



Greater Kansas City Chapter of the National Audubon Society

# WINGBEAT

## SPRING 2013

### ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

By Keith Brink

We are finally taking the last step into the Digital Age and we need your help.

Our costs for mailing the newsletter are exorbitant and the board feels that it would be best to distribute the newsletter by e-mail. We could do so much more conservation work with that money and save a lot of trees in the process. That's where you come in. We only have e-mails

for about 5% of the Audubon Members in this area.

If you could e-mail me at [brinkteam@realtor.com](mailto:brinkteam@realtor.com)

with your name or names, phone number and e-mail address, we could start this year off with a substantial savings and a faster delivery system.

You will still be able to print your copy from the e-mail.

### ANNUAL DINNER AND AUCTION

April 6th

Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City announces with great pleasure and anticipation, our **Ninety-third Annual Dinner and Silent Auction** on **Saturday, April 6, 2013**. Our keynote speaker will be Noppadol Paothong of the Missouri Department of Conservation, discussing the creation of his book, "*Save the Last Dance: A Story of North American Grassland Grouse*". **Books signed by the author will be available for purchase at the banquet (copies may be reserved at registration, see below).**

Our Silent Auction will feature birding books and accessories, jewelry, artwork, and many other valuable items. There will also be a sale table with great bargains and unique finds!

**NOTE: Cash and checks will be accepted for auction items; no credit cards please.**

To donate items, please contact Elizabeth Stoakes ([lizkvet@yahoo.com](mailto:lizkvet@yahoo.com), 816-554-1956) OR Marilyn Koshland ([mkoshland@comcast.net](mailto:mkoshland@comcast.net)) by March 31. All donations are tax-deductible and receipts are provided.

#### What's In this issue

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## HONOR GARDEN

Spring is coming and we need you!

Plans have been drawn for an exciting new landscaping project, an honor garden, at the Burroughs Audubon nature center and library!

Now is the time to make a donation!

One can honor a birthday or an event for a loved one, make a donation in memory, or donate in appreciation of a Burroughs member while helping us beautify

our new water garden and expand our native plant gardens.

Be part of the action!

All donors will have a permanent installation at the library.

Help us grow!

Send donations to:

**Marcia Hawk**

**3616 Saddle Ridge Dr.**

**Independence, MO 64057**

The recipient or his family will be notified of your donation.

"The very idea of a bird is a symbol and a suggestion to the poet. A bird seems to be at the top of the scale, so vehement and intense his life. . . . The beautiful vagabonds, endowed with every grace, masters of all climes, and knowing no bounds -- how many human aspirations are realized in their free, holiday-lives -- and how many suggestions to the poet in their flight and song! "

**John Burroughs**

## MARSH BIRD SURVEY WITH MRBO

### Dana Ripper - MRBO Volunteer Opportunity

Due to wetland habitat loss, *populations of marsh bird species* have been in serious decline. Missouri has lost over eighty percent of its historic wetlands. Among the most vulnerable

species that wetland habitats support are marsh-dwelling birds known as Rails and their close kin: King, Virginia, Black, and

Yellow Rails, Sora, and Least and American Bitterns. They are secretive birds that have been difficult to survey in the past. Bird surveys conducted with a standardized protocol, such as

the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) have been unreliable for the secretive marsh birds. Researchers have worked for more than a decade to establish the most effective survey method

for marsh birds and have developed the Standardized North American Marsh Bird Monitoring Protocols and the

North American Marsh Bird Monitoring Program.

In order to address federal and state conservation information needs on marsh bird distribution and populations, the

Missouri River Bird Observatory (MRBO) implemented the national program in Missouri in 2012. MRBO is working with the MDC, NRCS, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Joint Ventures, and the Audubon Society of Missouri (ASM) to continue these long-term surveys.

In the drought year of 2012, we surveyed over 200 survey points in wetlands across Missouri. Points were chosen randomly within wetlands throughout the state in order to obtain an unbiased sample and keep tabs on the distribution of birds. Surveys are conducted at each point once during each of three windows: April, May, and June.

The data is being provided to the MDC, NRCS, and USFWS for incorporation into habitat management strategies and, in



the case of Virginia Rail and Sora, to provide information supporting harvest limits.

We plan to continue this important task of long-term monitoring through the foreseeable future. Data will provide a starting point for addressing other questions such as, *"How do marsh bird species in respond to different wetland management techniques and practices?"*

Although start-up funding helped Missouri get on board with the program, we will rely heavily on conservation minded people in our community to participate in 2013 and beyond. In theory, Missouri citizens can provide a large volunteer effort, but the future of this program for marsh birds is ultimately depends up the willingness of people to make a commitment to conservation. MRBO Assistant Director Ethan Duke will serve as a coordinator, with assistance from St. Louis-area resident Jean Favara in the 2013 season. The North American Marsh Bird Program was designed to incorporate volunteer involvement and we are confident that it will run well in the hands of the environmental stewardship of Missourians.

The Audubon Society of Missouri (ASM) and regional and state agencies are working with MRBO to provide training workshops for those willing to look

for marsh birds at least one day a month for three months. These workshops will be held at regions throughout the state near established survey routes.

Participants can expect to learn about marsh bird identification by sight and sound, GPS use, and how to follow the protocol.

What does it take to survey for marsh birds? Ears and eyes! After training, observers conduct two to three surveys of a predetermined route during early mornings or late evenings in April, May and June. As one would guess, these surveys require walking and some observers will need to wade through parts of a marsh. Routes consist of 5 to 10 survey points typically spaced 400 - 800 meters apart and often



covering more than a single wetland. The protocol involves the use of audio units to broadcast calls of target species (equipment provided) and the documentation of marsh birds detected at each survey point.

For more information on the program, including the 2012 progress report and specific protocol visit

[www.mrbo.org/Pages/marshbirds.html](http://www.mrbo.org/Pages/marshbirds.html).

ASM and MRBO will be co-hosting the first workshop, "March Marsh Bird Madness", at Duck Creek Conservation area with field trips at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. The flexible program is designed to provide enthusiasts with options of marsh bird survey training or birding. All will be pleasant and enjoyable. Field trips will occur at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Duck Creek CA, and other premiere area wetlands. Bird conservation enthusiasts will be offered the opportunity to volunteer with the Missouri Marsh Bird Survey Program. For further information and agenda visit

<http://mobirds.org/education/marshmadness2013.aspx>.

Those wishing to volunteer can receive training there or at a workshop in another part of the state. Training sessions will be held at: Clarence Cannon NWR on April 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, at Eagle Bluffs CA on April 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, at Squaw Creek NWR on April 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, and at Fleming Park near Kansas City on a date yet to be determined. For more information, please email [ethan.duke@mrbo.org](mailto:ethan.duke@mrbo.org)

## CITIZEN SCIENCE OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, April 27 – Jerry Smith Park Spring Migrant Census with Sherry Leonardo. This is the second of four censuses that we perform annually for KC WildLands of this, mostly, undeveloped city (KCMO) park. Meet at 7:00 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 ½ mile to the 2nd drive on the left). Bring water, snacks, and insect repellent. Contact Sherry Leonardo at [home172@aol.com](mailto:home172@aol.com) or 816-763-1393 for more info.

Friday, May 17 - Blue River Parkway Spring Migrant Census with Don Arney. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the parking lot near the Minor Park tennis courts. We'll spend 2-3 hours walking the trail to see which migrants and year-round residents are utilizing the restored natural area and bottomlands along the Blue River. Bring snacks and beverages as well as insect repellent. Contact Don at 816-931-8536 or [sora@kc.rr.com](mailto:sora@kc.rr.com) for more information.

Saturday, June 15 - Blue River Parkway Breeding Bird Census with Don Arney. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the parking lot near the Minor Park tennis courts. We'll spend 2-3 hours walking the trail to see which breeding residents are utilizing the restored natural area and bottomlands along the Blue River. Bring snacks and beverages as well as insect repellent. Contact Don at 816-931-8536 or [sora@kc.rr.com](mailto:sora@kc.rr.com) for more information.

Saturday, April 20 - Native Plant Sale at the Burroughs Library and Nature Center in Fleming Park. 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Quality stock from Missouri Wildflowers Nursery. Native plants have many advantages in your yard: they require less water and maintenance, and they support a variety of birds and beneficial insects. Contact Mike Stoakes at 816-554-1956 and [mstoakes@juno.com](mailto:mstoakes@juno.com) for more information and pre-orders.

May 3 – 5 - Audubon Society of Missouri Spring Meeting in St. Joseph, MO.

May 10 – 12 - Kansas Ornithological Society Spring Meeting in Norton, KS.

May 11 – 12 - Wings Over Weston Bird Festival at Weston Bend State Park, Weston, MO – including a native plant sale featuring plants from Mervin Wallace's Missouri Wildflowers Nursery.

## CONSERVATION MATTERS

### Jill DeWitt – Burroughs Audubon Conservation Chairman

A bird census on Brush Creek, a native plant garden in the urban core, an edible forest...what do these have in common? Sustainability and Audubon volunteers! Through TogetherGreen ([www.togethergreen.org](http://www.togethergreen.org)), our chapter has mobilized volunteers, moved the needle on conservation action, and made lasting connections within Kansas City's metropolitan area. Toyota has generously extended funding for this terrific program with a \$3.5M grant for the coming round of innovation, planning and volunteer grants. Have ideas? Let's meet and make it possible. Call or email Jill at [listens2prairies@gmail.com](mailto:listens2prairies@gmail.com); 816.896.9104.

Conservation Committee meets the third Tuesday at Oven Fire Pizza, 39<sup>th</sup> and Broadway, 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Emerald ash borers, Kickapoo Island, Shirling Sanctuary and healthy power-line free flyways: there are solutions, folks. Join us to protect birds and their habitats in our backyards and the region.

Burroughs Audubon is holding a plant sale Saturday, April 20. For volunteers and first customers, you will receive a complementary tree (dogwood, hazelnut, nannyberry, ninebark, persimmon, river birch, hickory, white pine and others). Call now to schedule your time or check at the library in Fleming Park for further details.

Ask a friend to sign on for advocacy with Audubon at <http://policy.audubon.org/take-action>. It's a great way to take action – and ensure healthy habitat for future generations of birds – and birders!

## FIELD TRIPS

### April

**Sunday, April 14** - Osage Plains Birding Hotspots with Gary Johnson and Don Stout. Join Gary and Don on this popular birding tour of western Missouri. Locations that we'll visit include Montrose, Taberville Prairie, Schell-Osage, and Four Rivers Conservation Areas. We'll look for early spring migrants, shorebirds and waterfowl in what will mainly be an automobile tour. Weather and on-the-ground conditions could alter the locations included or substituted. Bring snacks, lunch, drinks, and FRS radios, if you have them. Wear suitable clothing for some trail walking. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the McDonald's on MO 58 Hwy., just west of U.S. 71, in Belton. Contact Gary at 816-356-0954 or [gjohnson35@kc.rr.com](mailto:gjohnson35@kc.rr.com) for more information.

**Wednesday, April 17** - Van Meter State Park and Grand Pass Conservation Area with Sherry Leonardo. In the morning, we'll bird the campground, boardwalk, and an adjacent trail at Van Meter SP looking for migrating songbirds. After lunch, we'll head to Grand Pass CA to look for shorebirds, rails, and any lingering waterfowl. Bring insect repellent, lunch, beverages, and snacks. We'll meet at 6:30 a.m. for carpooling in the commuter lot at MO Hwy. 7 and I-70 in Blue Springs (on the north side of Price Chopper). For more info, contact Sherry at 816-763-1393 or [home172@aol.com](mailto:home172@aol.com).

**Saturday, April 20** - Squaw Creek NWR with Pat St. John. Join us on this, largely, driving trip along the Refuge's 10-mile auto tour loop. For carpooling, meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Platte City commuter lot, or at the Squaw Creek visitor center around 8:15 a.m. We'll look for waterfowl as well as early shorebird and songbird migrants. Be sure to bring a lunch and snacks and drinks. Contact Pat at 913-706-5569 and [pstjohn@kumc.edu](mailto:pstjohn@kumc.edu) with any questions.

**Wednesday, April 24** - Haskell-Baker Wetlands with Roger Boyd. Last year's trip was such a hit that Dr. Boyd has graciously agreed to lead it for us again! Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Wendy's restaurant at Woodland Drive and K-10 in Lenexa. Directions: take I-435 to KS Hwy. 10. Take K-10 west to Woodland Dr. Turn right (north) and go to Wendy's /convenience store entrance. We'll carpool as much as possible, due to limited parking at the wetlands. Bring insect repellent, lunch, beverages, and snacks. For more info, contact Sherry Leonardo at 816-763-1393 or [home172@aol.com](mailto:home172@aol.com).

### May

**Wednesday, May 1** - Knob Noster State Park and Perry Memorial Conservation Area with Larry Olpin and Mike Stoakes. Join us on this trip through Johnson and Pettis Counties in west-central Missouri. In the mature woods of beautiful KNSP, we'll look for migrating warblers and vireos, as well as summer breeding residents like tanagers, grosbeaks and orioles. At Perry, we'll look for spring migrants and any lingering waterfowl. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Home Depot parking lot (behind Perkins) in Lee's Summit at MO Hwy 291-North and US 50 Hwy for carpooling. Bring drinks, snacks, and FRS radios for this all-day trip. We'll stop for a delicious lunch at Panthers Steakhouse in Knob Noster. Dress for the weather and some moderate hiking. Contact Mike Stoakes for more information at 816-554-1956 or [mstoakes@juno.com](mailto:mstoakes@juno.com).

**Wednesday, May 15** - Birding by ear field workshop at Weston Bend State Park with Mark Robbins. We've all birded with them: people who can pull a Dunlin out of a flock of sandpipers, or rattle off a dozen species at Squaw Creek when all you've seen are swallows flying over the observation platform. Learning bird sounds may seem difficult, yet it's probably one of the best skills a birder can have. If you're interested in learning to identify birds by their songs and calls and understand the context in which they deliver certain vocalizations, please join Mark on this mid-week trip. Meet in the walking trail parking lot at 7:00 a.m. Be prepared for a 3.5-mile walk on, mostly, paved surfaces. For more information, contact Mike Stoakes at [mstoakes@juno.com](mailto:mstoakes@juno.com) or 816-554-1956.

**Saturday, May 18** - Fort Leavenworth upland forest and Leavenworth Bottoms with John Bollin. Join us on the other side of the river from Weston Bend State Park for an all-day trip to the exceptional natural areas of Fort Leavenworth. Meet at 6:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the First Command Financial Planning building at Cheyenne & 3rd St. Directions: parking lot is visible, but not accessible, from Metropolitan Ave. (MO Hwy 92 crossing the river) therefore, access via KS Hwy 7 (4th St.) to Cheyenne St. east of Hwy 7. Proceed east on Cheyenne, and turn left into parking lot a short distance past the intersection of Cheyenne & 3rd Streets. After passing through security at the Fort's main gate (everyone must present a photo ID), we'll visit areas of upland oak-hickory forest where we'll look for both Summer and Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Towhee, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and various warblers. After lunch, we'll proceed to the bottoms along the Missouri River which is the largest remaining tract of old-growth, bottomland forest along the entire river. There will be some moderate hiking, but you will be able to proceed at your own pace. Bring lunch, insect repellent, and FRS radios. For further information, contact John at 816-289-5554 or [bollinj@umkc.edu](mailto:bollinj@umkc.edu).

**Wednesday, May 29** - Clinton Lake Painted Buntings with Mike Stoakes. Painted Bunting have been breeding residents around Clinton Lake in Douglas County, KS (near Lawrence) for the past several years. Join us as we attempt to locate these beautiful, and furtive, songbirds in a previously reliable locale on the west side of the lake. Meet at 7:00 a.m. for carpooling at the Wendy's restaurant at Woodland Drive and K-10 in Lenexa. Directions: take I-435 to KS Hwy. 10. Take K-10 west to Woodland Dr. Turn right (north) and go to Wendy's /convenience store entrance. For more info, contact Mike at 816-554-1956 or [mstoakes@juno.com](mailto:mstoakes@juno.com).

## June

**Sunday, June 2** - Dunn Ranch and Pawnee Prairie Natural Area with Mark McKellar and Ruth Simmons. Join us as we search for species such as Upland Sandpiper, Black-billed Cuckoo, Sedge Wren, Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows, and Bobolinks. Meet at 6:00 a.m. in the Liberty commuter lot at I-35 and U.S. 69 Hwy. (Excelsior Springs exit) for carpooling. This will be an all-day trip with moderate walking. Bring insect repellent, lunch, snacks, and beverages. Also, bring FRS radios, if you have them. For more information, contact Mike at [mstoakes@juno.com](mailto:mstoakes@juno.com) or 816-554-1956.

**Saturday, June 8** - Skyline Drive and Mt. Mitchell Heritage Prairie with Elizabeth Petroske and Pat St. John. Meet at 5:15 a.m. in the commuter parking lot at I-70 and K-7 for carpooling. We'll explore the Flint Hills looking for blooming prairie wild flowers and birds. Upland Sandpipers, Common Nighthawks, and other prairie species are sure to be encountered. Be prepared to travel on the KS Turnpike, and bring snacks, water, and FRS radios, if you have them. This trip will most likely return mid-afternoon. Contact Pat at 913-706-5569 or [pstjohn@kumc.edu](mailto:pstjohn@kumc.edu) for more information.

**Wednesday, June 19** - Lakeside Nature Center and Swope Park with Mike Stoakes. Join us as we explore one of our nation's largest urban parks and the crown jewel of the Kansas City, Missouri park system. We'll explore areas such as Rocky Point Glades, an uncommon natural community featuring limestone glades and oak savannah, where we'll look for Summer Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. If conditions are favorable, we'll also visit the slough behind the old Lakeside Nature Center building to look for Yellow-throated and Prothonotary Warblers. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the LNC parking lot. Bring snacks and beverages as well as tick and insect repellent. Contact Mike at 816-554-1956 or [mstoakes@juno.com](mailto:mstoakes@juno.com) for more information.

## GENERAL MEETINGS

Begin Promptly At 6:45 Pm - Refreshments Served At 6:15 Pm.

OUR MAY AND JUNE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE DISCOVERY CENTER, 4750 TROOST AVE., KANSAS CITY MO 64110.

**April 2013**—NO GENERAL MEETING--ANNUAL DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, APRIL 6 (SEE INSERT FOR DETAILS AND REGISTRATION FORM.)

**May 7, 2013:** "Want Birds? Garden for Bugs!" Lenora Larson, Miami County Master Gardener,

will show us how to produce, in our own yards, the many juicy insects our summer resident birds require to feed themselves and their families! Birds do not live by sunflower seed alone!

**June 4, 2013:** "eBird: The Basics and Beyond" with Joshua Uffman, Missouri eBird Reviewer (co-presenters to be determined). Every birder can benefit from using eBird! This program will cover data entry on

the site, the review process when sightings are reported, and the variety of uses made of eBird data. Bring your questions!

Do you have a speaker or a topic that you would like to see featured at a future BAS meeting? Please contact Program Coordinators Elizabeth Stoakes (816-554-1956) or Nancy Clark (913-268-7376).

## National Audubon Convention 2013

SAVE THE DATE: JULY 12-15, 2013

### WHO:

- Chapter leaders from across the network
- State and Center Board members
- National Audubon Society board members
- Audubon staff from states, centers and national programs
- And YOU!

### WHAT:

- Four full days of exciting field trips, inspiring speakers, in-depth hands-on workshops, and tens of program options highlighting strategic conservation successes from the four flyways.

### WHEN:

- Friday, July 12: Half and full day field trips or workshops on targeted topics
- Saturday, July 13 and Sunday, July 14: Convention core program.
- Monday, July 15: Half and full day field trips or workshops

### WHERE:

- Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, WA, in the heart of the spectacular Columbia Gorge
- Conveniently located 45 minutes from Portland International airport on targeted topics

### WHY:

Join Audubon's amazing network of dedicated leaders to

celebrate One Audubon! Recognize our history of achievement as we launch into an exciting and challenging future. Unite around flyways for hemispheric impact. Turn passion into action!

### WHAT'S NEXT?

- Convention Web site launches– January 2013
- Registration opens – February 2013

### STAY IN TOUCH:

For general conference inquiries and questions, sponsorship opportunities contact Cindy Sherwood at [csherwood@audubon.org](mailto:csherwood@audubon.org) or call (802) 865-5202.

# Wing Beat - Spring 2013

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

(Type the recipient name)  
(Type the recipient address)

## LIBRARY PROGRAMS

**Sunday, March 10**, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM~Purple Martin Basics

Have you ever wanted to host a colony of these beautiful swallows? Join us for a program describing the Martin's life history and information on attracting and managing them. Linda Byrd, a songbird rehabilitator and Library Committee member, will be accompanied by experienced Purple Martin "landlords".

(Recommended for ages 10 and up.)

**Saturday, April 20**, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM~Missouri Native Plant Sale

**Saturday, April 27**, 1:00-4:00 PM~Make Your Own Hummingbird Feeder!

Katy Brackney, Missouri Master Naturalist and Library Committee member, will show you how to use recycled household materials to create feeders to attract and nourish these fascinating tiny birds all summer long. (For Families with Children 5 and up.)

**Saturday May 18**, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM Water Gardens and Rain Barrels 101

Karen Smith, BAS Library Committee Chairperson, will discuss the basics of establishing water gardens and rain barrels in your home landscape for a more eco-friendly garden! (Ages 10 and up.)

Watch our website ([www.burroughs.org](http://www.burroughs.org)) and Friends of Burroughs Facebook page for details of additional library programs throughout the spring and summer!



