



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

Greater Kansas City Chapter of the National Audubon Society

WingBeat

Dear members and friends,

After the holidays and area Christmas Bird Counts, we'll restart our general meetings on January 8th (**second Tuesday**) at the Kauffman Foundation building (4801 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO 64110 – directly behind the Discovery Center). Several Wednesday trips have again been added to the field trip schedule. Peruse this newsletter, and enjoy our monthly meetings/programs, bird walks through local bird stores, programs at our Fleming Park nature center, field trips, and citizen science opportunities such as bird censuses and the Great Backyard Bird Count. We look forward to seeing you in 2013!

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1 Programs

General meetings begin promptly at 6:45 p.m., refreshments and socializing at 6:15 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Our January meeting will be held on the **SECOND Tuesday of the month** at the Kauffman Foundation building, 4801 Rockhill Road, KCMO 64110. Our February through March and May through June meetings will be held at the Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center, 4750 Troost, KCMO 64110. Remember that April is our Annual Dinner month, and there will be no first Tuesday general meeting and program.

Tuesday, January 8, 2013 – KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION CONFERENCE CENTER, 4801 ROCKHILL RD., KCMO 64110

Basic Bird Photography for Identification and Enjoyment with Mary Nemecek, Missouri Master Naturalist. Have you ever wanted to capture better bird photos? No matter what type of camera you use, you can improve your photos — come and learn some tips and tricks! Digiscoping will also be discussed.

Tuesday, February 5, 2013 – ANITA B. GORMAN CONSERVATION DISCOVERY CENTER, 4750 TROOST, KCMO 64110

Exploring Southeastern Brazil with Roger Boyd, Baker University. This program will introduce the flora and fauna of the Southeast Atlantic forest area of Brazil, in the vicinity of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. This biologically rich area is currently very threatened by development and agricultural expansion, in much the same way as our Flint Hills region in Kansas.

Tuesday March 5, 2013 – ANITA B. GORMAN CONSERVATION DISCOVERY CENTER, 4750 TROOST, KCMO 64110

Effects of Global Climate Change on Birds with Town Peterson, Curator of Ornithology at the University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute. Join us for an exploration of new data and current research on the effects of climate change on our bird populations, with a particular focus on recent projects undertaken by KU's graduate students and professors of ornithology.

2 Bird Walks

Bird Walks leaving from Prairie Village - Saturday

Join us on the **1st Saturday of each month** as Mike Stoakes takes you on a free two to three hour bird walk to help you identify birds in our own area. Dress for the weather and meet us in the parking lot of the Wild Bird Center at 8:00 a.m. where we'll return afterwards. Questions? (913) 381-5633

JAN 5, 2013 ~ Fleming Park/Lake Jacomo

Meet at 8:00 a.m.

FEB 2, 2013 ~ Meadowmere Park/Longview Lake

Wild Bird Center

MAR 2, 2013 ~ Mill Creek Streamway (Wilder Rd. access)

4046 W. 83rd Street ~ Prairie Village, Kansas

APR 6, 2013 ~ Antioch Park/Turkey Creek Streamway

Bird Walks leaving from Independence - Saturday

Join us on the **3rd Saturday of each month** as Michael O'Keefe takes you on field trips and bird walks that leave from the Wild Bird Center, 4480 S. Noland Road, Independence, MO 64055. For each trip, call the store for details on times and additional details. Call 816-478-9399 to reserve a spot.

Bird Walks leaving from Backyard Bird Center - Thursday

Backyard Bird Center 6212 NW Barry Road, Kansas City, MO 64154. Please call the store for more information and to register 816-746-1113.

3 Connecting with Nature at the Burroughs Audubon Nature Center and Library

Saturdays, Jan 5 – Feb 2 – Mar 2, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. ~ Bird Banding with Dana Ripper and Ethan Duke of Missouri River Bird Observatory (Note: If weather is inclement, banding will be held on Sunday, January 6) Come see our resident winter songbirds up close and personal! Dana and Ethan will band and release birds for population studies and answer questions about their current research projects. Red-breasted Nuthatches have been caught two months in a row! Come see what turns up this winter. Banding will continue monthly on the first Saturday through March.

Sunday, January 13, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. ~ Make Your Own Bird Feeder

Feeding and watching birds is a wonderful way to introduce children to some of Missouri's winter residents. In the craft session, children will make a milk carton into a functional and personalized bird feeder. All materials provided, plus each child will receive some seed to fill their feeder at home. Contact Elizabeth Stoakes at 816-554-1956 for more information.

Sunday, February 17, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. ~ Great Backyard Bird Count and feeder craft

Join us to count the birds on this Great Backyard Bird Count weekend, and bring the kids to make their own feeder and edible ornament for the birds. In the craft session, children will make a milk carton into a functional and personalized bird feeder. In addition, popcorn, berries and other materials will be provided to create treats for the birds! All materials provided, plus each child will receive some seed to fill their feeder at home. Contact Elizabeth Stoakes at 816-554-1956 for more information.

Come on out to Burroughs Audubon Nature Center and Library and enjoy the birds from picture windows that overlook our bird sanctuary. We offer a nature shop full of books, guides, feeders, and seed, as well as a full natural history library containing over 6,000 volumes which are available for browsing and check out.

The library is located in Fleming Park at Lake Jacomo, 7300 SW West Park Road. Blue Springs, MO 64015-7804

Library hours are 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. every day except Monday and Wednesday.

Hours are 100% dependent upon volunteers so please call us before making the trip at (816) 795-8177.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Katy Brackney (816) 786-8862. Thank you volunteers!

4 Field Trips

Lake Jacomo and Fleming Park with Mike and Elizabeth Stoakes

Tuesday, January 1

Start the year with a bang! We'll meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the Jackson County Parks and Recreation offices at the intersection of Liggett and Woods Chapel Roads (watch for traffic light at this 3-way intersection). We'll bird the lakes and trails throughout the park looking for winter residents and late migrants -- ducks, geese, sparrows, finches, eagles, hawks and, hopefully, some surprises! Be sure to dress for the weather and wear footwear for some light walking. If the weather is really cold, we'll warm up at the Burroughs Library. Questions? Contact Mike and Elizabeth at mstoakes@juno.com or 816-554-1956.

Longview Lake with Sherry Leonardo

Wednesday, January 9

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the lake marina. We'll check for waterfowl around the marina then walk the bike trail looking for winter residents. We may also walk one or two other areas around the lake. Dress for the weather; hiking boots are recommended. Bring water and snacks. Note: walking may total 2-3 miles. Directions: From I-470 take the Raytown Rd. exit (exit 4). Drive south, approximately 1.6 miles, to Longview Rd. The entrance will be a left-hand turn at a stoplight with a sign for the marina. For more information, contact Sherry Leonardo at 816-763-1393 or home172@aol.com.

Wyandotte County Lake Park with John Bollin

Saturday, January 19

Take a break from the winter doldrums and join us to look for eagles, waterfowl and winter songbirds. Wyandotte County Lake is a jewel within the northwest KC metro area, and it can be a waterfowl magnet since the lake is closed to boating and fishing in the winter. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the lower parking lot, just north of the F.L. Schlagle Library. After scanning the lake, we'll visit the Schlagle Library to view their feeders where Purple Finch and Spotted Towhee were present last winter. Lastly, we'll do some light woodland hiking to look for songbirds. For further information, contact John at 816-289-5554 or bollinj@umkc.edu.

Lawrence, Clinton Reservoir and Perry Lake with Mark Land

Saturday, February 16

Join us as we travel to Lawrence and Perry, KS in search of winter songbirds and waterfowl. We'll check Clinton Reservoir, and Perry Lake for gulls, raptors, waterfowl, sparrows, shrikes, and finches. Bring all the usual items: binoculars, scopes, FRS radios, drinks, snacks, money for lunch (we may stop to warm up at a local lunch spot), and cold weather gear (lakes are always windy places). The Kansas City group will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Wendy's at K-10 and Woodland Drive. If coming from other areas, contact Mark for a meeting spot in Lawrence. Call Mark at 913-381-4324 and leave a message if you plan to participate so that he can contact you if the trip is cancelled because of the weather. There is an entrance fee to Clinton Lake State Park if you don't have a KS Parks yearly permit. This is an all day trip, but you're welcome to participate as long as you like.

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area and Lake Remembrance with Sara Scheil

Wednesday, February 20

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the nature center parking lot. Sara will lead us around some of Burr Oak's beautiful trails in search of winter residents. Afterwards, we'll head to nearby Lake Remembrance to look for waterfowl. Dress for the weather, and bring water and snacks. Directions: from I-70 in Blue Springs, drive 1.25 miles north on MO Hwy 7 to NW Park Rd. Turn left, and go approximately 1.1 miles to the nature center parking lot. Contact Sara at ecosew@yahoo.com or 816-356-6986 for more information.

Smithville Lake with Keith Brink

Wednesday, March 13

Join us at this regional birding hotspot where we'll look for waterfowl and gulls on the lake and lingering winter songbirds and early spring migrants on some of the trails. Meet at 7:15 a.m. at the Litton Center. Dress for the weather, and bring water and snacks. For those interested, lunch afterwards at the Brick House Cafe & Pub in downtown Smithville. Directions: from US Hwy 169 in Smithville, drive 2.0 miles east to county road DD, turn left and drive approximately 1.4 miles to Litton Center entrance. For more information, contact Keith at Brinkteam1984@yahoo.com.

Great Salt Plains NWR - Jet, Oklahoma

Saturday, March 23 to Sunday, March 24

Join Burroughs Audubon friend, Gene Young, as he leads us around one of the largest saline flats in North America looking for waterfowl, waders, and shorebirds. The refuge has been designated as an Important Bird Area and is a critical Whooping Crane stopover during the fall and spring migrations. Travel and lodging on your own. Meet at refuge headquarters at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday morning. Refuge HQ is about 1.75 hours (100 miles) southwest of Wichita, KS via I-35 south, US Hwy 81 west-south, OK Hwy 11 west, and OK Hwy 38 south. Lodging in Cherokee (approx. 17 miles from refuge), Alva (approx. 31 miles from refuge), and Enid (approx. 50 miles from refuge). We've been informed that motels may be somewhat difficult to find because of occupancy by oil and gas workers in the area. Four cabins which will accommodate up to 4 adults each have been reserved at Great Salt Plains State Park (approx. 3 miles from refuge). First come, first served, and reservations will only be accepted for two, or more (up to 4), per cabin. Plan to lodge in OK on Saturday night (Friday night, March 22 advised, too). Contact Mike Stoakes at 816-554-1956 and mstoakes@juno.com to reserve a cabin and for more information.

Ernie Miller Nature Center and Kill Creek Park with Pat St. John

Saturday, March 30

We'll meet at the Nature Center parking lot at 8:00 a.m. and take a Spring walk to look for sparrows, finches, and any early migrants that might be present. We will also check out the habitat at Kill Creek Park to help establish a bird list for this newer Johnson County regional park. This is a half-day trip, so be sure to bring lunch, snacks, and drinks. Contact Pat at 913-706-5569 or stjoh@kumc.edu with any questions.

5 Citizen Science Activities

Seasonal Bird Census ~ Blue River Parkway Winter Bird Census with Don Arney

Saturday, January 26

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot near the Minor Park tennis courts. We'll spend 2-3 hours walking the trails along the Blue River looking for winter residents. Bring snacks and beverages. Contact Don at 816-931-8536 or sora@kc.rr.com for more information.

Seasonal Bird Census ~ Jerry Smith Park Winter Bird Census with Sherry Leonardo

Thursday, January 31

KC WildLands has requested that we perform seasonal bird censuses, similar to those that we do for the Blue River Parkway, of this largely undeveloped city (KCMO) park. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the small gravel lot at the top of the ridge. Directions: go south on Holmes Rd. to 139th St., turn east and go approximately 3/4 mile to the 2nd drive on the left. Bring water and snacks. Contact Sherry Leonardo at home172@aol.com or 816-763-1393 for more info.

Great Backyard Bird Count at Ernie Miller Nature Center

Saturday, February 16

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It's as easy as one-two-three! Every year biologists and researchers count on you to help them determine the health of bird populations in North America. Join us as we count birds and contribute to a worthy cause. It just takes 15 minutes, and you may see Northern Cardinals, Black-capped chickadees, and many more feathered friends. Learn about the birds that winter in Northeast Kansas from experienced birders from Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City. For more information about this free event, call 913-764-7759.

6 Announcements

We are announcing an exciting new project: AN HONOR GARDEN at the BAS Nature Center and Library. Donations made will be used for expanding the native plant gardens around the library, landscaping, beautifying our new water garden, and ongoing maintenance. Donations will be used to honor loved ones and friends, especially our Burroughs members, past and present, with donors and recipients permanently recognized at the Library in Fleming Park. Please send donations to: Marcia Hawk, 3616 Saddle Ridge Dr., Independence, MO 64057. The recipient or their family will be notified of your donation in their honor.

Remember to save the date for our ANNUAL DINNER & SILENT AUCTION on Saturday, April 6 at Country Club Christian Church (same location as last year). Our special guest and speaker will be MDC nature photographer, Noppadol Paothong, presenting on the topic of his new book project: "Save the Last Dance, A Story of North American Grassland Grouse". Marilyn Koshland is accepting auction donations. Call (816) 537-5988.