business Card Size, \$25; Large Ads \$50.

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Jefferson City MO 65109

email: mowildflowers.net

Meet with plantsman Mervin Wallace

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City Market, KCMO

Last two Saturdays in April: April 21 and 2

Full color Native Plant Catalogue \$2

FIELD TRIPS

SUNDAY, MARCH 4: Falconry Outing with Mike and Elizabeth Stoakes. Bob Payne of the Missouri Falconer's Association is generously providing a second unique winter field trip for our group—an opportunity to go out on a crisp morning and observe his trained raptors on the hunt. Participants will need to be somewhat flexible, as this outing is VERY dependent on weather, condition of the birds, and local populations of prey species such as rabbits. The trip will require 2-3 hours of moderately strenuous hiking; please bring water and dress for the weather. We will meet at 10:00 AM at the Burger King at the intersection of I-35 and K-7 Highways in Olathe, KS (just east of the Great Mall of the Great Plains). He will answer questions and then take us to the hunting area. Please contact Elizabeth Stoakes at (816)554-1956 or lizkvet@yahoo.com if you plan to attend, and provide contact information in case the trip must be postponed on short notice.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21: First day of Spring: American Woodcock Walk with Larry Rizzo. Join MDC Natural History Biologist Larry Rizzo and Burroughs Audubon for a crepuscular fieldtrip to Jerry Smith Park to witness the fascinating courtship display of the American Woodcock! A true jewel among area parks, Jerry Smith Park is a 360-acre area owned by the Kansas City MO Parks Department. Purchased in 1976, the site hosts the largest known population of rare eared false foxglove (*Agalinis auriculata*) plants in the state. About one-third of the park contains fragments of restorable prairie. 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 7:00 PM. Call Larry on the day of the walk (after 12:00 noon) for confirmation that the trip will proceed. Inclement or windy weather will inhibit vigorous display by the males (and observation by us). Dress appropriately for standing in place, and bring a flashlight. Larry Rizzo, (816) 655-6254 x246, or larry.rizzo@mdc.mo.gov.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25: Cooley Lake Conservation Area with Elizabeth and Mike Stoakes. Come and visit an area with a unique claim to fame: the only Missouri state record of a sighting of the Tropical Kingbird was made here, by BAS member Kristi Mayo! We can't guarantee a new record, but we can have a good time looking for Northern Harriers, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Meet us at the 210 Truck Plaza and Grill (8801 NE Birmingham Rd.; 1/2 mile east of the junction of I-435 and MO 210 Highways) at 7:30 AM; we will proceed to Cooley Lake by 7:45 AM. For further information, directions, or possible carpooling from points south, call us at (816) 554-1956 or email mstoakes@juno.com or lizkvet@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31: Prairie Chickens at Taberville Prairie with Don Arney. Meet us at 6:00 AM for an early start at the McDonald's on 58 Highway, just west of 71 Highway. We will start at the Taberville Prairie to look for Prairie Chickens booming on the leks and then move on to Schell-Osage and/or Four Rivers to look for waterfowl, shorebirds and other migrant species. Bring a sack lunch and appropriate footwear for a prairie hike. Contact Don with any questions 816-931-8536 or sora@kc.rr.com.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15: Wolf Creek Environmental Education Area and Melvern Lake with Matt Gearheart. Our BAS annual dinner speaker, Bob Gress, may be joining us for a few stops as he heads back towards Wichita. We'll definitely be looking for early migrants and shorebirds. Plan to meet at 7:30 AM in the Holiday Inn parking lot at I-35 and 151st St. in Olathe for carpooling. Bring drinks and lunch. Questions? Contact Matt at 913-568-4678 or mgearheart@gwhm.com.

APRIL 27– 29: Audubon Society of Missouri, Annual Spring meeting: Salem, Missouri.

APRIL 27– 29: Wings and Wetlands, Great Bend, Kansas.

FRIDAY, MAY 4 – SUNDAY, MAY 6: Kansas Ornithological Society Annual Spring Meeting, Brown County, Kansas.

SATURDAY, MAY 5: Kansas City WildLands Spring Community Restoration Workday, 9:00 am to noon. Focus will be on planting wild flower seedlings grown from locally harvested seed. Sites include Rocky Point Glades in Swope Park, KCMO; Ernie Miller Park prairie in Olathe, Kansas; Jerry Smith Park prairie in south Kansas City, Missouri.

SATURDAY, MAY 5: Special fundraising trip to Columbia, MO. Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day by helping us raise funds for our Burroughs Audubon Society International Birding Committee, which will direct proceeds to the El Cielo Biosphere Reserve in Tamaulipas, Mexico. "And why is this important?" you may ask. Rafael Brito-Aguilar is a student pursuing his Ph.D. in ornithology at the University of Missouri, Columbia while conducting his research project in El Cielo. He is our important link to this conservation project. Our goal is to help protect this important wintering habitat for migratory species, which return to our area in the Spring, and to provide funds to complete essential research that monitors fragile bird populations, while increasing public awareness of the importance of this research. For your **\$50 donation**, you will receive transportation, lunch, and an opportunity to view the amazing Ornithological collection at the University of Missouri, Columbia. Curator Walter Wehtje will bring out rarely seen specimens that have "wowed" previous groups. After lunch, we'll bird local hotspots such as Eagle Bluffs, Rock Bridge, and Bradford Farms with Rafael and Brad Jacobs. It promises to be a day of birding heaven! **April 15 is the deadline to participate.** To sign up and for additional details please contact Pat St. John at 913-706-5569 or pstjohn@kumc.edu

FRIDAY, MAY 11th: Blue River Parkway with Don Arney, 7:00 -9:00 AM. Meet at in the tennis court parking lot in Minor Park (1/4 mile south of Red Bridge Rd. on Blue River Rd.). In addition to being a field trip, the purpose of this event is to conduct a migratory bird census to help determine the effectiveness of natural habitat restoration efforts along the Blue River. Kansas City WildLands, of which Burroughs Audubon is a partner, is the lead organization in the restoration. (Another census/field trip is scheduled in June for breeding birds. We'll spend a half-day walking the trails along the Blue River. This is a good area for close looks at warblers and other migrants. A target bird is the Cerulean Warbler. Contact Don Arney at 816-931-8536, or sora@kc.rr.com.

SATURDAY, MAY 12: Weston Bend State Park, MO with Nancy Leo. We will meet at the parking lot of the Hike/Bike trail at 7:00 AM and look for spring warblers. This has been a premier spot in past years. Come prepared with liquids and clothing for the weather. Contact Nancy Leo at 913-205-8847 or njleo@earthlink.net for more information.

May 14: Churchill River Canada day and a half by car, overnight rail. (816) 333-3293 jdewitt1@kc.rr.com.

MAY 16 - 21: Michigan birding trip to see Kirtland's Warblers with Bill Langley. This special trip requires pre-registration through Butler Community College to ride in a school-provided van. Travel to Michigan to see the Kirtland's Warbler on its breeding grounds. We will depart late morning Wednesday, May 16 and return late Monday May 21. This represents a peak time in warbler migration, so expect to see many other warbler species. Specifically, we will look for warblers along Lake Huron, migrants along Lake Superior at Whitefish Point in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and in the forests of upper Wisconsin near Lake Superior.

Space is limited, with maximum number of 8 people, however, a waiting list will be kept – so contact Helen Hewins at 913-642-0498 or Silverystreak@aol.com if you are unable to enroll or if you have questions regarding lodging/ food. Enrollment in the course will be \$125 and will cover transportation costs. The enrollment form can be downloaded from the Burroughs Audubon Website (www.burroughs.org), or you can request that Helen Hewins mail you one. Lodging and meals will be extra. Contact Bill Langley at 316-889-5434 or email at blangley@butlercc.edu for details about enrollment.

SATURDAY, MAY 19: Burr Oak Woods with Shari Harden. Meet at 8:00 AM at the main nature center parking lot. We will look for warblers (possibly a peak migration weekend!) on the trails by the center first. They are paved trails and easy to walk. Then we will head across the prairie and down to 'Warbler Alley,' which is a bit more strenuous and the trail is not paved. Afterwards, we could venture to the North Forty for more sparrows and wrens. Directions: From I-70 exit onto MO 7 Hwy North to Park Rd. Turn left at James Lewis Elementary School; there is also a sign for Burr Oak Woods. Continue on Park Rd until you come to the Visitor Center on your left. If you have any questions contact Shari at: kestrel277@comcast.net.

SUNDAY, MAY 27: George Owens Park with Elizabeth and Mike Stoakes. This park is a small wooded gem with multiple trails in Independence, MO; a fine place to explore for summer breeders and late migrants. To reach the area, go to the intersection of Hwy.291 and Hwy.78 (23rd Street). Follow Hwy 78 east to Speck Road (just past a school); turn north on Speck Road for about 1 mile to the park entrance. We will meet at 1:00 PM at the park headquarters lot for a half-day walk. Please bring water, snacks, and insect repellent, as amenities are few. For further information, directions, or possible carpooling from points south, call us at (816) 554-1956 or email mstoakes@juno.com or lizkvet@yahoo.com. (Please check the website shortly before the trip in case of last-minute changes or corrections.)

SATURDAY, JUNE 9: Dunne Ranch Prairie with Jim and Ellen Zellmer. Mark your calendar for this great trip where Bobolinks, Henslow’s Sparrows, Upland Sandpipers, and other prairie species may be found. Meeting time and place will be determined closer to the date.

SATURDAY, JUNE 16th: Blue River Parkway with Don Arney. Meet at 7:00 AM in the tennis court parking lot in Minor Park (1/4 mile south of Red Bridge Rd. on Blue River Rd.). In addition to being a field trip, the purpose of this event is to conduct a breeding bird census to help determine the effectiveness of natural habitat restoration efforts along the Blue River. Kansas City WildLands, of which Burroughs Audubon is a partner, is the lead organization in the restoration. This will be the third and last of the series along the river this year. We’ll spend a half-day walking the trails along the Blue River. Contact Don Arney at 816-931-8536 or sora@kc.rr.com.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JUNE 23-24: Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and Cheyenne Bottoms 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 Avocets, Snowy Plovers and Black-necked Stilts. We’ll also look for nesting Mississippi Kites, Least Terns, Barn Owls and Burrowing Owls. Participants travel via their own means to Great Bend, KS on Friday evening and stay in the lodging of their choice. We’ll meet outside the Highland Hotel and Convention Center, 3017 10th St., (620) 792-2431 at 8:00am on Saturday (full day) and Sunday (half-day) for birding. Bring plenty of drinks and munchies, due to the remoteness of some locations, plus appropriate clothing and sunscreen. Lunch on Saturday can either be picnic or fast food in Great Bend. Contact Ed McCullough at (816) 718-3861, or ejmccullough@moltensystems.com for more information.

Visit
Burroughs Audubon Center and Library
At Fleming Park, Lake Jacomo

Open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday
 12:30 PM – 4:30 PM

The Center has a selection of bird feeders, bird guides, birdseed and leading birding titles 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. For more information, call (816) 795-8177.

Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City
 21509 SW Woods Chapel Road
 Blue Springs, MO 64015

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Note:
 Articles, photos, art, ads and announcements for the Spring issue are due April 5. Please mail to Polly Swafford, pswafford1@kc.rr.com.

Printed on recycled paper with soy ink.



Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City is pleased to announce our **Eighty-seventh Annual Dinner and Silent Auction** on **Saturday, April 14, 2007**.

This years' guest speaker is photographer, author and naturalist **Bob Gress**, who also serves as the Director of the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, Kansas. His program "**Chasing Woodland Birds**" describes a year-long adventure photographing migrants from the Gulf of Mexico to the boreal forests of Wisconsin. These photos will be featured in Bob's new book (with Pete Janzen), *The Guide to Kansas Birds and Birding Hotspots*, coming in 2008.

Bob has graciously agreed to provide free copies of his new pocket guide to Kansas shorebirds (pictured above) to dinner attendees. Also, some copies of a previous book, *Faces of the Great Plains*, will be available for purchase at the dinner. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity! In addition, BAS is hosting a post-banquet birding excursion on April 15; see our field trip page (<http://burroughs.org/field.htm>) for details.

Our silent auction will feature many valuable items, including: birding books, jewelry, artwork, feeders, and optics. **We are accepting auction donations until April 7**. If you have an item you would like to donate, please contact Mike or Elizabeth Stoakes at 816-554-1956 or mstoakes@juno.com or lizkvet@yahoo.com.

Details:

6 PM--Silent Auction; 7 PM--Dinner; 6-7 PM--Cash Bar
Garozzo's Ristorante, 1547 NE Rice Rd., Lee's Summit, MO 64063.

REGISTRATION FORM—PLEASE RETURN BY APRIL 7, 2007!

**Burroughs Audubon Annual Dinner /Silent Auction 2007
(PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION FORMS.)**

Name of attendee(s): _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of people attending: _____

Cost: \$32 per person includes gratuity (all attendees must purchase a dinner).

Please make checks payable to: Burroughs Audubon Society, or BAS.

Send to: Ellen Zellmer (Treasurer), 2001 NE 4th St., Blue Springs, MO 64104-1716.