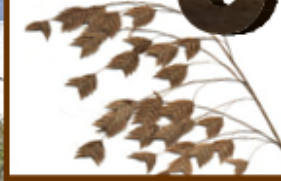




# Burroughs

## Audubon

Greater Kansas City Chapter of the National Audubon Society



Harris Sparrow Photo  
Courtesy of Linda Williams

[www.burroughs.org](http://www.burroughs.org)

## WingBeat

Volume 60, No. 3  
Fall 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 Fall Programs 2008

**September 4, 2008**

#### **Least Terns and Piping Plovers on the Kansas River**

Glen Covington of the US Army Corps of Engineers will describe efforts to maximize nesting success of these endangered species on the Missouri and Kansas rivers.

**October 2, 2008**

#### **Be 'True Blue' to Water Quality**

Kate Delehunt of the Blue River Watershed Association will discuss preservation of riparian habitat for birds and other wildlife in the corridor of one of our most "used and abused" local waterways.

**November 6, 2008**

#### **Our Missouri Bluebird Society**

Burroughs' own Michael O'Keefe will give us an "inside look" at a group monitoring and studying one of our favorite songbirds, and its efforts to educate the public about effective bluebird stewardship.

**December 4, 2008**

#### **Burroughs Audubon Holiday Party**

Come out for dinner and socialize with fellow birders as we have members sharing their own best bird photos! Contact our Program Coordinator, Elizabeth Stoakes, if you have pictures you'd like to show.

*Thank you  
Elizabeth Stoakes  
for a wonderful fall lineup!*



### 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@yahoo.com](mailto:BurroughsAnnounce-owner@yahoo.com). You will then receive an email with instructions. It's very easy to use and user friendly!

### General Meetings

1<sup>st</sup> 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

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

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## BOARD MEETINGS

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7 PM  
Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center  
4750 Troost Avenue – Kansas City, MO

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# The Art of Giving

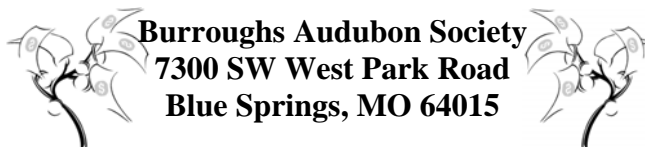
2

**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 our local habitat from the wetlands and its partnership with the Kansas City WildLands to its habitats and sanctuaries.

**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 to 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](http://www.audubon.org) and click on "Give now".



## From the President's Nest

by Jill DeWitt – Kansas City, MO

The past few months I've had the fortune to coordinate Audubon's global warming programs in Missouri. Meeting with other chapters, planning workshops and staying in touch with advocates have given us a deep appreciation for our common concerns. Audubon members care deeply about recent dramatic declines of bird populations from climate change and loss of habitat. As we strengthen programs to address these issues, we encourage you to involve others in working to effect change.

I hear from members who are taking giant steps to live clean carbon lives. Eating local, bicycling, planting native plants, line-drying clothes and using high efficiency appliances are all good actions. Our members are giving global warming presentations from the Audubon website to local groups, faith and reason-based communities, and participating in community and city green committees. We have members moving to clean energy communities with shared green spaces in Columbia. In St. Louis, members have made the change to a paperless newsletter. Audubon Missouri groups now conference electronically to lower travel emissions and costs. Many of you working as Citizen Scientists provide valuable local data for scientific studies. At the legislative level, we are pursuing conservation policy and laying the groundwork for sound energy legislation.

Thanks for making a difference. I look forward to meeting with those of you who are interested in chapter leadership at our Board meetings the third Thursday of each month at the Discovery Center. Good birding!

**Bank of America**



### Open an Audubon Checking Account and Support Audubon.

Audubon's Licensing Team invites you to open a National Audubon Society® personal checking account with Bank of America®. 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. To open an account, apply online or visit your neighborhood Bank of America.

*Editor's Note: I was already a Bank of America customer, so I visited a Personal Banker at my branch and had my existing accounts switched to Audubon accounts. It was easy and my account numbers did not change! Best of all, I received new Audubon cards in the mail just like the one pictured above. Giving to Audubon was never easier.*

## The Art of Giving from Christine Kline – Pleasant Hill, MO

When you give to Burroughs Audubon, you open countless opportunities for adults and children who want to learn, interact, and help conserve birds, wildlife, and their habitats. Offering these "healing" experiences can take you out of yourself, opening a broader understanding of those gifts that bless us every day. But did you know that Burroughs Audubon relies on the generosity of our members to help bolster our chapter's financial reserves?

I have a challenge for all our members – Find a friend who shares the love of birds, like you, and invite them to join so that they too can have a "healing" experience. If each of did this, we could have the potential to double our membership. Membership doesn't have to be restricted to just adults. Perhaps there's a young person to whom you have helped open the world of birding to them. All of us who serve on the Board of Directors and all who volunteer in countless other ways experience a burst of joy when we see this world opened to others, especially children.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said "The ornament of a house is the friends who frequent it." Perhaps birds are nature's ornaments? What better way to view them than with a friend? Use the form on page 2 titled *New Membership Application* to help a friend or young one join today.

## New Address Same Location

The Burroughs Audubon's Nature Center and Bird Sanctuary has a new address, but the location and the wonderful things it has to offer have not changed. So stop in and spend the afternoon checking out bird books, watching birds in the viewing room, and purchasing seed.

**Burroughs Nature Center & Bird Sanctuary**  
Anne Duffer, Manager

7300 SW West Park Road – Blue Springs  
(816) 795-8177

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday  
12:30 PM to 4:30 PM



**Kansas City Area**

## Missouri River Clean-up

A Missouri River Relief fall tradition!

October 4, 2008

LaBenite Park

Sugar Creek, Missouri

Catch the trash that's washed down stream from the big city. Check the website for more details and possible scheduling changes.

[www.riverrelief.org](http://www.riverrelief.org)

**September 26-28, 2008**



## Fall Meeting

at Camp Clover Point  
Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri

Visit [www.mobirds.org](http://www.mobirds.org) for more information.

# BURROUGHS EVENTS



**SATURDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 27, 2008**  
**2:00 PM to 10:00 PM**  
**Blayneys in Westport**  
 (Sponsored by Guinness)

## ACAA – Avian Conservation Alliance for the Americas raises over \$81,000

Alianza para la Conservación de Aves de los Américas

## International Conservation for Migratory Birds

by Kelly Gillespie – Peculiar, MO

ACAA will close our 2008 fiscal year having raised \$81,416 for Pico Bonito National Park in Honduras. ACAA will continue to grow, yet our focus will remain the same; to raise funds for bird conservation projects in Latin America. In fall, 11 billion migratory birds begin their annual trek to their southern home. Where is South? Many warblers, tanagers, orioles, swallows, and hummingbirds travel to Central America. Once there, they spend 8 months as tropical rain forest birds eating Latin American bugs and feasting on guava, mango, papaya and a host of other tropical delicacies. Wonder why your Baltimore oriole loves grape jelly so much? It's been eating soft, sweet, fruity fruits all winter. And with the attractive colors of the male oriole, it's easy to picture him as a rainforest bird flying through the canopy.

But these jewels of the world live in the midst of the world's most impoverished area. The tropics of Central America need our help if they are to be protected. Coffee plantations changing from shade grown to technified or sun grown, continued agriculture for cattle grazing and a burgeoning population put added pressure on an already stressed land. It's for this reason that only 5 billion make it back. One of the most important acts you can do is support organizations that will help this fragile land.

ACAA is dedicated to protecting land in Central America for bird conservation. Pico Bonito National Park and the Honduran Emerald Reserve are areas we sponsor. Our work promotes the conservation, management and habitat preservation of over-wintering grounds for our migratory birds. Our vision is to ultimately develop a Meso-American Corridor which will connect reserves from Panama to Mexico. This contiguous beltway of protected areas will prevent plants and wildlife from being trapped in small "pocket park" reserves and allow them to reproduce, evolve and roam naturally as they have for thousands of years.

I attended the MDC Conservation Commission meeting last Tuesday to describe our alliance of partners, share our vision for Latin American work, and formally request MDC match the partnership's funds. I was moved by how our Audubon-MDC partnership is a model of how a citizen group, linked with a government agency, can move mountains, or at least protect them. Thankfully, this concept is breaking new ground. We have the opportunity to make a substantial impact with our contributions.

So join us, won't you? Help us make a difference for our migratory birds. ACAA is sponsoring *BirdStock – A Musical Benefit for Migratory Songbirds* on September 27, 2008 from 2:00 PM to 10:00 PM at Blayneys in Westport. That's 8 hours of peace and music to help preserve Mother Earth's Migratory Songbirds. For advanced and reduced priced tickets please contact any board member of the Burroughs Audubon Society. To make a donation, send a check to Burroughs Audubon Society/ACAA, 7300 SW West Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015. All donations are tax deductible.



## Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge's Calendar of Events Fall 2008

**September 6 ~ 9 AM to 4 PM**  
 Volunteer Habitat Restoration Workday  
 (VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED)

**September 13 ~ 9 AM**  
 Refuge Volunteer Workday  
 (VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED)

**September 27 ~ 9 AM to 4 PM**  
 Volunteer Habitat Restoration Workday  
 (VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED)

**October 11 to November 30**  
 Refuge Office Opens on Weekends

**October 11**  
 5K Fun Run

**October 12**  
 Big Sit

**October 13 to 18**  
 National Wildlife Refuge Week

**October 18**  
 Volunteer Recognition Picnic

**October 25 ~ 9 AM to 4 PM**  
 Volunteer Habitat Restoration Workday  
 (VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED)

**November 8**  
 Deer Count and Hayride  
 Email Vic Miles at [vicmiles@juno.com](mailto:vicmiles@juno.com)  
 or call (816) 444-2459 to volunteer.

## Burroughs Audubon is a Friend of Squaw Creek





## National Wildlife Refuge Week

National Wildlife Refuge Week is October 12<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>. The National Wildlife Refuge System protects approximately 97 million acres of fish and wildlife habitat. Squaw Creek will help celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week with many special events (see cover page). Squaw Creek is home to over 301 species of birds. In September, pelicans are among the first heralds of fall. Pintail, gadwalls, and teal are early migrants who are soon joined by mallards, Canada geese, over 300 000 snow geese, and 100,000 ducks during peak times. Bald eagles migrate into the refuge in the late fall and early winter, and as many as 300 of them may be found here during peak season. Click on "Calendar of Events" at

[www.fws.gov/midwest/squawcreek](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/squawcreek).

## Squaw Creek Needs Your Help

Vic Miles, President of Friends of Squaw Creek and Burroughs Audubon Member is coordinating all volunteers from the greater Kansas City area. Volunteers are needed on the weekends from October 11<sup>th</sup> until Eagle Days which are December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers with a variety of physical capabilities will be needed:

### Volunteer Habitat

#### Restoration Workdays

September 4<sup>th</sup> ~ 9 AM to 4 PM

September 27<sup>th</sup> ~ 9 AM to 4 PM

October 25<sup>th</sup> ~ 9 AM to 4 PM

#### Refuge Volunteer Workday

September 13<sup>th</sup> ~ 9:00 AM

These workdays are used to prepare the refuge for migration (lunch provided). Work day tasks can include touch up painting, mowing grass, mulching trails, and the removal of invasive plants. Because Burroughs Audubon is a Friend of Squaw Creek, it encourages all its members to call or email Vic Miles via email at [vicmiles@juno.com](mailto:vicmiles@juno.com) or by telephone at (816) 444-2459 to volunteer and to take part in the experiences that Squaw Creek has to offer.

## Bird Profiles: Abundant vs. Rare

by Joann Garrett – Raymore, MO

Have you ever thought about what the Tundra Swan and the American White Pelican have in common? When I compared these birds, I realized they are both big white birds and their preferred habitat is marshes, rivers, lakes and reservoirs. Both species run across the water the get airborne. Both also use Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge as a stop-over point on their spring and fall migrations. However, during fall migration, one is abundant (a) and the other is rare (r.)

### American White Pelican (a)

*Pelecanus Erythrorhynchos*

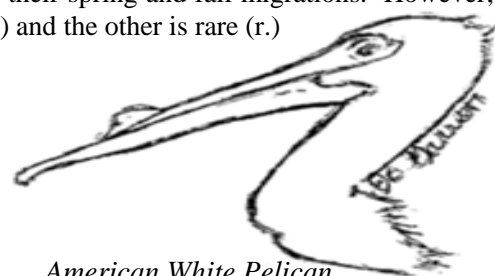
The American White Pelican is one of the largest birds in North America. It is graceful on the water as well as in the air. On land, the short-legged large white bird with a long flat orange-yellow bill, orange-yellow throat pouch, and crested head waddles as it walks. These traits of all pelicans inspired Dixon Lanier Merrit to pen the famous limerick "A wonderful bird is the pelican. His bill will hold more than his belican." (Austin 1961)

For 4 or 5 white pelicans to eat a group of fish, they must swim in a semi circle, facing the shore, splashing and flapping their 9' black tipped wings while driving the fishes into shallow water. They then easily fill their pouches, squeeze out the water, and swallow their catch.

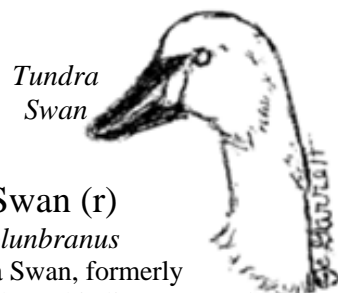
During nesting season, both sexes develop a horny protuberance on the bill which is shed soon after the eggs are laid. They breed in colonies from Central British Columbia and Great Slave Lake south to Central Manitoba, southern Texas, and southern California. Nests are a mere depression on a bare ground surrounded by a rim of dirt with plant stem bits of pumice and mud. There are usually two dull white eggs per nests and one rood per nesting season.

On April 1, 1995, Evelyn Johnson and I watched 200 American White Pelicans as they sat quietly and dignified. They bounced and pounded the water with both feet and flapped their black-tipped wings to get their 15 to 20 pound 62" body airborne. They strung out, synchronizing their flight, flap and sail, flap and sail, spiraling skyward and then they silently disappeared.

Editor's Note: Visit [www.squawcreek.org/sightings.html](http://www.squawcreek.org/sightings.html) to obtain current counts and sightings of Waterfowl, Shorebird, and Bald Eagles. For a bird checklist, visit [www.squawcreek.org/sq\\_birdlist.html](http://www.squawcreek.org/sq_birdlist.html).



American White Pelican



Tundra Swan

### Tundra Swan (r)

*Cygnus Colunbranus*

The Tundra Swan, formerly known as the Whistling Swan, does not whistle. Its bark-like loud, high pitched musical kow-wow-woo is often heard before it is seen.

It is great to observe these beautiful swans as they gracefully pitch upon the water. The peaceful spell is broken as the loud voices of the swans fill the air. The 13 to 20 pound birds run 15 to 20 feet along the surface of the water flapping their 85" wings to get airborne. It is estimated that with a tail wind, the Tundra Swan can travel at 100 miles an hour. Their migratory route between their wintering and breeding grounds is often 2,000 miles.

The Tundra Swans are monogamous. After mating, they are faithful for life. The 4 to 5 creamy white eggs are laid in a large bulky nest of moss and grass placed on an elevated mound on the tundra of arctic islands and Alaska. After the young are fledged and the adult's postnuptial molt is complete, the swans gather and leave the breeding area.

The swans are mostly vegetarians. They extend their long neck in shallow water submerging their heads to obtain vegetative roots, soft shelled fresh water snails and mollusks.

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# SPECIAL: Back to School

6

## A Book Review – Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature- Deficit Disorder

by Jan Alderson – Grain Valley, MO

I was fortunate to have heard Richard Louv speak at the Plaza Library last spring, and his book is one of those books I feel all educators and parents should read. As a veteran educator of almost forty years, I have found students to be lacking in a basic knowledge of nature and those important experiences in nature. When I ask students to name native flora or fauna of their natural areas, few can name any. It has always surprised me how few biology teachers actually take their students outside the classroom or on field trips to natural areas. Louv feels that stranger danger, involvement in the computer & tech games, as well as rapid loss of natural areas have dramatically decreased the number of kids who play outdoors.

He states that the idea that natural landscapes can be therapeutic and restorative is an ancient one that has filtered down through the ages. With the concern about rampant obesity, stress, and decrease in social skills, experiencing nature is even more important.

This book provides an in-depth look at the issues facing such a nature deficit.

## Audubon Adventures Supports Teachers



Audubon Adventures brings science to life for children wherever they live and has been named one of the top ten most popular environmental programs in K-12 schools. The 2009 theme is *Back from the Brink – Success Stories from the Endangered Species Act*. It celebrates four species that have benefited from protection under the Endangered Species Act in a four-part series that focuses on different North American species: Bald Eagles, American Alligators, Grizzly Bears, and Gray Whales. The recovery of populations of these “all-American” species is a testament to our country’s recognition that no organism lives-or dies-in isolation from those with which it shares the resources of our planet. With one of these species being the Bald Eagle, there’s no better time than the present to include Squaw Creek as a field trip.

To make Audubon Adventures part of your curriculum this year, please contact Kelly Gillespie by September 30<sup>th</sup> at:

[kelly.gillespie@leesummit.k12.mo.us](mailto:kelly.gillespie@leesummit.k12.mo.us).

## Support the No Child Left Inside Act Now

by Jan Alderson



Contact your congressional legislators 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. This Act would result in funding for the needed professional development, workshops, etc. The most helpful thing you can do now is to contact your Representatives and tell them to vote yes on the NCLI Act (see below). Call the capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 or visit [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and type in your zip code to locate contact information for your representative.

In the House HR 3036 and is out of committee and should be voted on in September when the House of Representatives reconvenes. In the Senate, the Act is S1982.

The September vote could shape the future of Environmental Education in the U.S. This money would provide funding for teacher training, educational & literacy programs. For more information:

[www.nclicoalition.org](http://www.nclicoalition.org)

(No Child Left Inside Organization)

[www.meea.org](http://www.meea.org)

(MO Environmental Education Association)

**ATTENTION TEACHERS:** *Squaw Creek, in partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation, will offer a Teacher Workshop at Squaw Creek’s Visitor Center October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Educational materials will be distributed to use during field trips to the refuge. Contact the Squaw Creek office at (660) 442-5754 for more information.*

## To Battle!

The following areas need your help:

**Isley Park Woods**

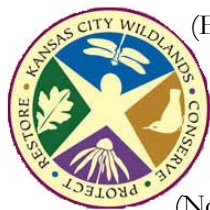
(Excelsior Springs, Missouri)

**Blue River Glades**

**Blue River Parkway**  
(Kansas City, Missouri)

**Hidden Valley**

(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.

## Top Concerns of Women in Conservation

There’s no shortage of reasons to get involved in helping to protect and preserve our environment.

The impact of environmental toxins on health, threats to birds and wildlife are top of the list. Still, others are concerned about parks, public green space, and global warming. But, there was another TOP concern of these women:

### Connecting Kids to Nature

[www.audubon.org/wic](http://www.audubon.org/wic)



**National Public Lands Day**  
A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

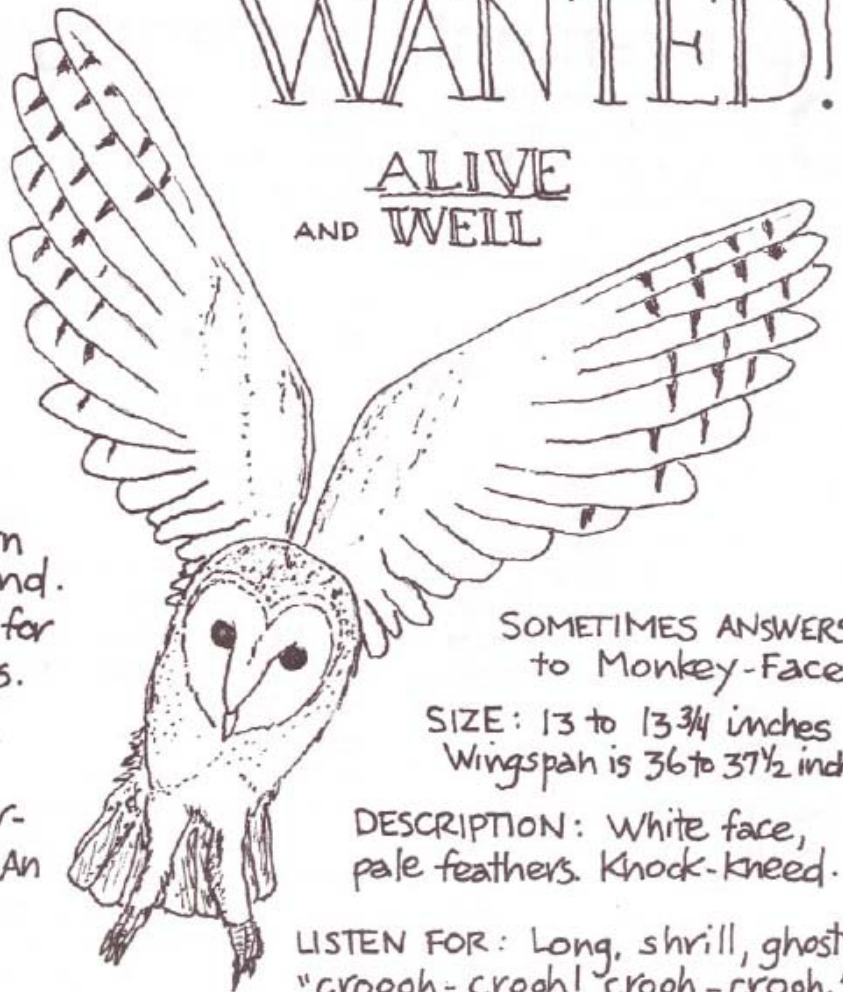
**Saturday, September 27, 2009  
9AM to 12PM**

Join Bridging the Gap in partnership with Kansas City, Missouri Parks and Recreation, as we celebrate National Public Lands Day in Kansas City’s Swope Park. We will remove invasive woody plants from a wild area in Swope Park. There will also be opportunities to plant trees and pick up trash in different areas of the park. Come and learn more about this Kansas City Park.

# Owly Facts

# WANTED!

👑 The TRUTH about EARS!  
Those tufts that stick up from the sides of an owl's head are NOT ears. The tufts are used to communicate with other owls. When the tufts are sticking straight up, the owl is saying, "THIS IS MY TERRITORY!"



ALIVE  
AND WELL

👑 It is TRUE that an owl can turn his head almost completely around. The owl's flexible neck makes up for eyes that cannot move like ours.

👑 It is TRUE that owls have excellent vision, and their hearing is even more spectacular. An owl can detect a mouse from 60 to 70 feet away.

SOMETIMES ANSWERS to Monkey-Face

SIZE: 13 to 13 3/4 inches  
Wingspan is 36 to 37 1/2 inches

DESCRIPTION: White face, pale feathers. Knock-kneed.

LISTEN FOR: Long, shrill, ghostly "croooh-crooh!" "crooh-crooh." Also makes coughing, huffing sounds.

## Kids' Page!

by Jeannie McDermott

HIDES in dark corners of barns, church steeples, or towers. Flies at NIGHT to hunt for food — mice, rats, gophers, moles, and other rodents.

WHOOO is this threatened bird?

LISTEN FOR these calls —

"Who cooks for you?  
Who cooks for you all?"  
Barred Owl

"Whoooooo" like a sad horse's whinny.  
Screech Owl

"Kee-yow! wow! (or Waow!)"  
Short-eared owl



CHECK OUT from your library

BARN OWLS by Wolfgang Epple.  
Fascinating photos of an owl family from the babies' birth to first flight.

OWLS by Glen Loates.  
Everything you want to know about North American owls.

ANSWER: The threatened bird is a barn owl. Barn owls are seldom seen in the Kansas City area because many barns have been torn down.



# ISSUES and ACTIONS

8

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](http://www.audubon.org/campaign).

## SPECIAL: 2008 Presidential Election

### Presidential Candidates Address Global Warming & Energy Priorities for First 100 Days

by Jill DeWitt

The Presidential candidates were asked by the League of Conservation voters about their priorities in the energy and global warming arena if sworn in as the 44<sup>th</sup> President. These priorities may be achieved by executive, legislative, or international actions or appointments.

#### **BARACK OBAMA**

"Putting a price on carbon is the most important step we can take to reduce emissions. As President, my first priority to combat global warming will be enacting an economy-wide cap on U.S. carbon emissions that will reduce U.S. emissions by the amount scientists agree is necessary (80%) for the U.S. to bear an equitable share of the global emissions reduction burden." Senator Obama would devote significant resources from a permit auction toward accelerating the development and deployment of low carbon technologies, addressing the economic challenges imposed on key industrial sectors, and providing meaningful incentives for action by developing countries. Senator Obama would increase fuel efficiency standards, introduce legislation to lift caps on buyer tax credits to encourage Americans to buy ultra-efficient vehicles, and encourage automakers to make fuel-efficient hybrids. He would give domestic automakers health care assistance in exchange for investing 50 percent of the savings into technology to produce more fuel-efficient vehicles. He would enable generous tax incentives to automakers for retooling assembly plants. To change the fuels we burn, he plans to introduce legislation to enact a National Low Carbon Fuel Standard, which will reduce the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions of passenger vehicle fuels sold in the U.S. by 10 percent in 2020 and require additional reductions of 1% annually thereafter. League of Conservation Voters Score, from voting record: 96

#### **JOHN McCain**

"Among my priorities will be working with Congress, national, state, and local leaders, and the full range of stakeholders to promote U.S. energy security and implement a national market-based cap and trade system tailored to protect the nation's economic, environmental, and national security. As part of this initiative, I will use the powers of the presidency to see that the international community, including China and India, fulfill its obligations to address climate change in a manner that will effectively protect the global environment and our economy. I will institute federal policies to help achieve an energy mix that is far more diverse, dependable, economical, clean, and sustainable. I would refer you and the LCV membership to the speech I delivered on energy security to the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) this past April which outlines a number of these initiatives and priorities. Another of my top objectives will be to draw into my administration the most qualified individuals in our country to fill key cabinet and other positions in these vital policy areas."

At the end of July, however, the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction came to agreement on a ballast bill that is even better than the language in the House. We may yet see some movement in this Congress. League of Conservation Voters score, from voting record: 26.

### Conservation Legislation Updates from the Hill

by Jill DeWitt

**Population and Habitat:** In late July, the House Foreign Operations Appropriations subcommittee approved \$600 million for international family planning (\$540 million for USAID's programs, and \$60 million for UNFPA). The Senate Appropriations Committee took up their version of the bill.

The committee approved \$520 million for international family planning (\$475 for USAID's programs and \$45 million for UNFPA). This represents the largest total amount ever recommended for international family planning programs (not accounting for inflation) and the largest one-year dollar increase in these programs on record. With the number of days for Congressional action before the election rapidly diminishing, this may be as far as this appropriations process moves this year; but nevertheless, the passage of these funding levels in committee has laid important markers for when the new Congress picks up the process in 2009.

**Farm Bill:** The Farm Bill finally passed but the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) recently came under the gun as farmers moved to put reserved land back into production. Proposed federal actions to allow this would put 8 to 24 million highly erodible acres back into production with devastating impacts on habitat and wildlife. But recently, the USDA abandoned these plans to open up CRP lands for agricultural production. On another positive note, a federal court just recently ruled that USDA-led efforts to allow ranchers and farmers to mow or graze livestock on CRP lands violated the national Environmental Policy Act.

### Renewable Energy on the Ballot

by Jill DeWitt

In February, Audubon Global Warming Action Workshop speaker P.J. Wilson talked with activists in Kansas City about a petition to bring Missouri in line with 24 other states through a Renewable Electricity Standard (RES) petition, which would require our utilities to invest in renewable energy to meet the global warming challenge. Many of you chose this issue for action and were instrumental in gathering 170,000 signatures required to put this initiative on the Missouri ballot in November. Now we need to see that the initiative passes. You can help by writing a letter or responding to Audubon Action Alerts. You can also join us at Conservation Committee meetings by contacting Nic Allen or Jill DeWitt. Climate change affects the health and survival of birds. Together we can work for a clean energy future.

...continued on page 9

...continued from page 8

USDA announced in May that it would allow landowners to open CRP land to hay production and cattle grazing without penalty, in response to rising feed prices.

**Invasive Species:** We are still stuck in neutral in the Senate after positive action to pass aquatic invasive species standards is attached as an add-on to the Coast Guard reauthorization bill in the House. At the end of July, however, the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction came to agreement on a ballast bill that is even better than the language in the House. We may yet see some movement in this Congress.

**Global Warming, Energy, Alaska:** We are working hard to keep oil drilling off our coasts and out of the Arctic Refuge, but the pressure to drill in answer to high gas prices is intense. We have to keep telling **everyone** we know that drilling now will only lead to reductions at the gas pump of a few pennies per gallon – in 10 years. Drilling will do nothing to end our dangerous addiction to oil, and we want real solutions – clean, sustainable alternatives, energy conservation, and efficiency.

To help bolster supporters of good environmental legislation in Congress, we're encouraging recess meetings with the simple message of thanks for their leadership and a plea to not cave in to short-sighted policies that will significantly harm our last special places and our beaches and do nothing to ease the pain at the pump. Instead, we need to keep pushing for solutions that end our addiction to oil.

We need your help to make these efforts successful. We need global warming legislation passed in short order – to save the Arctic and our beaches! We don't have much time.

**Appropriations, Endangered Species Act, Clean Water:** Prospects for doing individual appropriations bills are dim this year, and either a continuing resolution or an omnibus spending bill are likely. Still early work and numbers are promising markers for next year. ESA is quiet, which is probably a good thing. The Clean Water Restoration Act is pretty stymied for now, although a markup of the bill in the House has been rumored; we'll see.



Joe Alburty  
Deborah Barker  
Annette Becker  
Jennifer Burgdorfer  
Lori Burns  
Lisa Cianciolo  
Patricia Cole  
Jill DeWitt  
Cindy Duckworth  
John Duckworth  
Vivian Faulkner  
Barbara Ferrell  
Bill Fessler  
Sara Waris-Fisch  
Pamala Foresman  
Ann Funk  
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Patsy & Mike Gearheart  
Kelly Gillespie  
Sue Habiger  
Patricia Haller  
Janice Hallett  
Ted Habiger, Room 39

## Thank you Birdathon Donors

Patricia Herrmann  
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Lynn Youngblood

## Birdathon Raises Over \$3,800 By Paul Habiger – KCMO

Thanks to everyone for making the 2008 Birdathon a successful fundraiser. Congratulations to our highest achievers:

**Girlie Birders \$1,124.80**

(Largest fund raising team)

**Roadrunners \$934.00**

(2<sup>nd</sup> largest fund raising team)

**Matt Gearheart \$392**

(Largest individual fund raiser)

**Cindy Duckworth \$350**

(2<sup>nd</sup> largest individual fund raiser)

Funds raised by Birdathon will help Burroughs Audubon support local and international conservation projects. These projects help preserve and restore critical habitat for birds, native plants and wildlife. Some of the projects to receive funding are: Audubon Adventures (An environmental curriculum for primary schools), KC WildLands (Habitat restoration work), Friends of Squaw Creek, Burroughs Audubon Nature Center & Bird Sanctuary, Research and Avian Populations Studies, (Performed by KU Ornithology Graduate Students), and Conservation Initiatives in and around Pico Bonito National Park in Honduras (A project that will help preserve and monitor critical international over-wintering habitat for our region's summer songbirds).



*Learn the latest in reducing your energy costs, reducing your carbon footprint, and what you can do today to help us fight global warming.*

*Over 15 alternative energy vehicles on display!*

## October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Energy Fair & Sustainable Homes Tour

Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center

4750 Troost ~ Kansas City, Missouri

8:00 AM \* Tickets Available at the door

8:30 AM \* Welcoming Remarks by Guest Speaker

12:00 – 1:30 PM \* Guest Speaker and Lunch (\$5)

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM & 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM

Morning Bus Tour (\$15)

Concurrent Exhibitors & Workshops

Visit [www.heartland-res.org](http://www.heartland-res.org) for advanced tickets, updates and information.

# BIRDS and 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. Go to [www.burroughs.org](http://www.burroughs.org) to view upcoming events or click on "Contact Us".

## NEW Park Opens More Opportunity for Viewing Migrants

by Michael O'Keefe – Blue Springs, MO

Keep your eye out for migrants at the newest park in Independence – *Waterfall Park*. Located behind Bass Pro Shop at I-70 and 470, the center of the park is on the western edge of the 18 acre lake, which was created in a partnership with Missouri Department of Conservation. Picnic tables, shelter and restrooms are located amongst sycamore and cottonwood trees. A paved path through the trees continues out in the open around the lake eventually connecting with a section to be built on the hillside along the road. A variety of habitat types are built into the park, including shallow lake edges for migrating shorebirds. To the west is a paved path meandering along the road connecting with Lee's Summit Road, ideal for walking and birding as it criss-crosses the creek and passes a small pond or two. Indeed, I saw several Lesser yellowlegs and a small flock of peeps earlier this year.

## CACHE, Whiplash, SPARKS & Parks

by Jim Zellmer – Blue Springs, MO and Christine Kline

When you visit the Audubon Society of Missouri's website, you might have noticed that there is a heading you can click on, "CACHE/SPARKS." Besides the fact that cache rhymes with whiplash and sparks rhymes with parks, you may be clueless on its meaning. Have you ever gotten whiplash while birding as you screamed, "Where did that bird go?" The truth is CACHE/SPARKS is critical to funding bird habitat.

So from the beginning, CACHE stands for Conservation Area Checklists and SPARKS stands for the State Parks project. The Audubon Society of Missouri entered into a cooperative agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish web-based databases that collect bird occurrences at conservation areas and state parks. More importantly, its success is reliant upon you.

This is a wonderful opportunity for birders to put their skills to good use by assisting in the development of checklists and to further funding for bird habitats. But this also means that we have to be in the field birding so that we can gather the data. How does it work? It's simple. Plan a day trip to go birding with friends. Minimize the impact to the environment by traveling in groups. Decide which conservation area(s) or state park(s) you want to visit. Then, go to [www.mobirds.org](http://www.mobirds.org) and click on "CACHE//SPARKS." If you're going to visit a conservation area, click on "view checklists" under "CACHE." If you're going to visit a state park, click on "view checklists" under "SPARKS." Every area has a current checklist that you can print out and take with you. Keep track of the birds you see. When you get home, visit the same [www.mobirds.org](http://www.mobirds.org) website but this time, click on "CACHE Data Entry" or "SPARKS Data Entry" right from the home page. This allows you to enter the birds you saw so that they can be tallied, categorized, and catalogued for future use.

Through the cooperative efforts of all of us that comprise the birding community, we can make a difference in the birding world. We can work together to do the work that needs to be done and at the same time help the environment.

*Editor's Note: In order to enter data, you must first register. Entering data then requires that you sign in using your email and a password that you created.*

## Birding Listserves

Area birders can stay abreast of local, state, and regional bird sightings through many Listserves. Below are two sites for Missouri and Kansas. More links can be accessed at [www.burroughs.org](http://www.burroughs.org) by clicking on "Listserves."

### MISSOURI (The Audubon Society of Missouri)

Send an email with "SUBSCRIBE MOBIRDS-L" and your name in the subject line to [listserv@po.missouri.edu](mailto:listserv@po.missouri.edu).

### KANSAS (The Kansas Ornithological Society)

Go to [www.ksbirds.org](http://www.ksbirds.org), click on "Archives and Information" and then click on "Join or leave the list."

## Missouri Bluebird Society



### Announces its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference

**September 13, 2008  
Hilton Garden Inn**

19677 E. Jackson Drive ~ Independence, Missouri  
Sandy Siebert, Bluebirds Across Nebraska (BAN)  
**Nest Box Predators & Competitors**

Mark McKellar, Backyard Birds, Inc  
Missouri's Sparrows- More than Little Brown Birds

John Hess, University of Central Missouri  
**A virtual tour of the Galápagos Islands**

Jack Dodson, President – Missouri Bluebird Society  
**Growing Mealworms – A Supplemental Food**

Burroughs' own Michael O'Keefe  
**Bluebird Trails in the Kansas City area**  
Followed by a guided tour of the Burr Oak Woods  
Nature Center Bluebird Trail

Additionally, in a pre-conference presentation,  
Steve Garr will present "**Bluebirding for Everyone**"  
on September 12, 2008 at 4PM  
at the Burr Oak Woods Nature Center

Details and registration information  
are online at [www.missouribluebird.org](http://www.missouribluebird.org).



Greater Kansas City Chapter of the National Audubon Society



# Burroughs Audubon

## Announcing Rewarding Field Trips for Fall '08

**Friday, September 12th ~ ½ Day Trip, 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM**

**Weston Bend State Park with Laura Gilchrist**

This trip will start with walking the first mile of the paved bicycle trail looking for warblers and other goodies. We will then visit the overlook to see if the Hooded Warbler is still around and check out the parking lot area and surroundings near Bluff Road and the railroad tracks. Meet at the bicycle trail parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Cold water and granola bars will be provided to keep thee refreshed and chipper. For questions, contact Laura at (816) 835-9595 or [lgi.bird@gmail.COM](mailto:lgi.bird@gmail.COM).

**Sunday, September 21st ~ 2 PM to 6 PM**

**The Fourth Annual Smithville Lake Pelagic with Kristi Mayo**

Participants will have the opportunity to get a completely different view of this birding hotspot from the deck of a pontoon boat. Target birds will be rare gulls, phalaropes, waterfowl, and grebes. Last year participants enjoyed close-up views of an immature Sabine's Gull, and we'll be aiming for even better results this year. Space is limited to 18 participants and the cost will be \$20 per person which will cover the expenses for boat rental. Meet at 1:30 PM at the Camp Branch Marina. After the tour, there will be time to drive to the dam to watch the gull roost at sunset. To reserve your spot, please contact Kristi Mayo by email at [kristi@writebirds.com](mailto:kristi@writebirds.com) or at (816) 289-7828. After making your reservation, please make your check payable to Kristi Mayo and mail it to 1807 Clear Creek Dr., Kearney, MO 64060 before September 15, 2008. For directions, a lake map, and more information on the area visit [www.nwk.usace.army.mil/smithville/smithville\\_home.html](http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/smithville/smithville_home.html).

**Saturday, October 11th ~ 8 AM**

**Black Hoof Park and Lake Lenexa with Matt Gearheart**

This is a great opportunity to check out this newest city park in western Lenexa and to contribute towards establishing a bird checklist for the area. Extensive paved trails will make for easy walking and birders of all abilities are invited to join in. For a map of Blackhoof Park visit [www.ci.lenexa.ks.us/parks/LenexaParksWest.html](http://www.ci.lenexa.ks.us/parks/LenexaParksWest.html). Meet in the parking lot and bring water and snacks as well as a light lunch. This trip will also continue into the afternoon where we can bird at nearby **Shawnee Mission Park**. For more information, please contact Matt at (913) 568-4678 or [mgearheart@gwhm.com](mailto:mgearheart@gwhm.com).

**Monday, October 13th**

**A Magical Mystery Birding Tour with Doug Willis**

This is a great excuse to take a day off from work and bird a location which will remain unknown until the day of the trip. Well, OK...Doug might tell you the day before if you contact him. He'll be tracking weather patterns and occurrences of rarities to ultimately determine the destination. Bring food and beverages for a full day of birding. Meeting place is to be determined. If you're interested in this adventure, contact Doug at (816) 694-1589 or [birdsnbrews@yahoo.com](mailto:birdsnbrews@yahoo.com).

**Saturday, October 25th ~ ½ Day Trip beginning at 7 AM**

**Baker Wetlands with Nancy Leo**

Come find winter sparrows at Baker wetlands near Lawrence, Kansas. Le Conte's Sparrow, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Lingering Rails, Marsh and Sedge Wrens are possibilities. We will meet at Wendy's at Woodland Drive and K-10 to carpool due to limited parking. We will walk the road, but bring rubber boots if you want to help chase up sparrows. Contact Nancy Leo for more information at (913) 205-8847 or [njleo@earthlink.net](mailto:njleo@earthlink.net)

**Saturday, November 15th ~ 6:30 AM**

**Lyon County, KS with Matt Gearheart**

We will meet at the parking lot of the Olathe Holiday Inn at I-35 and 151st Street. We'll repeat last years' stop at BETO Junction Truck Stop for breakfast (home of the world's largest cinnamon rolls.) Extra calories will fuel a great birding day at John Redmond Reservoir, Melvern Lake, Wolf Creek and other stops in search of Smith's Longspurs, grebes, loons, scoters, gulls, sparrows, and Long-eared Owls. Bring food and beverages for this all-day trip which will conclude with a bird tally and finger-lickin' good barbeque (ribs highly recommended) at Guy & May's Restaurant in Williamsburg, KS. For more information, please contact Matt at (913) 568-4678 or [mgearheart@gwhm.com](mailto:mgearheart@gwhm.com).

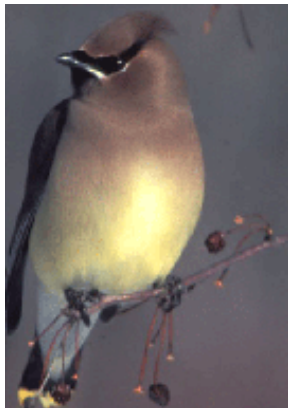
**Saturday, November 29th ~ Carpool at 7:30 AM; Visitor Center at 8:45 AM**

**Squaw Creek NWR with Mike Stoakes**

To carpool, meet at the Wild Bird Center at 83<sup>rd</sup> and Mission Road in Prairie Village. This is an all day driving trip on the Refuge's 13 mile auto tour. Bring a sack lunch, snacks, optics, field guides, and FRES radios. Also, dress in layers, as conditions are often cold and windy at this time of year. We'll witness multitudes of Snow Geese and waterfowl, as well as dozens of Bald Eagles. After lunch, we'll make another loop around the refuge or explore other nearby areas, such as Big Lake State Park. Contact Mike Stoakes at (816) 554-1956 or [mstoakes@juno.com](mailto:mstoakes@juno.com).

*Thank you Pat St. John and Helen Hewins for an impressive lineup!*

# WILDCAT GLADES CONSERVATION & AUDUBON CENTER'S 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GROOVIN' AT THE GLADES



Dine in casual elegance by scenic Shoal Creek in Joplin's Wildcat Park. Though held outdoors under a tent, there's no roughing it here! The evening begins with live music and cocktail hour at 6:00 PM. The banquet style dinner will be catered by Continental Catering and served on china at tables that are elegantly set. The program includes a live animal show featuring water-loving animals. Roger Still, Vice President of the Mississippi River Region of the National Audubon Society, is the guest speaker.

For more information, call (417) 782-6287 or visit [www.wildcatglades.audubon.org](http://www.wildcatglades.audubon.org).

## Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS) FALL MEETING



Friday, October 3, 2008

Informal Gathering

Saturday, October 4, 2008

Impromptu Birding, Student Papers,  
& Evening Banquet

Sunday, October 5, 2008

Formal Field Trips

Ft. Hays State University

Fort Hays, Kansas

For more information and registration visit

[www.ksbirds.org/kos/kosfall2008.html](http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/kosfall2008.html)

*Make new friends, visit scenic Kansas,  
and improve your birding knowledge!*



Do you need a ride to a Meeting?  
Visit [www.burroughs.org](http://www.burroughs.org) and click on "Meetings"



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