

Burroughs Audubon promotes the appreciation of birds, enjoyment of nature, natural history, education & conservation of habitat.



Burroughs

Audubon

Greater Kansas City Chapter of the National Audubon Society



Harris Sparrow Photo
Courtesy of Linda Williams

www.burroughs.org

WingBeat

Volume 60, No. 4
Winter 2008

WingBeat is a publication of the Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City, a non-profit membership organization in the Kansas City area whose members share an interest in birding and preserving our natural heritage for future generations. Its members 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.

Burroughs Audubon Winter Programs 2008

December 4, 2008 ~ Holiday Party

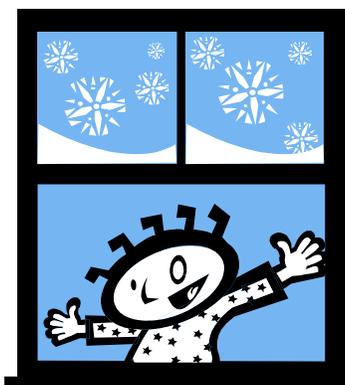
Bring a casserole, side dish, or dessert & join Burroughs Audubon at the Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center for a great potluck as we socialize and have members share their best birding photos. Drinks will be provided. *If you have pictures you'd like to show, please contact Liz Stoakes at (816) 554-1956 or lizkvet@yahoo.com.*

January 8, 2009 ~ Butterflies of the Kansas City Region

Betsy Betros will help us shake off the winter blues and learn to enjoy and identify some of these beautiful creatures that appear alongside our beloved birds in warmer weather. *(Because of the New Year Holiday, the General Meeting will be on the 2nd Thursday of January at the Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center.)*

February 5, 2009 ~ Biodiversity in Madagascar

Greg Griffith is one of our best-travelled and most popular speakers who will take us for a journey across the world as he acquaints us with the birds, animals, and habitats of this remote island without having to leave the Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center.



Get'em Outside

Citizen Science Activities

See Page 6

BurroughsAnnounce

BurroughsAnnounce is a group email list for timely announcements and information between your *WingBeat* newsletters.

To receive email notices of postings to this website (including field trips and events), send an email with the word "subscribe" in the subject line to: BurroughsAnnounce-owner@yahoogroups.com.

You will then receive an email with instructions.

It's very easy to use and user friendly!

General Meetings

1st Thursday of each month ~ September through June
(Except for the Annual Dinner in April)

6:30 PM ~ Coffee and Conversation

7 PM ~ Meeting and Special Events

Anita Gorman Conservation Discovery Center
4750 Troost Avenue ~ Kansas City, Missouri

Save Trees...Go Electronic

When it comes to our newsletter, Burroughs Audubon is exploring ways to reduce printing costs so that our funds can go even farther. Going "electronic" means you would receive a link to view the newsletter online as soon as it was ready. Those who go "electronic" will receive an extra issue of *WingBeat* each year and will be automatically registered in a drawing, at January's General Meeting, for a free FLIP Video Camera or a copy of *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior*. You don't even have to be present to win! Send an email with the word "subscribe" in the subject line to birdsecretary@comcast.net if you would like to go "electronic". Your email will be kept confidential and will be used only for the purpose of Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City, a non-profit membership organization.

BOARD MEETINGS

3rd Thursday of each month at 7 PM

OFFICERS

Jill DeWitt, President

Kansas City, Mo ~ (816) 333-3293
jdewitt@audubon.org

Nic Allen, Vice President

Overland Park, Ks ~ (913) 901-0476
tendingthegarden@sbcglobal.net

Lori Lind, Treasurer

Excelsior Springs, Mo ~ (816) 630-3556
lalind25@hotmail.com

Christine Kline, Secretary

Pleasant Hill, Mo ~ (816) 540-3515
birdsecretary@comcast.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim Wells

cwellsmd@sbcglobal.net

Karen Smith

krnds@aol.com

Michael O'Keefe

mokeefe@ucmo.edu

Shari Harden

kestrel277@comcast.net

Paul Habiger

paulfhmailbox41-birds@yahoo.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

International & Audubon

Adventures ~ Kelly Gillespie
kellyg363@aol.com

Education ~ Jan & Lyle Alderson

standupscience@sbcglobal.net

Fundraising ~ Christine Kline

birdsecretary@comcast.net

IBA, Missouri River,

& Library ~ Paul Habiger

paulfhmailbox41-birds@yahoo.com

Conservation ~ Jill DeWitt

jdewitt@audubon.org

Global Warming ~ Nic Allen

tendingthegarden@sbcglobal.net

Field Trips ~ Pat St. John &

Helen Hewins (co-chairs)

pstjohn@kumc.edu

Events ~ Jim Wells

cwellsmd@sbcglobal.net

KC Wildlands ~ Dick Dawson

dick_yodar_dawson@hotmail.com

COORDINATORS

Elizabeth Stoakes, Media & Programs

lizkvet@yahoo.com

Heidi McCullough, Membership

heidi@mcculloughweb.com

Mike Stoakes, Webmaster

mstoakes@juno.com

NEWSLETTER

Christine Kline, Managing Editor

birdsecretary@comcast.net

Polly Swafford, Associate Editor

pswafford1@kc.rr.com

The Art of Giving

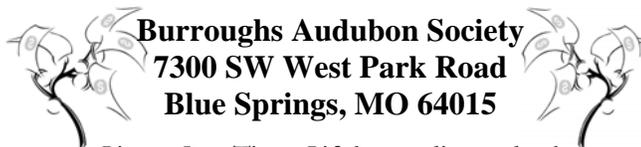
2

To give means to volunteer something that does not require anything in return.

However, the beauty of giving to the Burroughs Audubon Society is that you do receive so much in return! Burroughs relies on the generosity of our long-term members for the majority of our chapter's reserves. Your generous donations enable Burroughs to support graduate education in ornithology, promote restoration of habitat, helps maintain our local sanctuaries, and provide funding for Audubon Adventures in metro area classrooms. Burroughs Audubon also offers individuals and families opportunities that are free for everyone, including field trips, bird walks, special speakers, and educational programs. More importantly, Burroughs Audubon offers the chance to take part in the education and conservation of its local habitats and sanctuaries from the wetlands to its partnership with the Kansas City Wildlands.

Donations are fully tax deductible.

Burroughs Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) organization.



Give a One Time Gift by sending a check

Give by becoming an Audubon Advocate who makes a donation
on a monthly basis (\$10 Minimum)

This reliable funding gives us the resources it needs to work on the most pressing issues as they arise.

Give a Living Tribute in memory of a loved one or to honor a special someone

Give to the Burroughs Audubon Society BURROUGHS AUDUBON DONATION FORM

Email Address _____ Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

I would like to give a one time gift in the amount of \$ _____

I would like become an Audubon Advocate who makes a monthly donation of \$ _____
(\$10 monthly minimum)

I would like to give a living tribute in the memory of a loved one or to honor a special
someone in the amount of \$ _____.
Their name is _____

Make checks payable to Burroughs Audubon Society and mail to the attention of Lori Lind at
7300 SW West Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015. Questions? Call (816) 554-1956

Give by Becoming a Member of the National Audubon Society NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Email Address _____ May we contact you by email? Yes No

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Country _____

USA: 1 Yr \$20 Canada: 1 Yr \$45 International: 1 Yr \$50 Change of Address

Make checks payable to National Audubon Society

Please Memo: Burroughs Audubon Society N-02 7XCH

Mail to: Membership Data Center, PO Box 1001, Boulder, CO 80322-1001

Questions? Call (816) 554-1956

Moving? Enter new address and check "Change of Address" and mail to your MDC.

Your membership to Audubon is deductible except for the \$15 fair market value of Audubon Magazine

Please allow 4-6 weeks for the arrival of your first issue of Audubon magazine.

For Stock Gifts or Workplace Giving visit www.audubon.org and click on "Give now".

From the President's Nest



by Jill DeWitt – Kansas City, MO

Talking with incoming Board member Jim Wells the other day, I sensed how greatly Burroughs Audubon has changed within a short period of history. From a small, dedicated group of birders and conservationists, we've grown to over 2000 members in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Longstanding members among us remember the camaraderie of those early days. Others have passed on – leaving spark, skills, and legacies that help us to preserve habitat, educate and have a critical voice on conservation issues.

Our region has changed, too. To protect birds and future generations, we need to speak up for a safe climate and habitat protection. We need to find new ways to protect rapidly declining bird populations. Whether you're watching and feeding birds at your back door, helping with our international habitat protection programs, working in our conservation committee, talking with legislators or joining us for monthly meetings and birding trips, you will someday be the ones to whom future generations look.

In other regards, we're fortunate to have received a grant from Toyota to work with UMKC's urban planning professionals to initiate innovations in the urban core.

Bank of America



Audubon's Licensing Team invites you to open a National Audubon Society®

personal checking account with Bank of America®. If you already have accounts with Bank of America, you can have them designated as National Audubon Society accounts without making any changes to account numbers. For every eligible purchase you make with your Audubon Check Card, Bank of America will contribute .1% of the purchase amount to Audubon. Bank of America will also make a one time contribution of \$10 for every new checking account opened and \$5 every year on the anniversary of enrollment. This is one of the easiest ways to contribute financially to our mission. Apply online or visit your neighborhood Bank of America today!

Please contact me or Paul Habiger if you'd like to be involved in our urban agriculture and rain garden education work. We'll also be carpooling to Missouri's Environmental Summit in Saint Louis on December 6th, and we'd be happy for you join us. Lastly, there's exciting work that has begun with international Important Bird Areas (IBAs). It is a great privilege to be involved, working with you, to accomplish so much together. Good birding!



July 12, 2008 proved to be a splendid day for 16 Burroughs' travelers on a field trip to Skyline Drive and the Konza Prairie. The weather was in the 70s, and the full sun came out from behind storm clouds which made for a wonderful day to observe plants and birds alike. Gracious thanks to Brett Sandercock (pictured) for leading a group through otherwise publicly unavailable sections of the Konza Prairie.



Burroughs' 2009 Winter Field Trips

Burroughs Audubon field trips are open and free to everyone. During this time of year, weather will sometimes be a factor in deciding if a field trip will continue as planned. For this reason, please contact the trip leader to see if there are any last minute changes. You may also visit www.burroughs.org and click on "Field Trips" for changes or newly posted field trips after this newsletter was complete. For all field trips, bring the appropriate gear including comfortable and warm footwear for hiking, binoculars, water, and snacks.

Lake Jacomo with Jim and Ellen Zellmer

Thursday, January 1, 2009 ~ 7:30 AM

Meet in the parking lot at the Jackson County Park Office, Liggett & Woods Chapel Roads on the west side of the dam at Lake Jacomo/Fleming Park in Blue Springs, MO. Parking lot is above the lake. We'll bird for the morning, then break for lunch in Blue Springs followed by an afternoon of birding if people want to continue. Contact Jim at rowhee@sbcglobal.net or (816) 228-3955.

Lawrence & Perry Lake with Mark Land

Saturday, January 24, 2009 ~ 7:30 AM

We'll travel to Lawrence and Perry, KS in search of winter species. We will check the Kaw River Bridge in Lawrence, Clinton Reservoir, and Perry Lake for winter gulls, raptors, waterfowl, sparrows, shrikes, and finches. Bring money for lunch. The Kansas City group will meet at the Wendy's at K-10 and Woodland Drive. Contact Mark at kestrel@comcast.net or (913) 381-4324 for more or for a meeting place in Lawrence.

Blue River Parkway with Don Arney

Saturday, January 31, 2009 ~ 8:00 AM

This will be a half day walk on unimproved trails. We'll meet at the Minor Park tennis courts off Blue River Parkway. Contact Don at sora@kc.rr.com or (816) 931-8536.

Winter Birding with Shari Harden

Saturday, February 21, 2009 ~ 8:30 AM

Birding on the east side of the metro at some of the conservation areas. Meet at the commuter lot on 7 Highway just north of I-70 in Blue Springs. We should be able to get creepers, a variety of sparrows and maybe owls, just as we did last year. Contact Shari at kestrel277@comcast.net or (816) 289-2230.

TBA with Jim Zellmer

Saturday, February 28, 2009 ~ TBA

Walking and maybe even some bushwhacking as we count species in some of the under-reported CACHE areas. We will meet at the Blue Springs Commuter Parking lot on 7 Highway just north of I-70 in Blue Springs. Contact Jim at rowhee@sbcglobal.net or (816) 228-3955.



ISSUES and ACTIONS

For over a century, Audubon has been a leading voice encouraging conservation of precious habitat and wildlife for future generations. The articles that appear on this page, along with other issues and actions can be viewed in more detail at www.audubon.org/campaign.

“TogetherGreen” \$15K Grant Helps Build 21st Century Green Block

by Jake Wagner – UMKC, Kansas City, MO

Burroughs Audubon broke ground on Wednesday, October 29, 2008 on Kansas City’s Washington Wheatley Neighborhood to install a rain garden, sensory garden and raised beds for vegetables. This project will raise awareness about environmental conservation and global warming while developing new strategies for vacant land management. Through the construction of rain gardens at two elementary schools in Washington Wheatley, the project will foster community pride while involving residents in conservation and sustainability activities that can help improve their quality of life. Additional partners include the Phillis Wheatley Elementary School, the Department of Architecture, Urban Planning and Design at UMKC, and Attucks Elementary School. Supporters believe that by providing a central location for the demonstration of these conservation activities, this will serve as a catalyst for neighborhood revitalization and

public health improvement. This innovative effort will demonstrate green infrastructure solutions, energy efficiency, air quality improvement and habitat restoration ...all on one city block.

“By creating the 21st Century Green Block and rain gardens at local schools we want to raise awareness about the connections between public health and the environment in our neighborhood. Missouri is the “Show-Me” state and people need to see what can be done with these vacant lots to improve our neighborhood,” said Marlon Hammons, president of the Washington Wheatley Neighborhood.

“We recently worked to create a neighborhood action plan with Washington Wheatley. Developing new strategies for vacant land management is one of the neighborhood association’s top priorities for 2009. This funding from Audubon will help us get started,” said Dr. Jacob Wagner of UMKC.

Jill DeWitt, President of Burroughs Audubon, said “We look forward to working with our neighbors in the Washington Wheatley neighborhood and UMKC on this innovative project. As we beautify our neighborhoods, our air quality improves –

and we can all breathe a little easier.”



Jill DeWitt with Marlon Hammons, Washington Wheatley neighborhood and Jake Wagner, UMKC Planning & Architectural School of Design



Jill DeWitt and Marlon Hammons with students and teachers at Phillis Wheatley Elementary School

2008 Green Project of the Year



Editor’s Note: Congratulations Matt! To visit the Wildcat Glades’ website, go to www.wildcatglades.audubon.org.

The Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center located in Joplin, Missouri was designed by Burroughs’ own Matt Gearheart of Gastinger, Walker, Harden Architects and is a “Celebration of Nature.” The center has been the recipient of many awards, one of which was the Landmark Award for Green Project of the Year by the Joplin Business Journal.

Matt said, “We tread a small footprint on this excellent site because the glades are one of the most important features of the entire project. Really large windows even direct your line of sight to the glades, while also allowing passive solar energy in. We really wanted

the building to be welcoming, so we used locally harvested wood beams in the ceiling and for the roof structure. We also used stone that would allow the building to resemble a natural chert rock outcropping. That same native stone was salvaged during the foundation excavation and reused in the fireplace. Our inspiration for the skylight was a crevice in the rocks that lets natural daylight in. Working with our engineers and the owner enabled us to incorporate green technologies like geothermal wells and a live green roof, with many native plant species.”



The NCLI bill was received in the U.S. Senate on September 22, where debate will, most likely, take place on a companion bill (S. 1981) introduced by Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI). Contact your senators now. The Conservation Federation of Missouri is very supportive of this Act and is trying to spread the word about it to other Missouri organizations and citizens. For more information visit www.nclcoalition.org (No Child Left Inside Organization) or www.mcea.org (MO Environmental Education Association).

Fuel Efficient Flight & Fuel Efficient Birding

by Christine Kline ~ Pleasant Hill, MO

Birding locally is more fuel efficient. Even though the price of gas has fallen a bit, people are still leery of traveling great distances because it's hard on the budget. Do you ever wonder how "fuel efficient" it is for a bird to fly its migration path over thousands of miles? How many miles per bass or miles per water boatman are these birds getting?!

Burroughs Audubon thanks Sherry Leonardo who, as part of her capstone project for Missouri Master Naturalists, compiled a listing of some of our local birding trails, their habitat, and the best times to visit them. She also included their locations and their websites. While we couldn't fit all the information into this newsletter, we are grateful to her for letting us use her project to share with you, our readers and supporters, on where to bird locally.

Burroughs Audubon reminds you that winter migration is at its peak. Thousands of Snow Geese, hundreds of Bald Eagles, and various waterfowl and shorebirds have arrived and will stay with us through the winter.

Beauty is overwhelming when you watch a flock of birds move quickly about in the sky. The flock forms an object in the sky that seems to move about on several planes while moving vertically and horizontally as parts of the object become translucent, then back into view again. Prepare to have your breath taken away!

Day Trip ~ Lawrence, KS

Prairie Park Nature Center

www.lprd.org

Baker Wetlands

www.skyways.lib.ks.us/orgs/jayhawkau click on ► Birding Sites ► Baker

University Wetlands

Clinton Lake

www.nwk.usace.army.mil/cl

Day Trip ~ Mound City, MO

Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge

www.squawcreek.org



Burroughs Audubon is a Friend of Squaw Creek

KC METRO BIRDING TRAILS

HABITAT

BEST TIME TO VISIT 5

Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/kcmetro/discovery	Pond, urban woodland with prairie grasses & wildflowers	Spring, summer, fall
Blue River Parkway www.kcwildlands.org , click on ► Wildlands ► Blue River Parkway	Riparian woodland, & glade	Spring, summer, fall
Fleming Park www.jacksongov.org , click on ► Recreation ► Parks ► Fleming	Lake, savannah-like woodland, & grassland	Year round
Heritage Park www.jcprd.com , click on ► Parks & Facilities ► Heritage Park	Prairie, grassland, & pond	Summer, fall
James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area http://www.mdc.mo.gov/ click on ► Conservation Areas select Jackson (county) and Kansas City (area) then click on ► Reed (James A) Mem WA	Small lakes, grassland, & scrubby woodland	Year round
Mt. Washington Cemetery www.oldfairmountpark.com click on ► Click to Enter	Urban & open woodland	Spring, summer, fall
The Prairie Center www.naturalkansas.org/prairie1.htm	Prairie, woodland, & small ponds	Spring, summer, fall
Shawnee Mission park www.jcprd.com , click on ► Parks & Facilities ► Shawnee Mission Park	Lake, stream, woodland, & grassland	Year round
Smithville Lake & Honker Cove Waterfowl Refuge www.nwk.usace.army.mil/sm	Lake & grassland	Fall, winter
Swope Park & Lakeside Nature Center http://www.lakesidenaturecenter.org	Riparian, woodland, glade, & marsh	Spring, summer, fall
Watkins Woolen Mill State Park & Historic Site http://www.stateparks.com/mo.html click on ► Watkins Mill State Park	Grassland, woodland, & savannah lake	Spring, summer
Weston Bend State Park http://www.stateparks.com/mo.html click on ► Weston Bend State Park	Mature forest	Spring, summer, fall

ADDITIONAL AREAS TO BIRD IN OUR KANSAS CITY METRO AREA

Amity Woods Nature Park
Kansas City, MO ~ South on Amity Rd at 152 Hwy

Antioch Park
Merriam, KS ~ 65th & Antioch Rd

Blackhoof Park & Lake Lenexa
Lenexa, KS ~ Monticello Rd

Burr Oak Nature Center
Blue Springs, MO ~ 7 Hwy & Park Rd

Cooley Lake CA
Liberty, MO ~ 291 Hwy & Route 9
9 miles east of Liberty

English Landing
Parkville, MO ~ Along the Missouri River

Ernie Miller Nature Park
Olathe, KS ~ West on Santa Fe off I-35 at Harold Street

Isley Park Woods Natural Area
Excelsior Springs, MO ~ Lovers Ln & 10 Hwy

Jerry Smith Park & Saeger Woods CA
Kansas City, MO ~ 139th & Holmes Rd

Kill Creek Park
Olathe, KS ~ South of K10 & Kill Creek Rd

La Benite Park
Sugar Creek, MO ~ 1 mile south of of the Missouri River on 291 Hwy

Longview Lake/Meadowmere Park
Kansas City, MO ~ Raytown Rd South of I-470

Loose Park
Kansas City, MO ~ 51st & Wornall Rd

Maple Woods Natural Area
Gladstone, MO ~ N. Oak Trfcwy & east on 76th St

Martha Lafitte Thompson Nature Sanctuary
Liberty, MO ~ 291 Hwy & Ruth Ewing Rd on LaFrenz Rd

Missouri River Riverfronts
Ft. Leavenworth, KS & Kansas City, MO

Overland Park Arboretum
Overland Park, KS ~ West on 179th St off 69 Hwy

Powell Gardens
Kingsville, MO ~ 50 Hwy East of Lees Summit

Waterfall Park
Independence, MO ~ I-470 & 40 Hwy

Thank you again Sherry Leonardo



BIRDS and Citizen SCIENCE

Audubon's Science Team focuses on involving people to find solutions to the challenges faced by birds in the modern world. Why not take part in one of our Citizen Science activities? Citizen Science is a way for you to connect with the natural world through fun activities that generate vital information for the conservation of birds. We have activities to suit people of all levels of experience, expertise, and available time.

THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

The first Great Backyard Bird Count was first held in 1998 and now involves more than 600,000 people. It is a four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages to count birds so that we know where the birds are. It's family-oriented, enjoyable, and a free simple Citizen Science Activity. You can even submit your bird checklists online. Whether you come for 15 minutes or sit and count with us for a day or two, you can help the birds by telling us where they are!



Olathe
Ernie Miller State Park & Nature Center
Saturday, February 14, 2009 9AM-4PM

Blue Springs
Burroughs Audubon Nature Center & Bird Sanctuary
Saturday, February 14th ~ 9AM-4PM
Sunday, February 15th ~ 9AM-4PM
www.birdsource.org/gbbc



2007 Audubon Watch List

Every year, the National Audubon releases a "Watch List" to tell us which birds need our help. It's a "Call to Action" to save these species fighting for survival. While some may be rare at times, these are some that are specific to our area.

The Red List ● These Species are declining rapidly, have a very small population/limited range; Face major conservation threats

- Greater Prairie Chicken
- Black Rail
- Piping Plover
- Least Tern
- Bells Vireos
- Golden-winged Warbler
- Yellow Rail
- Whooping Crane
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper
- Lewis' Woodpecker
- Baird's Sparrow
- Henslow's Sparrow

The Yellow List ● These Species are either declining or rare

- Trumpeter Swan
- Hudsonian Godwit
- Thayer's Gull
- Sprague's Pipit
- Canada Warbler
- Clark's Grebe
- Marbled Godwit
- Iceland Gull
- Blue-winged Warbler
- Lark Bunting
- Swallow-tailed Kite
- Red Knot
- Short-eared Owl
- Bay-breasted Warbler
- LeConte's Sparrow
- Swainson's Hawk
- Sanderling
- Red-headed Woodpecker
- Prairie Warbler
- Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
- King Rail
- Semipalmated Sandpiper
- Olive-sided Flycatcher
- Cerulean Warbler
- Smith's Longspur
- American Golden-Plover
- Western Sandpiper
- Willow Flycatcher
- Prothonotary Warbler
- Painted Bunting
- Snowy Plover
- Stilt Sandpiper
- Wood Thrush
- Swainson's Warbler
- Rusty Blackbird
- Varied Thrush
- Kentucky Warbler

109th Annual Christmas Bird Count



From the middle of December until the first part of January, tens of thousands of volunteers will take part in an adventure that has become a family tradition among generations. Grandmothers and students, soccer moms and scientists, armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists will head out on an annual mission. These Citizen Scientists are taking action for conservation. By counting birds in Audubon's Christmas Bird Count, we help scientists understand how birds are doing and how they are coping with environmental challenges.

Each count occurs in a designated circle, 15 miles in diameter, and the Kansas City Christmas Bird Count will be led by Burroughs' own Mike Stoakes. The circle will be centered on Unity Village and divided into eight sections. A fee of \$5 is requested to help National Audubon cover the expense of compiling and publishing the citizen science data.

Mike said, "Feeder watching in the suburban areas of Raytown and Lees Summit is encouraged for those area residents who may have trouble

getting out. If you're a new birder, we'll put you with an experienced birder. Winter weather may slow us down but nothing short of a major storm will cause the count to be canceled and rescheduled. After the count, we will meet at Perkins at 50 & 291 Highways." Please contact Mike Stoakes to sign up.

Sunday, December 28th ~ Kansas City CBC
Contact Mike Stoakes
(816) 554-1956 or (816) 298-0559
mstoakes@juno.com

Friday, December 26th ~ Trimble CBC
Contact Kristi Mayo
(816) 289-7828
kristi@writebirds.com

Saturday, January 3rd ~ Swan Lake CBC
Contact Steve Kinder
(660) 646-6516 or (660) 247-0071
dmkinder@yahoo.com

For more local Christmas Bird Counts
www.ksbirds.org
www.mobirds.org/CBC/CBCSchedule.asp

SQUAW CREEK SURVEY

Please take a moment to answer these questions about when you visit Squaw Creek:

1. How many times per year?
2. What days & times?
3. Who comes with you?
4. Which special events do you attend?
5. Which activities do you participate in?



Email your answers to:
birdsecretary@comcast.net

Burroughs Audubon is a Friend of Squaw Creek



Lawmakers care about your views and opinions

CALL TO ACTION: SIGN UP FOR AUDUBON ACTION ALERTS!
www.audubonaction.org

Birding with a Purpose

by Doug Willis – Liberty, MO

Editor's Note: Participating in field trips has taught me a lot about birds. This fall, I participated in a field trip with Doug Willis, who led us to birding in the mud and the rain at Squaw Creek NWR, Honey Creek CA, and Smithville Lake. Besides realizing that boots instead of flip-flops and waterproof binoculars would have been the smarter choice, I also learned about gulls and shorebirds and how to identify them. When you bird with the "masters," you see much more. I asked Doug Willis, avid birder, past President of East Ozarks Audubon Society and an equally passionate bartender to give beginner birders, like me, some advice. Below is what he wrote. I hope it will encourage you to go on a field trip that is free to everyone.

More than anything, I would encourage beginning birders to develop a passion for

birds. Nurture your natural curiosity that drives us to look closer and to see more. Actively cultivate a deep appreciation for the subtle plumage details of sparrows or the mystery of their seasonal movements. Try to make birding a bigger part of your life, and you may experience a greater awareness of the rhythms of the natural world.

I do not believe this "passion for birds" happens entirely by accident – Sometimes we must work at it. It could start with a swarm of feeder birds during an early snowfall or a jaw-dropping look at a Bald Eagle near a lake or river. We could get hooked while watching flocks of waterfowl bursting into flight from a wetland at sunrise or marveling at the moth-like flight of a Short-Eared Owl hunting low over a prairie at sunset. We discover that these moments stimulate our passion and soothe our souls.

As our passion for birds permeates our lives, we try to see more. We may make an extra effort to pick through a massive raft of ducks at a large reservoir or try in vain to identify the gulls loafing near the marina. Maybe we

spend a crisp morning "pishing" and "squeaking" at sparrows in our favorite hedgerow. Perhaps we investigate those funny-sounding call notes coming from the tops of fully laden pine trees. We may spend the better part of a winter day moving with the utmost stealth through a stand of Eastern Red Cedars. Our passion for birding becomes an active process. As our passion continues to grow, we may begin to experience the personal satisfaction that comes from learning and discovering. The fruits of our labors are felt close to the heart, energizing the spirit and helping us to cope with a seemingly heartless world.

Yes! We bird with a passion...we look closer and we see more. As we surrender to this process, we develop a deeper understanding of the lives of birds and ultimately of our own lives. On our better days, we may join with our higher selves while lost in the sublime intensity of a tough identification challenge. It is my sincere hope to meet each one of you in this magical place someday.

Squaw Creek Announces New Interpretive Programs

Your donations to Burroughs Audubon, in conjunction with Friends of Squaw Creek, have made possible the support of two new interns at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge. Both Jen Brenneman (pictured upper right) and Ben Limle (pictured lower right) are involved in visitor education and outreach and are students at Missouri Western studying Biology. As part of their studies, they are hosting interpretive programs on the weekends until November 30th.



Corey Kudrna, Refuge Operations Specialist said, "We're glad to have this opportunity to have programs like this, especially during the day – so we encourage you to attend. All ages are welcome. We couldn't have done it without your donations and we extend our sincere gratitude."

- Marsh Mayhem:**
Mammals in Wetlands
November 15, 2008
Outdoor Classroom ~ 1PM
- Animal Tracks!**
November 16, 2008
Refuge Headquarters ~ 1PM
- Hawk Watch!**
November 22, 2008
Refuge Headquarters ~ 1PM
- Loess Hills Hike**
November 23, 2008
Refuge Headquarters ~ 1PM
- Oh Deer!**
November 29, 2008
Refuge Headquarters ~ 1PM
- Snow Goose Migration**
November 30, 2008
Refuge Headquarters ~ 1PM



A UNIQUE BIRD PROFILE Even though the image has somewhat changed, do you know that Joann Garrett drew the Bald Eagle in the patch for the Friends of Squaw Creek

National Wildlife Refuge? Instead of her typical bird profile, Joann shares some facts as Eagle Days approach. John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson recommended that the Bald Eagle be the symbol for our newly independent country. The Bald Eagle is the only species of the 59 large birds of prey called eagles that is restricted to America. The Bald Eagle is one of the largest birds of prey in the world. A nest found in St. Petersburg, Florida was 20 feet deep, 9½ feet wide, and weighed about two tons. During a recent winter, observers reported over 1,400 Bald Eagles in and adjacent to Missouri, which was 2nd only to Washington in the most eagles counted in the lower 48 states. During winter, birders counted nearly 400 eagles at one time at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge – One of the highest concentrations anywhere!

Eagle Days are December 6th and 7th



Squaw Creek's Eagle Days

Missouri's eagle watching is spectacular! Join us at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge on December 6th and 7th. Events will include eagle programs, exhibits, activities, videos, & guides with spotting scopes. If you can't make it to an Eagle Days event, look for eagles in the wild. From late November through early February watch for eagles perched in large trees along the water's edge. You can also see them early in the morning flying and fishing. *Eagle Days is in conjunction with the MO Department of Conservation.*

Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/events/eagledays for more. *Photos courtesy of Matt Gearheart*

Squaw Creek Calendar

- Eagle Days**, December 6th and 7th, 2008 from 9AM to 4PM
- Managed Deer Hunt**, January 3rd & 4th, 2009; Auto Tour closed
- Volunteer Habitat Restoration Day**, February 28th, 2009 from 9AM to 4PM

ACAA Update

by Kelly Gillespie – Peculiar, MO



Anita B. Gorman, Former MDC Conservation Commissioner & Namesake for the Anita B. Gorman Discovery Conservation Center with Kelly Gillespie at BirdStock.

Burroughs Audubon / ACAA, 7300 SW West Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

**ACAA 2009 Planning Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at 7:00 PM**

Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center

Contact Kelly Gillespie, International Committee Chair for more.

kellyg363@aol.com

New Fundraising Committee Now Being Formed

by Christine Kline – Pleasant Hill, MO

From a home office during the week, I am what some may call a “headhunter”. This involves making anywhere from 60 to 100 calls everyday achieving the task of placing the right candidate with the right job.

Fundraising is no different – you still make 60 to 100 calls, but maybe on a weekly or monthly basis to raise money. You form a committee to help you think of ways to help your organization achieve its goals.

It’s time to put together a fundraising committee for Burroughs Audubon. Together, we can establish goals, and how we reach those goals will be a team effort. Every idea will help our organization promote the appreciation of birds, enjoyment of nature, natural history, education and conservation of habitat.

Joining Burroughs Audubon has enabled me to have a deeper appreciation for our conservation and habitat concerns. With your help, I’m looking forward to turning that same appreciation into progress.

Please contact me if you want to be a part of this effort.

Christine Kline, Fundraising Committee Chair
(816) 540-3515

birdsecretary@comcast.net

**Do you need a ride to a Meeting?
Visit www.burroughs.org and click on “meetings.”**

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kansas City, MO
Permit No. 231

To Battle!

The following areas need your help:

Isley Park Woods
(Excelsior Springs, Missouri)
Blue River Glades
Blue River Parkway
Hidden Valley
(Kansas City, Missouri)
(North Kansas City, Missouri)



During September through early May, get your group together of 15 or more & contact Dick Dawson, Chair of the KC Wildlands Committee to help remove exotic invasive honeysuckle.



The BirdStock Committee, comprised of Kelly Gillespie, Pat St. John, and Christine Kline, extends its sincere gratitude to all those who volunteered, donated, and devoted their time and effort. Without you, it would not have been the BIG success it was!

Burroughs Audubon Society of
Greater Kansas City
7300 SW West Park Road
Blue Springs, MO 64015
(816) 795-8177