

Burroughs Audubon

Greater Kansas City Chapter of the National Audubon Society



Harris Sparrow Photo
Courtesy of Linda Williams

WingBeat

7300 West Park Road ~ Blue Springs, MO 64015
(816) 795-8177
www.burroughs.org

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In This Issue of

WingBeat

<u>Burroughs 2011 Birdathon Report</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>President's Nest</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Donor Recognition and Giving Opportunities</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Robert G Fisher</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>No Child Left Inside</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Save the Current River</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Conservation in Action</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Conservation Matters</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Nature Center News</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Nature Center Calendar</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Saturday Bird Walks</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Squaw Creek Calendar</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Field Trips</u>	<u>10-11</u>
<u>Fall 2011 Programs</u>	<u>12</u>

Lesser Humanlegs Identify Most Birds in Burroughs 2011 Birdathon

By Paul Habiger

Participation in the annual birdathon this year was great. Seven teams and 22 individuals participated in the friendly birding competition and fundraising event yielding the highest team and individual numbers since the annual event was restarted in 2008.

In the all day birding category, with 137 species, the Lesser Humanlegs with team members Heidi Retherford, Hilda Mendez, Gary Johnson, Don Stout and Paul Habiger, won the friendly competition by identifying the most bird species. The results for the other teams were: Roadrunners with team members Mike Stoakes, Jeff Cohen, and Paul Habiger- 124 species, Waxwing Warriors with Shari Harden, Sherry Leonardo, Pat St. John, and Karen Stair- 123 species, Girlie Birders with Laura Robinson, Susan Rohrmeier, and Sara Scheil- 106 species, and McBirder's Birders with Bob Babich, Carol Babich, Mark McKellar, Mary Nemecek, Lisa Owens, Ruth Simmons, and Carrie Wadlow- 104 species. In the part day birding category, with 39 species, the James A Reed Rovers with team members Sara Scheil and Carolyn Smith identified the most birds. Another team, the Burr Oak Birders also with team members Sara Scheil and Carolyn Smith identified 27 species on a reported hot and windy day.

Altogether the teams identified 176 different species. Eleven species identified were on the Audubon Watchlist; one on the red and ten on the yellow lists. Species on the red list are declining rapidly and/or have very small populations or limited ranges, and face major conservation threats. These typically are species of global conservation concern. Species on the yellow list are declining or rare. These typically are species of national conservation concern.

The birdathon was a successful fundraiser. Pledges raised totaled more than \$2000 and will help Burroughs support local and international conservation projects. If you need to send in your pledge or wish to contribute to the birdathon, make checks payable to Burroughs Audubon and mail to: Burroughs Audubon, 7300 West Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015. Thanks to all for your participation and generous support of Burroughs Audubon.

Burroughs Audubon Society 2011 Birdathon Donors

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- James L Fisk
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- J Alan Myers

Interested in contributing to *WingBeat*?

Articles, photos, or tips on events and topics to cover are always appreciated!

Your feedback is important! Please send us your questions, comments and concerns.

Contact *WingBeat* editorial staff at

newsletter@burroughs.org.

BOARD MEETINGS

3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM

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President's Nest

By Paul Habiger, President

It's in the heat of the summer as I write this letter. Birding slows down during summer but many nesting birds can be seen and/or heard. We all probably have a favorite birding spot. My favorite spot during summer is Jerry Smith Park in South Kansas City which contains original prairie that has been under restoration for many years. The chorus of bird songs present on an early morning walk is amazing. Dickcissels, Indigo Buntings, and Field Sparrows are the main singers but Meadowlarks, Towhees, Chats, Yellow-billed Cuckoos and other birds join the chorus at times. Walking amid the prairie grasses and ever-changing kaleidoscope of wildflowers and butterflies is a delight. No matter what time of year it is, visit and support your local parks and wild lands. One way to support our parks and wild lands is by joining a work group later this fall to remove invasive plants. Notices on dates and times will be posted on Burroughs Announce and www.kcwildlands.org.

A good way to stay in touch with what is happening is to sign up for Burroughs Announce administered by Mike Stoakes. On Burroughs Announce, current upcoming announcements on Burroughs and other related community activities are sent out via e-mail to all individuals who have joined the electronic message system. To subscribe send an e-mail message to:

BurroughsAnnounce-subscribe@yahoogroups.com (no subject line required).

The fall migration will soon be upon us. Some shorebird species even start their migration to their winter homes during July. Check out the list of field trips scheduled from late summer to fall. It's a great list of trips put together by our Field Trip coordinators, Sherry Leonardo, Mike Stoakes, and Pat St. John. All the trips are open and free to everyone and led by knowledgeable trip leaders.

Beginning in September, the start time of our general monthly meeting at the Discovery Center will be changed to 6:45 PM. This earlier starting time is necessitated by the need for the Discovery Center staff to secure the building in a timely manner without incurring additional costs. We must be clear of our meeting room by 8:45 PM so that security can have the center closed by 9 PM.

Please contact me or any member of the board if you have any concerns or issues. Feel free to join us at our regular monthly board meetings. The meetings are always open to members. The meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month and start at 7 PM. We meet at the Kauffman Center, 4801 Rockhill Road, Kansas City MO .

Last but not least, I'd like to thank all the past and present Burroughs officers, board members, program coordinators and volunteers for their service in support of Burroughs. Our dedicated and energetic members help us meet Audubon's Mission: To conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.



From left: Tony Robyn of Audubon MO, Lee Wilbeck of MDC, and Burroughs members Christine Kline, Elizabeth Stoakes, Heidi Retherford, and Ashley Carlson celebrate IBA signage at Weston Bend State Park during Wings of Weston Festival, May 2011. Photo by Jill DeWitt.

Volunteers are always welcome! If you are interested in joining a committee or supporting any Burroughs Audubon Society' projects, please don't hesitate to speak up! Any of the board members, committee chairs, or coordinators would be happy to hear from you and help you get involved!

The Art of Giving

“For it is in giving that we receive.” It is because of the generosity of Burroughs members like you that we are able to support graduate studies in ornithology, promote restoration of critical habitat, maintain our local sanctuaries, and provide funding for Audubon Adventures in metro classrooms. Burroughs also offers bird walks, field trips, guest speakers and educational programs that are free to everyone. Donations help to support ongoing projects locally, such as those at Squaw Creek (our adopted National Wildlife Refuge), and abroad, such as efforts in Central America where neotropical migrants face devastating habitat loss on their over wintering grounds. As a valued giver, you can be confident knowing habitats are protected, children are learning to be good stewards of the Earth, and everyone is enjoying the birds in our woods, prairies, and wetlands, thanks to your generosity. Donate to Burroughs Audubon by joining the National Audubon Society or with a direct donation to Burroughs Audubon Society, your Greater Kansas Chapter of the National Audubon Society. You can become an Audubon Advocate who pledges a monthly gift, or honor a loved one with a donation to Burroughs’ newly established Legacy Fund. Your generosity will be felt close to home and half a world away.

Burroughs Audubon Society thanks the following donors for their contributions to The Daniel Stern Speakers Program Fund:

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***Burroughs Audubon is currently expanding its giving in the
 field of education, including Audubon Adventures through its
 Library and Education Committees.
 Your donations will help support us in these areas.***

*Your donation to Burroughs Audubon Society is tax deductible.
 Burroughs Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) organization.*



Robert G. Fisher, **A Man of Many Hats**

By Christine Kline

Many people who knew Bob had actually never met him. Instead, they knew him through the Missouri LISTSERV (www.mobirds.org) as an avid birder who had a great willingness to teach, share, and express his love of birding with those who were less knowledgeable. Often, those who read his postings immediately became students at the first word written. His poems he shared filled in the cracks when birding was slow and flooded us with an elevated sense of discovery when birding was good.

Bob was born in New York City and spent his youth on Long Island, NY. He received his law degree from Columbia University and he served everyone from corporate law at a high-powered New York City law firm to the nation's poor in court. He appeared before the US Supreme Court and taught at two law schools. On May 13, 2011 he passed away at the age of 76.

To hold all the hats that Bob wore would require several large trunks. In researching and interviewing, I learned that a life of many hats is a life fulfilled. Bob was an avid birder. He was possibly the last person to have reliably heard the Bachman's Warbler in 1962 while he was vacationing in South Carolina. The Bachman's Warbler used to nest in the canebrakes of south Missouri. This habitat was largely lost because farmers cut the cane to use as

winter livestock forage. As a child, Bob identified an American Golden Plover during a field trip at Plum Island, Massachusetts. This bird would be identified later, in the same spot, by Ludlow Griscom – the man who practically “invented” bird watching and was a mentor to Roger Tory Peterson. Bob's identification of the plover, the bird that was challenged by everyone in the group, was confirmed later that day when the two groups met. Bob considered this one of his greatest triumphs as a child and as a birder.

Bob was a writer. He wrote essays, a book, and poetry. The Independence Examiner interviewed Bob a few years ago. The heading of the article read *Former Attorney is a Published Poet. "Independence resident Bob Fisher has had poetry published under the pen name Robert G. Fisher in Present Magazine, The Lyric Poetry Magazine, The Mid America Poetry Review and Poetry Miscellany...Fisher has avidly read and written poetry for about 10 years."* When asked where he gathered his inspiration, it was no surprise that one of his answers was “nature.”

Bob presided over The Burroughs Audubon Society, the greater Kansas City chapter of the National Audubon Society (www.burroughs.org) and he led a campaign to acquire a wildlife sanctuary. Perhaps what we know Bob best for though, was his birding. He birded in 49 states and 8 Canadian provinces. Bob was closely involved in the lives of his two daughters and spent quality time with them, especially when

it came to vacationing which often coincided with birding. Whatever the destination, there would be camping and things to do, but mostly because somebody had spotted some rare bird in the area.

Gary Johnson, a close friend who birded with Bob said that when they birded, Gary was Bob's ears and Bob was Gary's eyes. Because Bob was deaf in one ear, he used to bribe his daughter with Hershey bars because he couldn't hear the direction the birds were coming from. He'd recognize the calls but needed someone to point to the source so he could see the bird. He always had patience with those who were less knowledgeable.

In the early 1970s, Bob birded regularly with Mick McHugh, Chris Hobbs, and Mel Cooksey within a 100-mile radius of Kansas City. Often birded were Marais Des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge, the Kansas Corps of Engineers Lakes, Taberville Prairie, Shell Osage Wildlife Management Area, Montrose Conservation Area, and Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge. They also frequented Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge in central Kansas. Bob was a member of the Missouri Bird Records Committee and was quite an environmentalist. Mel Cooksey said, “He was a brilliant individual. He was ‘old school’ when it came to birding and often broke away from college to chase rarities. He was a very good birder. He was a shorebird

expert who knew molt sequences and vocalizations and was a great pelagic birder. He was a very distinguished, wise old barrister.”

Mel remembers, “When birding with Bob out on the open road, he was one of a kind. He described himself as having an abrasive personality to those who didn’t know him. He even had a scowl, but he had a zany slap-stick style of humor. He had personal witticisms and because of this, he was great on birding trips because he never wore out.” Laughing, Mel said, “Everyone expected Bob to die a fiery death while driving out on the open interstate. So I was very pleased to hear he went peacefully.” I didn’t know Bob. I never birded with him. But even I, Christine Kline, beginner birder and relatively new member of Audubon had heard of Bob Fisher’s driving. He was a terrible driver! Once, he backed his vehicle into a lake and had to be towed out using cables because he was submerged. He totaled a car trying to ford a deep stream. He backed up once to turn around and hit the same pole at least ten times as he drove forward, drove back, drove forward, drove back...finally he said “What is that?!” Bob even overturned in a ditch with Paul Lehman, top birder and field guide author aboard. I suppose it’s not surprising that when he ventured out with a group and offered to drive, there were several resounding “NO’s” from the group each expressing how much they would “love to drive!”

Once when Bob and Mel were out birding, some crazy local drove out and around Bob’s vehicle, driving over the speed limit, and drove right into the water ahead of them. The two laughed. Later, in the same spot, another local drove up behind them. Mel asked Bob, “Do you suppose we could guide them into the water too? Would that be illegal?” Bob responded, “Stupidity is not illegal. Therefore, becoming an accessory to stupidity is also not illegal.”

In Bob’s own words, “I have too many friends to mention by name. I am not afraid to die. I have had a great life and have been privileged to share it with all of you. Now, it’s time to find out what comes next. I might have made a bigger splash, but my life could not have been much more interesting.” (Bob wrote his own eulogy and planned his funeral.)

Burroughs Audubon, the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the National Audubon Society has established The Robert G. Fisher Youth Education Fund. While we won’t be teaching our youth Bob’s driving habits, we will be opening up the world of birding to young people, inspiring a new generation of potential birders, who will join us to chase the rarities and identify birds by sound and sight. We’ll encourage them to travel to 49 states and 8 Canadian provinces to build a life list, just as Bob did. Maybe some of these youth will order their hamburgers in memory of Bob on their birding trips – a plain burger on a bun with nothing on it. Evidently, it was quite difficult to get a plain hamburger and this would infuriate him. Bob would say, “How hard can it be? Did I ask for mustard? Did I ask for ketchup?!” Mel Cooksey said, “It was amazing how quick we could go from peaceful to totally infuriated in a matter of seconds.”

Bob’s last posting to the Missouri LISTSERV was posted on April 2, 2011. It read, “Gary Johnson and I birded Squaw Creek, then Bob Brown today. The managers of Squaw Creek have done controlled burns of grass and cattail stalks, and the water is way down. Therefore, there is good shore bird habitat all over the place and good visibility -- for the time being at least. There are Coots everywhere and lots of waterfowl. Waterfowl included groups of Snow Geese walking on the dikes, most of which were very tame and included Ross' Geese, which could be viewed at close range. Also a couple of Trumpeter Swans and a larger group of swans that took off before we could look for Tundras among them. In general, the ducks

are thinning out, except for lots of Blue-winged Teal and Shovelers coming through, but there are still thousands present. We met Doug Willis on the dike. He had arrived at earliest light and found a shorebird bonanza in Pintail Pool, including the following: Killdeer, Am. Golden-Plover, G. Yellowlegs, L. Yellowlegs, DUNLIN, Pectoral S., Baird's S., Least S., L-B Dowitcher, W. Snipe. We eventually found all of the shorebirds Doug reported, except for the Dunlin. Doug also reported seeing two Sandhill Cranes early in the morning and 2 NEOTROPIC CORMORANTS at Bob Brown. He showed us good photos of the NECOs. We went on the Bob Brown. We found 8-9 D-C Cormorants where Doug had seen 25. They took off, and one seemed smaller than the others in flight. However, we could not be sure. All in all, a lovely day. Spring is happening. Bob Fisher – Independence, Missouri.”

**To donate to the
Robert G. Fisher
Youth Education Fund,
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Burroughs Audubon Society,
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24406 Timberlake Trail,
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**Please memo:
Robert G. Fisher.**



**Passing Flights:
Burroughs Audubon Society
Remembers**

Rodney Eugene Wilson

November 6, 1926 to June 5, 2011
Rodney Wilson often contributed to Audubon based on his international adventures. Our thoughts and prayers are with Priscilla.

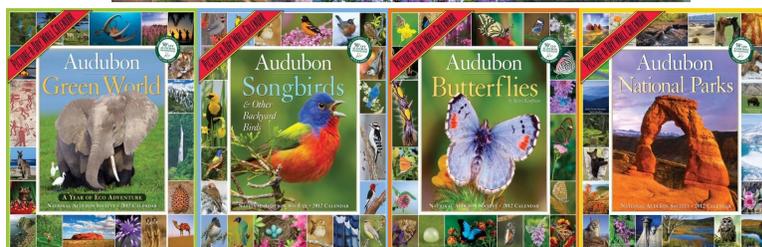
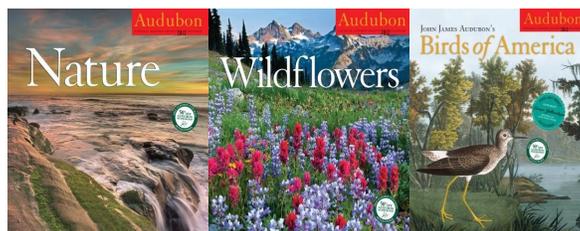
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Education is heading outside in Kansas City;

Legislation in Congress would help

Environmental education is back; this is the time of year teachers use nature as a tool to increase learning in various discipline. Local schools and educators increasingly are taking students outside to learn, and seeing the benefits of environmental education in student achievement, test scores, motivation, critical thinking and other skills. But schools are pressed for resources to implement this promising tool, a challenge that would be addressed by legislation introduced in Congress: the No Child Left Inside Act. Environmental education uses the outdoors as a tool for hands-on learning. Teachers, for instance, may ask students to collect and assess data on the water quality of a nearby stream. Studies show environmental education can improve student achievement and test scores, especially in math, science and other core subjects, help students think more effectively, provides a real-world context for classroom instruction, and prepares them for the 21st century workforce. Environmental education in various forms started in the 1970s. With the advent of standardized testing, and the passage of the federal No Child Left Behind law in 2001, many schools and educators scaled back environmental education to focus on reading and math--subjects covered by high-stakes standardized tests. In recent years, however, environmental education has enjoyed a dramatic resurgence, perhaps as educators reacted to "teaching to the test" approaches. But educational resources are stretched thin, especially to train teachers in environmental education, and to plan effective programs. A bill in Congress, the No Child Left Inside Act, could help. The bill would provide financial and other assistance to states which are bolstering environmental learning. More than forty states are taking action to urge the development of statewide "environmental literacy" plans, and outdoor plans and strategies.



Issues and Actions

For over a century, Audubon has been a leading voice encouraging conservation of precious habitat and wildlife for future generations. To learn more about Audubon's conservation efforts and news, visit www.policy.audubon.org.



Save the Current River!

By Greg Iffrig

The Ozark National Scenic Riverways is a place where waters from some of the largest springs in North America empty into forested river valleys, the cool clean water providing wonderful floats in all seasons. The river valley comprises important aquatic habitat, hundreds of caves, classic karst geology, rich flora, and remnants of prehistoric as well as traditional Ozark culture. It is a resource of truly national importance, attracting more than 1.3 million visitors last year.

Tragically, overdevelopment and motorized access, commercial horse over-use, scenic easement violations, and overcrowding have taken their toll. The natural and cultural quality of the Riverways has actually declined under Park Service stewardship. Up and down the 134 miles of river the impact is severe and growing worse.

Missouri Audubon has joined a growing number of conservation and outdoor organizations, individuals, and businesses calling for reform and a better future for this most important river resource. This summer there are many across the state collecting signatures asking NPS Director Jon Jarvis to conduct a new environmental impact study of all the roads and trails which threaten the health of the river and its wildlife, as part of a new management plan for the Current River.

You can help! Go to www.CurrentRiverFriends.org and click the petition link in the upper right of the homepage. Then add your signature, together we can save the Current River.

Conservation in Action: Three in Three

By Christine Kline

Several months ago, the Student Conservation Association, which coordinates young adult volunteers on conservation projects across the country, approached Southwest Airlines about a collaboration tied to Southwest's 40th anniversary. Leaders from both entities emerged with the "Conservation in Action Tour: 40 Projects for 40 Years."



Photo courtesy of SWA Blog.

On Tuesday, July 19, 2011, an RV that looked like a Southwest 737 jet that sprouts wings and takes off from freeways arrived at Weston Bend State Park from Denver at 12:30 AM. 24 volunteers joined the SWA employees to install 20 water bars and clear brush from the sides and top along the Harpst Trail. The group also stained the overlook. This group powered through three weeks' worth of work in three hours in extremely hot and humid weather.

From the bottom of its heart, Burroughs Audubon thanks Southwest Airlines, its volunteers from VML, and the Missouri State Parks. All this work will, without doubt, make migration and Wings Over Weston 2012 an even more magical experience! Thank you for your dedication to Conservation in Action. To follow the progress of From the Road: Conservation in Action, log on to Southwest's Blog at www.blogsouthwest.com/blog/road-conservation-action.

Conservation Matters

By Jill DeWitt

As fall begins, we're looking ahead - and glancing back at all that's been accomplished this year. Under Heidi Retherford's leadership, our chapter initiated Earth Day activities at Blue Valley Park, partnering with the Prairie Gateway Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects to plant a native plant garden and with stream teams in cleanup efforts. We added additional plants for a second phase of the Washington Wheatley bird gardens. Many of you are enjoying birding and restoration visits to our KC Wildlands sites (www.kcwildlands.org). Our policy team continues to provide protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other national treasures. We are supporting ongoing initiatives in clean energy and environmental protection. As Mississippi River flood waters recede in the Louisiana Gulf, new land - and additional habitat is emerging. Seasonal weather cooling brings many opportunities for you to find a point to connect Audubon conservation to others - and make the earth fit for wildlife, as well as ourselves. This is a dynamic time to be engaged in conservation work!

Burroughs Audubon's Conservation Committee reconvenes the second Wednesday in September. To receive meeting announcements or contribute items to the agenda, please contact Jill at listens2prairies@gmail.com or (816) 896-9104.

Nature Center News: The Butterfly Girl

By R. Craig Hensley, Naturalist

Two o'clock. With the exception of a fellow volunteer and me, the library was quiet. The butterfly program I had offered looked to be a giant flop. Having given up hope of having a great excuse to chase butterflies, I settled in for what most likely would be a slow day at the library. Not soon after that, however, a car pulled in and out bounded a young girl and along with her grandmother, they came in out of the considerable heat.

No, they weren't at the Library for the program, but yes, the young lady was very interested in catching butterflies, though she had never done it before. And, trust me when I say there were butterflies to be caught, studied and then, of course, released.

The prairie that has been planted/recreated at the Library, though most likely never to host a nesting pair of Grasshopper or Henslow's Sparrows, or even a Dickcissel, is however, home to a bestiary of other critters, from dragonflies and butterflies to beetles and bugs of every sort. Add in a wonderful collection of wildflowers and there is indeed much to be discovered.

With net in hand as well as my handy-dandy butterfly holding container, she and I headed out in search of Lepidoptera! Upon discovering the first one – a great-spangled fritillary as I recall, I offered my young friend the chance to catch it.

However, being new to this, she gave me permission to try my luck and with a mighty swing of the net, the butterfly was soon resting in the holding container. A second butterfly soon took up residency there as well. With the third butterfly, a black swallowtail, came the same offer to her, and this time she decided it was her opportunity.



Photo by R. Craig Hensley. Great-spangled Fritillary at Burroughs Library, June of 2011.

With amazing quickness and skill, the swallowtail was landed and joined the others. For the next ninety minutes a young girl (and I tagging along behind, wishing I had brought two nets!) chased butterflies a few dragonflies around the prairie, catching many, missing a few. In the end we captured eight or nine species of butterflies, nearly a dozen in all. Not a bad day for diversity or numbers, yet as she and I let the butterflies go one by one, it became obvious that something much more important had transpired. A young girl, maybe a 5th or 6th grader, a girl who had never in her life swung a butterfly net let alone look at one resting on the end of her finger, had become immersed in this tiny yet magnificent prairie, and had established a personal connection, if only for an afternoon, with the natural world.

While Burroughs Audubon Nature Center and Library will always be

about birds, we should all remember, and take educational advantage of, not only our feathered friends, but all the plants and animals that call the area home. This wonderful resource has much to share, much to teach us, if only we will take advantage of the opportunities that a young girl provided me, and I her, on a warm, sunny Sunday afternoon.



Photo by R. Craig Hensley. Banded Hairstreak at Burroughs Library, June 2011.

Burroughs Audubon Nature Center and Library **7300 West Park Road, Blue Springs, Missouri**

New Hours!

1:00-5:00 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday - Sunday, Closed on Monday and Wednesday

The Burroughs Audubon Nature Center has a lot to offer, including an extensive library with over 6,000 books available for checkout and reference. The bird sanctuary offers floor to ceiling views of more than 80 species of birds.

Located in Fleming Park, just off of Woods Chapel Road and West Park Road.

To volunteer at our library, please contact Linda Byrd at (816) 478-4521.

Burroughs Audubon Society Nature Center and Library Receives Update Bridge!

Many thanks go to Boy Scout Micah Palmer who rebuilt the bridge as his Eagle Scout Project.



We're building a cookbook!

Do you have a favorite recipe? Whether it's a recipe for you or a recipe for the birds, whether it's an appetizer, entrée, side dish, vegetable dish, salad, or dessert, we want it. No restrictions! This is a joint project by Burroughs Audubon, Friends of Squaw Creek, and Jacquelyn Stone, Missouri Master Naturalist for the purpose of completing her capstone project. Upon its completion, sales of the cookbook will benefit Burroughs Audubon and Friends of Squaw Creek.

Send your recipe(s) to:

Kenyon Greene at buffaloken@embarqmail.com

Christine Kline at birdsecretary@comcast.net.



Fall 2011 Programs at Burroughs Audubon Nature Center & Library

Prairie Walk ~ Sunday, August 14, 2011 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Join us to watch the birds and then take a hike around the prairie at the Library. We'll see which wildflowers are in bloom, look at butterflies and dragonflies and whatever else happens to be in the area.

Monarch Mania! ~ Sunday, September 25, 2011 1:00-4:30 p.m.

The monarchs are migrating and we'll be looking for them as they head south past the Library. Visit the Library any time during the day to watch the birds and join us as we capture, tag and release migrating monarchs as they pass through the Library's prairie. We'll have a fun take-home craft for the children, and learn about the monarch's amazing journey.

Bird in the Hand ~ Sunday, October 16, 2011 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Come out to Burroughs Library and Nature Center and enjoy the birds, both at the feeders and up close and personal. Bird bander Craig Hensley will be on hand with a host of volunteers to capture, identify, band and release songbirds ranging from cardinals and chickadees to juncos and other native sparrows.

Birdwatcher's Who's Who: Sparrows ~ Sunday, October 30, 2011 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Don't know a field sparrow from a tree sparrow? Don't worry; with a little practice you too can begin to identify our lbj's or "little brown jobs." Join Naturalist Craig Hensley for an introductory look at the native sparrows that will be passing through or spending the winter here. You'll learn what to look for to help in identification of these songbirds, from field marks to habitat preferences.

Bird in the Hand ~ Sunday, November 20, 2011 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Come out to Burroughs Library and Nature Center and enjoy the birds, both at the feeders and up close and personal. Bird bander Craig Hensley will be on hand with a host of volunteers to capture, identify, band and release songbirds ranging from cardinals and chickadees to juncos and other native sparrows.

Saturday Bird Walks

Prairie Village Wild Bird Center in the Corinth Square shops.

4046 West 83rd, Prairie Village, KS.

Meet at the store at 8 a.m., bird for 2-3 hours, then return to the store. Call 913-381-5633 for more info.

Bird Walks through November 2011:

- Sep. 3 - Iron Woods Park
 - Oct. 1 - Shawnee Mission Park
 - Nov. 26 - Squaw Creek NWR
- *special all-day field trip



Photo by Nic Allen. Northern Bobwhite Quail at Prairie State Park.



SQUAW CREEK NWR

Fall Events Calendar



September 10	Holt County Fall Festival Parade Only
September 17	Annual Refuge Workday
September 24	Habitat Workday
October 1-November 30	Fall Open Weekends (Volunteer Now)
October 8	Habitat Workday
October 9	Big Sit
October 10-16	National Wildlife Refuge Week
October 15	Refuge 5k run walk/ Family Day
October 29	Habitat Workday
November 5	Audubon Deer Hayride
December 2-4	Eagle Days

Related events to remember

September 10-25	Teal Season
October 1	Atchison County Youth Pheasant Hunt
October 5	MDC Hunter Education Field Day @ Squaw Creek NWR
October 22-23	Youth Waterfowl
November 5	Youth Deer Hunting
November 12-22	Deer Season
November 23-December 4	Antlerless Deer Season

To volunteer and support Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge contact Christine Kline at birdsecretary@comcast.net.

Fall 2011 Field Trips

Field trips are open and free to everyone. Please contact the trip leader for any last minute changes or weather cancelations. Visit www.burroughs.org for more information and an up-to-date listing of trips and events.

SEPTEMBER 2011

Topeka Hotspots- Sunday, September 11

Joint field trip with Topeka Audubon. This will be an all-day field trip to birding hotspots in the Topeka area, including Lake Shawnee and Shunga Park. Be sure to pack a picnic and beverages. BAS birders will meet at the I-70/Bonner Springs Park and Ride (KS Hwy 7 exit) at 7:30 a.m. for carpooling. We'll then proceed to the fishing dock area on the west side of Lake Shawnee to meet up with our TAS friends. For more info contact Pat St. John at 913-706-5569 or pstjohn@kumc.edu.

Annual Smithville Lake Pelagic- Sunday, September 18

Check the field trips page of burroughs.org for more details. Seventh Annual Smithville Lake Pelagic with Kristi Mayo. This trip requires a fee to cover boat rental, as well as a reservation. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Camp Branch Marina.

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. Ospreys are sure to abound. IMPORTANT NOTE: the boats will not be taken out in high winds or if there is lightning in the area. If weather cancels the boat trip, we'll try to bird on foot and by car. This trip will not be rescheduled. Deposits will be refunded or donated to Burroughs Audubon Society.

Audubon Society of Missouri Fall Meeting- Friday, September 23 - Sunday, September 25

Fall meeting of the Audubon Society of Missouri at Camp Clover Point, Lake of the Ozarks State Park, MO.

Marais des Cygne- Saturday, September 24

Marais des Cygne Wildlife Area and NWR with Mark Land. We'll look for year-round residents, such as Pileated Woodpecker, and migrants in the woods and wetlands around the area's several impoundments. In addition, we'll stop at La Cygne Lake (Linn County Park), a man-made, warm water lake which is made so by its role as water source for the nearby power plant. We'll also drive through the (strip) mined land area south of the power plant to look for open

grassland species. Plan to bring lunch and/or snacks for this all day trip. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the McDonald's at 109th Street and Metcalf in Overland Park for carpooling. This trip will have minimal walking and is mainly an auto tour. Please call or email Mark at 913-381-4324 and kestrel@earthlink.net, if you have any questions.

Kansas Ornithological Society Fall Meeting- Friday, September 30—Sunday, October 2

Fall meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society in Great Bend, KS.

OCTOBER 2011

Hitchcock Nature Center Hawk Watch- Saturday, October 1—Sunday, October 2

Hitchcock Nature Center (HNC) hawk watch and banding with Sherry Leonardo and Sandy Reinken. We enjoyed last year's visit so much that we're going back! There will be a short program upon arrival on Saturday morning at 9:30 about why raptors concentrate near HNC during migration, how Hawk Watch data is gathered, and identification of hawks by their flight behavior. Afterwards, we'll divide into two groups - one spending the rest of the morning on the hawk watch tower with the official counter, while the second group observes hawk capture and banding. Following lunch together at a nearby cafe, the two groups will switch places for a few hours. We'll conclude our birding day with a short trip to Lake Manawa, in Council Bluffs, to look for gulls and waterfowl before dinner.

On Sunday, Craig Hensley will lead us to various Council Bluffs and Omaha spots to look for migrating songbirds and waterfowl. Transportation and lodging on your own. Lodging choices available near exit 1-B north of I-29/80 and exit 3 south of I-29/80 in Council Bluffs. The drive from KC to HNC is, approximately, 3 1/2 hours. Directions: travel north of Council Bluffs, Iowa on I-29 to exit 61A. Turn right (east) on County Rd. 988 (Old Mormon Bridge Rd.) and continue to intersection with Old Lincoln Highway. Turn left (north) on Old Lincoln Hwy. and continue 4.4 miles to Page Lane. Turn left and follow sign to park entrance. Please let Sherry know where you're staying and whether you're arriving on Friday evening, or Saturday morning. For more information, contact Sherry Leonardo at home172@aol.com or 816-763-1393.

Columbia Audubon Joint Trip- Saturday, October 8

Joint field trip with Columbia Audubon. Edge Wade will be our guide and will choose birding sites around Columbia, based on where birds are being seen. We'll meet at 6:00 a.m. in the Blue Springs commuter lot for carpooling. Directions: from I-70 (exit 20), go 0.4 miles north on MO Hwy 7; the lot is on the north side of Price Chopper and behind O'Reilly Auto Parts. Lunch will be at a local cafe. Bring water, snacks, and FRS radios. For more info, contact Sherry Leonardo at home172@aol.com or 816-763-1393.

Haskell-Baker Wetlands- Sunday, October 23

Haskell-Baker Wetlands with Nancy Leo. Meet at 7:00 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. Target species include: Le Conte's Sparrow, Nelson's Sparrow, both Marsh and Sedge Wrens and any lingering rails. For the most part, we'll walk the gravel paths, but bring rubber boots if you want to help chase up sparrows. This is a planned half-day field trip, but we may visit other nearby areas after lunch, for those who are interested. For more information, contact Nancy at njleo@earthlink.net or 913-205-8847.

NOVEMBER 2011

Lyon Coffey, and Osage Counties- Saturday, November 12

Lyon, Coffey and Osage Counties (KS) with Matt Gearheart. We'll meet at 7:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the Olathe Holiday Inn (south side of building). Directions: take I-35 south to 151st St./Hwy. K-7 (exit 215). Follow signs to 151st St. Turn right (west) on 151st and continue 0.17 miles to access road between Olathe Medical Center and Holiday Inn. Matt will lead us on a great day of birding at Melvern Reservoir, Lyon Co. State Fishing Lake, John Redmond Reservoir, and Coffey County Lake in search of Smith's Longspurs, grebes, loons, scoters, gulls, shrikes, sparrows, and Long-eared Owls. Bring food, beverages, and FRS radios for this all-day trip which will conclude with a bird tally and finger-lickin' good barbeque (ribs highly recommended) at Guy and Mae's Tavern in Williamsburg. For more info contact Matt at mgearheart@designwithinsight.com or 816-569-0817.

Squaw Creek NWR- Saturday, November 26

Squaw Creek NWR with Mike Stoakes. This trip is in conjunction with the Prairie Village Wild Bird Center. For carpooling, meet at 7:00 a.m. at the WBC (83rd and Mission Rd. in Prairie Village), or at the Squaw Creek visitor center around 8:45 a.m. This is an all day driving trip on the Refuge's 13-mile auto tour loop. We'll witness multitudes of Snow Geese and waterfowl, as well as dozens of Bald Eagles. Bring a sack lunch, snacks, optics, field guides, and FRS radios. After lunch, we'll make another pass around the refuge or explore other nearby areas, such as Big Lake State Park. Dress in layers, as conditions are often cold and windy at this time of year. For more information, contact Mike at mstoakes@juno.com or 816-554-1956.

MORE INFORMATION: For more information or to volunteer to lead a trip, please contact Sherry Leonardo at home172@aol.com, Pat St. John at pstjohn@kumc.edu, or Mike Stoakes at mstoakes@juno.com or 816-554-1956.

Burroughs Audubon Fall 2011 Programs

General Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month September through June (except April).

Note the adjustment to the meeting schedule:

6:30 PM- Coffee and Conversation, **6:45 PM-** Meeting Business and Announcements, **7:00 PM-** Program
Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center ~ 4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO

September 6, 2011:

“The Drive to Electrify Our Cars”

John F. Kurmann of ReEnergize KC and Craig Volland of the Sierra Club will give an overview of gas/electric hybrid, plug-in hybrid, and battery-electric vehicles and their effects on oil consumption and air quality. Craig Volland will also address the changes needed in our electricity grid and regulatory systems to maximize the benefits of plug-in vehicles.

October 4, 2011:

“A Jewel of the Great Plains: The Hutton Niobrara Ranch”

Ron Klataske, Executive Director of Audubon of Kansas, will give us a tour of this 5,000-acre area in the sandhills of northern Nebraska--home to Sharp-tailed Grouse, Long-billed Curlews, Bobolinks and many other creatures in prairies, woodlands and wetlands. The sanctuary has been managed by AOK for almost 10 years and is a centerpiece of AOK's Great Plains Conservation Partnership.

****Special Pre-meeting event for October: Beginning at 4:30 Tour the “Project Living Proof” House!**

The Project Living Proof house is a century old, urban dwelling that has been restored into a state-of-the-art sustainable demonstration home. The Metropolitan Energy Center welcomes Burroughs members as special guests. Refreshments will be provided. Park in the Discovery Center parking lot; a Burroughs volunteer will direct you to the home. View the latest in green home technology at this nationally recognized model. RSVP to Alan Myers at (913) 422-7500.

November 1, 2011:

“Adventures in Australia”

Matt Gearheart, avid birder and globetrotter, will regale us with tales of the wildlife and landscapes to be found in “The Land Down Under”.

To suggest a speaker or topic for future meetings, please contact Elizabeth Stoakes, Program Coordinator at (816) 554-1956 or lizkvet@yahoo.com.

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 Presents



WingBeat

Burroughs Audubon is your Greater Kansas City chapter of the National Audubon Society.

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