

WingBeat



VOLUME 57 ISSUE 1

SPRING 2005

An Evening of Modern Falconry

Vanessa Avara, Master Falconer from the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, Kansas, will bring falcons, equipment, and videos of raptors in action to the Discovery Center for our March meeting.



Falconry, or 'hawking', has experienced a renaissance in Europe and North America. An apprentice must acquire at least seven years experience with raptors and study to earn the coveted 'Master' title. See 'Sport of Kings' on page 6.

Left: Andy, a gyrfalcon hybrid, takes off at the Utah Sky Trials under his handler, Tyler Stiens.

Peterson on Southern China's Biodiversity

April BAS Annual dinner features Silent Auction

The Hillcrest Country Club in Kansas City will be the setting for the 2005 Burroughs Audubon Society (BAS) Annual Dinner and Silent Auction on April 9.

Featured speaker for the evening will be A. Townsend Peterson, an ornithologist who is curator of bird collections at the University of Kansas and teacher in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

The University of Chicago-trained scholar has published over 150 articles in periodicals and scholarly journals on topics as varied as gene flow in scrub jays and ranges and taxonomy of cave swallows. His talk at the annual dinner will be on biodiversity in Southern China.

Other features of the evening will include:

✂ Door prizes, including books on nature photography and the recent, well-reviewed biography of John James Audubon.

✂ A raffle drawing for a Bushnell 8x42 Nature View binocular. Among items in the silent auction will be bird books, handcrafted bird houses, jewelry, collectibles, plant stands and certificates for message therapy.

Cost of the annual dinner is \$29 per person. The silent auction begins at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Directions to the country club at 8200 Hillcrest Road can be accessed easily on mapquest.com. Early reservations are recommended for this popular event. New members are welcome.

--John O'Neill, Kansas City

General Meetings are held the **FIRST THURSDAY** of each month, September through June, at the Missouri Department of Conservation's **Discovery Center**, 4750 Troost.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2005: "*An Evening of Modern Falconry*," with Master Falconer Vanessa Avara..

APRIL 9: NO General Meeting: See Annual Dinner article on page 6.

Thursday, May 5: "*Birding in Trinidad & Tobago*," with **Matt Gearheart**.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2: "*Birding Hot Spots in Missouri*," by Andrew Forbes, Ornithologist, Missouri Dept of Conservation.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1: "*State Parks in the Kansas City Area*," by Diane Russell, Department of Natural Resources, Weston Bend State Park.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER. 6: "*Birding Identification Workshop: Sparrows*," by Craig Hensley, Missouri Dept of Conservation, Burr Oak Woods.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3: "*Birding the Confluence of Rivers: Manaus, Brazil*," by Greg Griffith.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1: "*Holiday Pot Luck Dinner and Member Slide-Show*," Quizzes and prizes, plan to attend! *Speaker Suggestions? Contact Marilyn at (816) 537-5966 or by email at: koshland@mindspring.com.*

Birding Challenge 1:

What bird is the fastest animal on earth, clocked at speeds of over 200 miles per hour when pursuing its prey through the air? (See page 6)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S NEST:

Question: What does NWR stand for?

If a proposed 'light goose' hunt happens as planned next year at Squaw Creek, NWR could stand for "Nail 'em With a Rifle." For the past three-quarters of a decade, its been well known among wildlife biologists, naturalists, and birders that the unbridled Lesser Snow Goose population is wreaking havoc on the tundra ecosystem where they breed. An abundance of southerly winter forage and flocking locales created by human activity, together with less hunting pressure and predation has led to a sizeable population increase.

But in nature out-of-balance, one species' road to success is often at the expense of others. The goose's population increase has had a negative impact on species with which they share the fragile tundra. Over time, the Snow Goose's success will become its undoing, not to mention that of other species. In an effort to hasten the rebalancing of nature, Congress has passed legislation which aims (pun intended) to reduce Snow Goose numbers.

From a wildlife management standpoint, the intent is all well and good, but other locales exist where hunting can, and should, take place besides the protective confines of a wildlife refuge. After all, what is the purpose of a refuge but a place where native wildlife can feed, rest, and seek haven from hunting pressures? Waterfowl hunting of any one species on refuge property will be disruptive to others, as well.

I urge you to contact Squaw Creek NWR manager, Mr. Ron Bell (Ron_Bell@fws.gov), and ask that the management team reconsider the proposed hunt. For more information on the light goose hunting plan, visit: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/SquawCreek/>

Send regular mail to: Attn: Mr. Ron Bell, Manager, Squaw Creek NWR, P.O. Box 158, Mound City, MO 64470.

—Mike Stoakes, President

Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City

Gift memberships: Care to send the newsletter to a friend? If you'd like to share our activities with someone who may be interested in joining the group, send this coupon to Heidi McCullough, 5915 NW Caney Creek Drive, KCMO 64151 (or email information to heidi@mculloughweb.com.) Include your name and "Gift Membership" at the top of the form.

Your contribution helps Burroughs Audubon send Audubon Adventures to area classrooms, upgrade the Burroughs Nature Center and Library, and assist with Shirling Sanctuary restoration activities. Send contributions to Treasurers Phil and Nancy Reicher, 301 W. 48th Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64113. Burroughs is a 501(c)3 organization. **Contributions are tax deductible.**

If you are renewing—please use the form from National Audubon
APPLICATION FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP

Please check the annual membership category you desire

New Membership / \$20.00 Senior Citizen / \$15.00 Contributing \$250.00
 Individual / \$35 Senior Citizen Family / \$\$23.00 Donor/\$500.00
 Family / \$38 Sustaining / \$50.00 Life / \$1500.00
 Student / \$15 Supporting / \$100.00 CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____

Make checks payable to National Audubon Society and mail to: Heidi McCullough, 5915 NW Caney Creek Dr., Kansas City, MO 64151. Questions: Call (816) 505-2840. Moving? Fill out this form with new change of address, check 'CHANGE OF ADDRESS', above, and mail to Heidi McCullough.

National Audubon/Burroughs Audubon Application for Joint Membership N-027XCH

Burroughs Audubon Officers

President: Mike Stoakes
6774 W. 83rd Street
Overland Park, KS 66204
913-341-8147
mstoakes@juno.com

Vice President: Jill DeWitt
525 E. 54th Street
Kansas City, MO 64110
816-333-3293
jdewitt1@kc.rr.com

Secretary: Elizabeth Kohler
8605 Newton, #3103
Kansas City, MO 64138
816-353-1784
lizkvet@yahoo.com

Treasurers: Phil & Nancy Reicher
401 W. 58th Terrace
Kansas City, MO 64113
816-333-3876
preicher@kc.rr.com
nlreicher@hotmail.com

Board of Directors

Joe Alburty..... jalburty@unicom.net
Don Arney.....sora@kc.rr.com
Jill DeWitt....., jdewitt1@kc.rr.com
Jennifer Hammett.....jen22770@aol.com
Elizabeth Kohler.....lizkvet@yahoo.com
Gary Johnson.....gjohnson35@kc.rr.com
Nancy Reicher.....nlreicher@hotmail.com
Phil Reicher.....preicher@kc.rr.com
Mike Stoakes.....mstoakes@juno.com
Lisa Weeks.....lfw@kc.rr.com

Committees and Chairs

Adopt-A-Refuge: Open
Audubon Adventures: Kelly R. Gillespie
Media, Programs: Marilyn Koshland
BAS Library/Center: Anne Duffer
Conservation: Don Arney
Field Trips: Matt Gearheart
Newsletter: Polly Swafford, Jill DeWitt,
Lisa Weeks, John O'Neill, Matt Gearheart
Sanctuaries: Open
KCWildlands: Dick Dawson, Mark McKellar

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 join in activities!

Prairie restoration days are scheduled for February 19, March 5 and 19, and April 30 this year to benefit the unique Loess Hills habitat of northwestern Missouri. For additional details, visit squawcreek.org. Learn more about these unique, threatened areas. Join us in working to preserve and protect them for future generations. —*Jill DeWitt*

International Migratory Bird Days

May 14 and 15

Support your local National Wildlife Refuge—Visit Squaw Creek NWR!

Spring 2005 Activities at Squaw Creek NWR

February 19 (9am-3pm): Prairie restoration work day sponsored by Squaw Creek friends, Prairie Committee

February 22-25: National Weed awareness week.

March 5 (9am-3 am): Prairie restoration work day, sponsored by Squaw Creek Friends Prairie Committee.

March 19 (10am-4pm): Refuge office opens for spring weekends.

March 19 (9am-3pm): Prairie restoration work day, sponsored by Squaw Creek Friends.

April 10: Mushroom Picking opens on the refuge.

April 16 (9am-4pm): 16th Annual Spring Workday, sponsored by Midland Empire Audubon Society.

April 30 (9am-3pm): Prairie restoration work day sponsored by Squaw Creek Friends, Prairie Committee. All ages and skill levels welcome. Cookout lunch provided.

May 8 (2am-4pm): Last open weekend for office in Spring.

May 14-15 International Migratory Bird Day.

May 20: Mushroom picking closes on the refuge.

Activities are weather dependent and may be canceled due to inclement weather. Please call Corey at (816) 393-0034 to inquire about cancellations. Safety is a primary concern of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For this reason, on all prairie workdays, volunteers must wear work boots, long sleeved shirts, and long pants.

Visit Brazil's Fabulous Pantanal and Atlantic Coastal Forest

September 19 - October 3, 2005
A nature tour with emphasis on birds

Contact Tour Leader

Max C. Thompson

1729 E. 11th Ave,
Winfield Kansas 67156

Or maxt@cox.net for more information.

BAS members who frequent Price Chopper are encouraged to sign up for the 'Extra Helpings' donation program. The store donates 1% of member's grocery purchases to Burroughs Audubon after they sign up. Details on this program can be obtained at the store or on the Burroughs website, www.burroughs.org.

Thomas Native Landscaping LLC

Specializing in organic, sustainable, and native landscaping

816 353-7383

Learn what's going on at the state level!
Contact a Board member for details.

**Audubon Society of Missouri
Kansas Audubon**

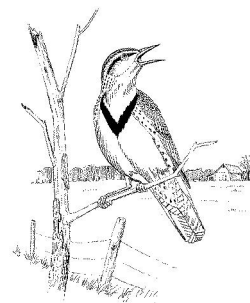
Native plant catalogue \$2
9814 Pleasant Hill Road
Jefferson City MO 65109
email: mowildflowers.net

**Missouri Wildflowers
Nursery**



Missouri Prairie Foundation's
**Spring plant sale benefits
NW MO Loess Hills Prairie Initiative**
Saturdays, April 23 and 30 and May 7
7:00 to 12 Noon, City Market
Kansas City, Missouri

Stephen Koshland, D.D.S.
Comprehensive dentistry



**Birding Conversations
Welcome**

7301 Mission Road Suite 200
Prairie Village, KS 66208
(913) 722-6611

We're All Conservationists Now

Conservation Committee meets March 2nd 7 pm at Crave Café. State issues include birding trails in Northeast Kansas and Northwest Missouri, the Loess Hills Initiative, regional clean air and defense of conservation funding. To receive updates, send your email address to Jill DeWitt, jdewitt1@kc.rr.com.

WHICH IS THE REAL "SPORT OF KINGS"?

Most people would say the answer is "horseracing", but the phrase also describes another ancient pursuit: falconry (the practice of using trained raptors to hunt birds and small mammals). The sport originated about 2000 B.C. among nomadic herders of the Asian plains, but falconry was introduced to Europeans by the Huns during the decline of the Roman Empire. For 800 years falconry was very popular and prestigious in Europe, with only the nobility allowed to own and fly the rare and beautiful gyrfalcons. Commoners, if fortunate enough to possess birds at all, owned goshawks and kestrels. Occasionally, even Great Horned Owls and shrikes were used to hunt!

Falconry (also called "hawking") almost disappeared following the Middle Ages but experienced a renaissance in Europe and North America after World War II. Now there are hawking groups in almost every state, united by a national organization—the North American Falconer's Association. There are three levels of expertise in falconry: Apprentice, General, and Master Falconer. An apprentice must acquire at least 7 years experience with raptors and also do a lot of studying to earn the coveted "Master" title and qualify for the government permits necessary to keep and train birds of

prey. Want to learn more about this fascinating sport? Make plans now to attend the March 3, 2005 Burroughs Audubon General Meeting at the Discovery Center. Vanessa Avara, a falconer from the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, Kansas, will present our program. She plans to bring two of her own birds, falconry equipment, and some videos of raptors in action! See you there!

—Elizabeth Kohler

CALL FOR QUESTIONNAIRES!

To assess interests and priorities of BAS members and to help guide the Board's strategic planning process, we included a one-page questionnaire (with space for written comments on the back) in the Winter 2004 issue of the *WingBeat*. PLEASE return your form if you have not already done so! We value each member's input to help plan Burroughs' activities for the next 1-3 years. If you have lost your form, please go to the BAS website (burroughs.org) to print out a new one (it will be 2 pages), or contact Elizabeth Kohler (816-353-1784; lizkvet@yahoo.com) to receive one via mail or email.

Unfortunately, we have had some difficulty with the forms being damaged in return mail, so in the future, we ask that you please fold the form for mailing and place it in an outer envelope. Also, you may bring the form to any General Meeting to return it.

I say a hearty "Thank you!" to all those who have already submitted questionnaires; a summary of results will appear in the next issue of the *WingBeat*.

—Elizabeth Kohler

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

CBC Report

Audubon's 105th Christmas Bird Count was held this season from December 14th to January 5th, at locations across the metro area. Many chapter members participated in local counts. On Saturday December 18th, I participated in one led by Mike Beck, that covered an area near Lake Jacomo, Missouri.

Mike has been covering this section of the CBC for many years. I was looking forward to birding with such an experienced guide, and I wasn't disappointed. We met at his house (which is in the count area) at 6:30. The team of three included Mike, me, and Frank Messer, an outdoor enthusiast, and relatively new birder.

One of the first birds we located was a Great-horned Owl, while tramping near the edges of the lake. Soon, Mike spied a Winter Wren. I wish I could say that I was fast enough to see it, but I never did get a good look! After some more hiking, we returned to the truck and moved around to a different side of the lake. We focused the scope in on some waterfowl and tallied Scaup, Bufflehead, Hooded Mergansers, and primarily Common Goldeneye. We searched the fields repeatedly for sparrows, locating a few, but never in the quantities that we expected.

We finished the day with 51 species, after hiking through tall grass, dense underbrush and beautiful rock ledges. Mike's wife treated us to a wonderful lunch, and I made some new friends. Not a bad way to spend a Saturday! See the Audubon website to locate current year results: http://cbc.audubon.org/cbccurrent/current_table.html.

The 106th Christmas Bird Count will be held December 14, 2005 through January 5, 2006.

For family-oriented nature and birding-related activities at Ernie Miller Nature Park in Olathe KS, check out the Upcoming Events Calendar at <http://www.erniemiller.com/index.htm>.

Wanted: Lenexa Birders

Lenexa birders are encouraged to contact Jill (jdewitt1@kc.rr.com) to join and coordinate a potential partnership between Burroughs Audubon and the City of Lenexa.

Lenexa's Rain to Recreation Program (watershed management program) www.raintorecreation.org has a threefold mission: to reduce flooding, protect water quality and provide for recreational and educational opportunities. Lenexa has completed several stream restoration projects in highly suburbanized areas utilizing native vegetation. The city will have an ordinance to create stream setbacks for all the riparian corridors in western Lenexa for many reasons, including protection and enhancement of habitat.

For the purpose of flood control and water quality protection, the city is creating several lakes, and has planned wetlands and stream restoration and stabilization projects. Along with the lake and wetland construction, Lenexa plans to preserve large tracts of riparian and upland forests - Mize Lake, with 60 acres (complete) and Lake Lenexa/Black Hoof Park 240 acres (wetlands complete; lake to be completed in the fall of 2005.) These areas are connected by trails and boardwalks. Goals include preserving, enhancing and creating habitat for many different bird species.

As Mike Beezhold sees it, the City is trying to engage the community in nature, while at the same time educating and likewise being educated by the interactions, and trying to better understand the implications and benefits of providing diverse habitats in a urban/suburban environment. Leaders recognize that birdwatching and other such activities are very popular in the urban area. A partnership with Audubon would have mutual benefit. Lenexa could encourage community participation in Audubon activities through use of its

facilities. Anyone having historical data regarding bird populations or presence of birds in Lenexa is encouraged to contact us to provide baseline data and future data on how these efforts have worked for habitat.

More info is available at www.raintorecreation.org, including information on a popular stream restoration project at Rock Creek (headwaters of Indian Creek in Lenexa) at 103rd street and Hauser.

--Information for this article was provided by Mike Beezhold

Birding Challenge 2:

In North America, which group of birds has shown the most consistent declines of any group of birds monitored by the North American Breeding Bird Survey?

(Answer on page 6)

Long Johns and Loppers Restoring Wild Kansas City

Kansas City Wildlands has three ecological restoration workdays scheduled the afternoon of Sunday, February 27. If you take stewardship seriously, these are the afternoons for you. Experts will be on site at three locations:

Ogg Road (Shawnee Mission Park remnant prairie, Shawnee Mission, Kansas, managed by Johnson County Parks and Recreation District),

Blue River Glades, Kansas City, Missouri (Jackson County Parks and Recreation).

Rocky Point Glades, south Kansas City, Missouri (Kansas City Missouri Parks and Recreation),

What: Lopping and treating exotic and invasive woody growth that threatens these delicate ecosystems. Another multi-site community workday is scheduled in May.

To register for a workday, contact Dick Dawson, dick_yodar_dawson@hotmail.com, or Linda Lehrbaum, at 816-561-1061, ext. 116 or Linda@bridgingthegap.org. Dress appropriately for workdays! Long

pants and sturdy shoes are recommended. Insect repellent, gloves and drinking water are provided.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES is an environmental education program for children in grades 3 to 6. Developed by professional environmental educators, it presents basic, scientifically accurate facts about birds, wildlife, and their habitats. It comes to you packaged as a Classroom Kit (serving 32 students) or Individual Kit (serving 1 student). To contribute \$75 to put Audubon Adventures in an area classroom, mail check to Treasurers Phil and Nancy Reicher, 401 West 58th Terrace, KCMO 64113.

MIGRATIONS

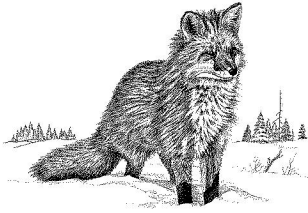


The Wood Pewee

Burroughs members celebrate the lives of outstanding members, influential in the establishment and vigor of Burroughs Audubon.

RUTH ELLEN B. ROBINSON, 88, of Merriam, Kansas, died November 7, 2004. She had lived in Merriam since 1969. She was a member of BAS, and was an avid birdwatcher and traveler all her life. Mrs. Robinson was an accomplished pianist with the KC Banjo Band. Her family kindly requested donations to BAS in her memory. Expressions of sympathy may be addressed to her son, Mr. David Robinson, 6555 W.

75th St., Apt. 208, Overland Park, KS,
66204.



Earth Fair 4

**Saturday, April 10, 9-2
Shawnee Mission East Gym,
75th Street and Mission Rd**

Free, and fun for all ages! Activities for every age! Cars of the future will be on display (including hybrid cars, electric cars, and a solar race car). There will be a huge used book sale. Learn about the state of the environment – local, regional and national. Native perennials and vegetables and eco products will be available for sale!

Five hours of award-winning environmental films will be shown. A local band will play. Organic lunches will be served. Live performers! Solar and wind energy alternatives! Awesome live animals! Walk through a Kansas prairie! Over 25 special displays! Terrific baskets of door prizes every hour! You won't want to miss this event! Informative talks are scheduled:

9:30 Xeriscaping: Low-Water Landscaping

10:30 Gardening for Butterflies

11:30 Roundtable: Building a Green Sanctuary

12:30 Briarwood 3rd Grade Singers

1:00 Protecting Your Family from Household Hazardous Waste

This annual event is presented by the Prairie Village Environment and Recycling Committee, and Shawnee Mission East High School Environmental Club. Contact Jill DeWitt (816) 333-3293 or (jdewitt1@kc.rr.com) to sign up for an hour or two at the Burroughs Audubon table.

Visit the Burroughs Audubon Nature Center and Library at Lake Jacomo.

Prairie Chicken Viewing at Dunn Ranch

This is the season to view the spring courtship of prairie chickens from a viewing blind with a guide at Dunn Ranch, west of Eagleville, from March 12 to May 1, 2005. The Missouri Department of Conservation has a staff guide. Registration is free, but reservations are required. About 8 viewing spots are available each day (depending on the mix of adults and children) and guests must register in advance. It is a one-half mile walk uphill to the viewing blind. There is a vertical rise of about 100 feet over this half-mile distance.

Participants should expect to be in the viewing blind a minimum of two hours. There are no restroom facilities at Dunn Ranch. The closest facility is at the service stations at I-35 in Eagleville.

Dunn Ranch is owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy. Use of the viewing blind is by reservation only. To minimize disturbance to the prairie chickens, visiting the booming grounds/blind without a guide is not allowed. Late arrivals may not come to the viewing blind on their own. Departure from the parking lot to the viewing blind will be approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes before sunrise. Lightning will prohibit viewing. This may be an on site call by the guide on the day you arrive.

For more information e-mail Thomas.Nagel@mdc.mo.gov and copy Yvonne.Heerlein@mdc.mo.gov However, registration for viewing is best handled by phone (in case your preferred viewing date is filled and an alternative date needs to be chosen) - call the Missouri Dept. of Conservation Northwest Regional Office at 816-271-3100 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to register.

Please contact us at least one week (preferably sooner) before your

planned viewing date. Additional details will be supplied.

Sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation and The Nature Conservancy.

Viewing Location:

To reach Dunn Ranch from Interstate 35 at Eagleville, Mo. (near the Iowa line), go west on Hwy. N about ½ mile to Hwy. 69 in Eagleville. Turn right (north) on Hwy. 69 and go about 1/4 mile to Hwy. M. Turn left (west) on Hwy. M and go about 5.75 miles to the Dunn Ranch parking lot on the right (north) side of Hwy. M, directly across from the intersection of 170th Ave. and Hwy. M.

For information on Earth Day Celebrations in Missouri, contact Marty Kraft: Martyk@allspecies.org



BACKYARD BIRD CENTER

For All Your Wild Bird and Nature Viewing Needs

BOARDWALK SQUARE @ I-29 & Barry Road.

6212 NW Barry Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64154

Mark McKellar, Owner

816-746-1113

Answers to Birding Challenges:

1. The peregrine falcon is the fastest bird on Earth.
2. Grassland birds have shown the most consistent declines of any group of birds monitored.

Field Trips

SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH AND SUNDAY, MARCH 20TH: Sandhill Crane Migration, Nebraska's Platte River. Join us as we travel to witness the migration of the Sandhill Crane. This is one of nature's true spectacles as hundreds of thousands of cranes pass through this area each spring.

We will meet Saturday at the Holiday Inn located just south of I-80 at the Grand Island exit at 7:30 am, and travel the roads around the area to watch Sandhills as they feed, dance, interact, and then return to the river to roost at dusk. Sunday we will arrive early at a Greater Prairie Chicken lek to watch the display of the males. Last year, we were fortunate enough to see a Sharp-tailed Grouse displaying as well. We will visit some of the pothole region to watch for migrating waterfowl, raptors, and a possible Northern Shrike or two.

Please remember, it is still winter. Bring your cold weather wear. We have experienced mild temperatures to extreme wind chills on these trips. Travel, food, and accommodations are up to you, but we may be able to put you in touch with someone else if you wish to car pool. If you have any questions, or to RSVP, contact Mark Land at 913-381-4324 or email him at kestrelland@aol.com.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22ND: Jerry Smith Farm Woodcock Watch with Larry Rizzo (816-655-6254 x246, or larry.rizzo@mdc.mo.gov). Come to our traditional Woodcock haunt to witness the fascinating courtship display of this bird. 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 6:00pm. Call Larry during the day (after 12:00 noon) for confirmation if there is inclement or windy weather.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22ND to SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH : The 2005 Kansas Ornithological Society Spring Field Trip. Excursions will be made into Barber, Comanche and Kiowa counties with views at birding sites in Pratt County, approximately 75 miles west of Wichita, 58 miles southwest of Hutchinson, 50 miles south of Great Bend and 72 miles east of Dodge City. This is the operational headquarters of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, which is currently celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Three full-day birding trips will be held on Saturday (4/23), which will explore a large variety of ecological habitats. One will cover southeastern Pratt County and eastern Barber County from the Pratt area, through the Isabel Wetlands Wildlife Area, and on south to Hargis Lake near the Oklahoma Border. Pete Janzen gave a detailed description of the Hargis Lake area in the December issue of The Horned Lark (KOS newsletter). This trip will be led by Pete, Kevin Groeneweg, and Chris and Kristen Hase.

Two of the trips will include visits to lesser prairie chicken leks in Kiowa County as well as prairie dog towns, with an opportunity to view burrowing owls. One trip will then head south into the Red Hills of Barber County and Swartz Canyon in Comanche County, with its local specialty, rufous-crowned sparrow. This trip will be led by Stan Roth and Ken Brunson.

The second trip to the prairie chicken leks will then continue into central Kiowa County, including several sites around Greensburg, then back into northwestern Pratt County, including Texas Lake and the Pratt Sandhills Wildlife areas. This trip will be led by Gregg Friesen, and Lee and Jane Queal.

Sunday's activities will feature half-day trips in the immediate vicinity of Pratt itself, along the Ninnescah River in eastern Pratt County, and into areas in northern Pratt County. If there is enough interest, we will again include lesser prairie chicken viewing in Kiowa County. Membership in KOS is not required for participation in the Spring Field Trips. There will be a registration fee to cover cost of meals and related expenses; \$15 includes the catered Saturday evening dinner featuring beef brisket, or \$20, which will also include the lunch on Sunday. Saturday evening activities will include a *Birds of Kansas* presentation by Mike Blair, photographer for KDWP. We hope to have David Seibel, and perhaps others, talk to the owls in nearby Lemon Park.

The specific itinerary for the Spring Field Trip will be published in the March issue of the KOS Horned Lark, along with a registration form. Additional information will be posted on the KSBIRD - LISTSERV site in another three or four weeks.

If you are not a member in KOS but are interested in joining or finding out more about the organization, contact Mark Land, Membership Development Coordinator, at kestrelland@aol.com. Mark's snail mail address is 8447 Lamar, Overland Park, KS 66207.

Lakeside Nature Center Monthly Birdwalks with Elizabeth Kohler:

A bird walk will be held the LAST Sunday morning of each month in and around Swope Park. Participants will meet in the LNC parking lot at 7:45 am for an 8:00 am departure. These will be half-day (2 to 4 hours) excursions to various types of habitat. Dress appropriately for moderate hiking. For more information, contact Elizabeth Kohler at 816-353-1784 or lizkvet@yahoo.com.

Saturday Morning Bird Walks: Offered by the two Wild Bird Centers

Corinth Square Store: First Saturday each month, 4046 West 83rd, Prairie Village, KS. Meet at the store at 8:00am, bird for 2-3 hours, then return to the store. (913-381-5633)

Noland Road Store: First and Third Saturdays each month, 4201 South Noland Road, Independence, MO. Meet at the store at 7:30am, bird for 2-3 hours, then return to the store. (816-478-9399) Destination will be determined the morning of the walk. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them.

MORE INFORMATION: For more information about one of our field trips or to volunteer to lead a field trip, you can contact our field trip coordinator, Matt Gearheart at 913-568-4678 or mgearheart@gwhm.com.

NOTE: *Audubon field trip participants usually carpool; riders chip in for gas. Cars leave at the stated departure time. From beginning birders to experts, all are welcome! All-day trips include restroom stops. If you have doubts about whether a field trip is on because of inclement weather, call the trip leader up to one hour before scheduled departure. The trip leader can also provide additional details on the trip. Below: Prairie Chickens, Kyle Gerstner, www.lightshooter.com*



Burroughs Audubon Center And Library

At Fleming Park, Lake Jacomo

Open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

12:30-4:30

The center has a selection of bird feeders, bird guides and birdseed for purchase at nonprofit prices.
Directions: From Hwy 291 take Exit 12 east on Woods Chapel Road two miles. At the Fleming Park sign, turn south at the first road on the right. (816) 795-8177.

Burroughs Audubon Society
Of Greater Kansas City
5915 Caney Creek Dr.,
Kansas City, MO 64151

Forwarding and return postage guaranteed.
Address Correction Requested

Note:

Articles, photos, art, ads and announcements for the next issue are due March 20. Please mail to Jill DeWitt, 525 East 54th Street, KCMO 64110 or send by email to jdewitt1@kc.rr.com

Printed on recycled paper with soy ink.

**BURROUGHS AUDUBON SOCIETY OF GREATER KANSAS CITY
ANNOUNCES**



The 2005 Annual Dinner and Silent Auction
Saturday, April 9, 2005
6 PM--Silent Auction; 7 PM--Dinner; 6-7 PM--Cash Bar
Hillcrest Country Club
8200 Hillcrest Road, Kansas City, MO

(DIRECTIONS: From I-435, exit at 87th St. and turn WEST for 1 block. There is a BP/Amoco gas station on the NE corner of 87th & Hillcrest. Turn NORTH or RIGHT at that corner and proceed to 82nd & Hillcrest Rd. Turn LEFT into the Country Club.)

Featuring special guest speaker:

A. Townsend Peterson, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Ornithology and Curator of Bird Collections, Kansas University

DOOR PRIZES! All attendees will have the opportunity to win one of these fine books, each signed by the author:

In Focus by Jim Rathert: A wonderful collection of nature photographs from one of the Missouri Department of Conservation's premier photographers!

John James Audubon: The Making of an American by Richard Rhodes. This critically acclaimed, fascinating biography is the first new work about JJA in more than 40 years!

OPTICS RAFFLE! A drawing for Bushnell 8x42 NatureView binoculars will be held following the program (you must be present to win).

Our auction will feature many unusual items, including: vintage birding books, jewelry, handcrafted birdhouses, Marjolein Bastin collectibles, an iron/wicker plant stand, Theater League tickets, Andre's chocolate confections, certificates for massage therapy, and much, much more!

***For more information, or if you have special dietary requirements, please contact Phil and Nancy Reicher at 816-333-3876 or via email at preicher@kc.rr.com.

REGISTRATION FORM—PLEASE RETURN BY APRIL 2, 2005!

**Burroughs Audubon Annual Dinner /Silent Auction 2005
(PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION FORMS.)**

Name of attendee(s): _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of people attending: _____

Cost: \$29 per person (all attendees must purchase a dinner).

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

Send to: Phil and Nancy Reicher, 401 West 58th Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64113-1269

Phone: 816-333-3876, Email: preicher@kc.rr.com