

Burroughs Audubon promotes the appreciation of birds, enjoyment of nature, natural history, education & conservation of habitat.



Burroughs Audubon

Harris Sparrow courtesy of
Linda Williams

Greater Kansas City Chapter of the National Audubon Society

WingBeat

Volume 63, No. 1
Spring 2011

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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE! Burroughs Audubon programs are now the first TUESDAY of each month.

Burroughs Audubon Spring Programs 2011



TUESDAY, March 1, 2011

Birding for Everyone

John has introduced thousands of people all over the world to the joys of bird watching for nearly thirty years. In his latest title: [*Birding for Everyone, Encouraging People of Color to Become Birdwatchers*](#), he encourages the appreciation of nature through birding. John also explores the curious lack of a minority presence in the birding community and offers new solutions for changing the face of conservation through birding. Mr. Robinson's appearance in Kansas City is made possible, in part, by contributions to the Daniel Stern Speaker Fund.



SATURDAY, April 2, 2011

**Burroughs Audubon's 91st Annual Dinner
Alexander Majors Barn ~ Kansas City, MO**
Watch the mail for a postcard with registration information!



TUESDAY, May 3, 2011

**Interactions Between Breeding Prairie
Chickens, Predators, and Wind Power
Development in the Flint Hills of Kansas**

Layla Hunt, a graduate student at Kansas State University, will discuss her ongoing research into the breeding success of Prairie Chickens in the grasslands of central Kansas.



General Meetings Tuesdays

1st Tuesday of each month
September through June (except in April)

6:30 PM ~ Coffee and Conversation
7 PM ~ Meeting and Special Events

Anita Gorman Conservation
Discovery Center
4750 Troost Avenue ~ Kansas City, MO

If you have a speaker or topic you would like to suggest for a future General Meeting, please call or email Elizabeth Stoakes, Program Coordinator (816) 554-1956, lizkvet@yahoo.com

BOARD MEETINGS3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM**OFFICERS****Elizabeth Stoakes, President**

Lees Summit, MO ~ (816) 554-1956

lizkvet@yahoo.com**Paul Habiger, Vice President**

Kansas City, MO ~ (816) 942-3431

paulfhmailbox41-birds@yahoo.com**Lori Lind, Treasurer**

Excelsior Springs, Mo ~ (816) 630-3556

lalind25@hotmail.com**Marcia Hawk, Secretary**

Blue Springs, MO ~ (816)224-1057

lehawk9144@comcast.net**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Nic Allen tendingthegarden@sbcglobal.netChristine Kline birdsecretary@comcast.netDiane Swift ceed4chn@gmail.comSherry Leonardo home172@aol.comHeidi Retherford purplemoose@swbell.netJoe Alburty joe.alburty@gmail.com**COMMITTEE CHAIRS****Audubon Adventures, Education**

Jan & Lyle Alderson (co-chairs)

standupscience@sbcglobal.net**Library**Karen Smith krnds@aol.com**ASM 2011 Planning**Elizabeth Stoakes lizkvet@yahoo.com**Budget**Lori Lind lalind25@hotmail.com**Fundraising, Events**

Christine Kline

birdsecretary@comcast.net**IBA, Wings Over Weston**Paul Habiger paulfhmailbox41-birds@yahoo.combirds@yahoo.comChristine Kline birdsecretary@comcast.net**Conservation**Jill DeWitt listens2prairies@gmail.comHeidi Retherford purplemoose@swbell.net**COORDINATORS****Field Trips**

Sherry Leonardo

home172@aol.com (Sherry)

Mike Stoakes

mstoakes@juno.com**Historians**

Dick Dawson, Shari Harden

dick_yodar_dawson@hotmail.com (Dick)kestrel277@comcast.net (Shari)**Programs**Elizabeth Stoakes lizkvet@yahoo.com**Chapter Membership, Database**Christine Kline birdsecretary@comcast.net**Webmaster, BurroughsAnnounce,****Facebook**Mike Stoakes mstoakes@juno.com

The Art of Giving

“For it is in giving that we receive.” Recently, Burroughs Audubon replaced every bird feeder and feeder system at the Burroughs Audubon Nature Center and Library. Not only is our bird sanctuary more appealing to the eye, but we are feeding more birds! Our deepest gratitude goes to the Wild Bird Center in Prairie Village, Kansas for supplying us with everything we needed at a fraction of the price. Our sparrows and juncos have multiplied thanks to the rows of brush along the border of the bird sanctuary and the invasive removal of honeysuckle by the Osage Trails Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalists. It’s because of these kind acts of generosity that enables Burroughs Audubon 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, an hour away at Squaw Creek (our adopted National Wildlife Refuge) and even as far away as Central America, where neotropical migrants face devastating habitat loss on their over wintering grounds. You, the giver, benefit by 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.

You can donate to Burroughs Audubon by joining the National Audubon Society or with a direct donation to Burroughs Audubon, 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 Living Tribute or a Memorial. Your generosity will be felt close to home and half a world away.

Donations are fully tax deductible.

Give by Becoming a Member of the National Audubon Society 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 COZN020Z

Mail to: National Audubon Society ~ P.O. Box 422250 ~ Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250

Questions? Call (816) 540-3515

Moving? Enter new address, check “Change of Address,” and mail.

*Your membership to Audubon is deductible except for
the \$15 fair market value of Audubon Magazine*

Give by making a donation to Burroughs Audubon Society

Email Address _____ May we contact you by email? Yes No

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Country _____

Make checks payable to: Burroughs Audubon Society

Mail to: Burroughs Audubon, 7300 West Park Road ~ Blue Springs, MO 64015

*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.*

Last spring, Wings Over Weston was held at Weston Bend State Park. This was our 1st Annual Birding Festival to celebrate the Weston/Iatan River Corridor IBA. Like anything you do for the first time, expectations were low and any level of success was acceptable. However, we defied all odds as more than 800 guests visited our IBA during the festival on Saturday and 198 children from local schools spent Friday with us as we educated them on migration, birds, and habitats. Wings Over Weston is very fortunate to have the variety of agencies who are partnering with Burroughs Audubon and Audubon Missouri to make this a success and want to give them some acknowledgement and appreciation. Lee Wilbeck with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and Missouri State Parks, TJ Peacher with the Missouri Department of Conservation, and all the staff at Weston Bend State Park have been gracious with the amount of time, energy, money, and supplies they have devoted to make Wings Over Weston a success. The Platte County Parks and Recreation and Weston Chamber of Commerce have been invaluable with their outreach and presence to draw visitors in. The Missouri Master Naturalists are always shining through with their creativity, devotion, and volunteer hours. People say that you are only as strong as your volunteers and we are very strong! This year, on May 14th we will hold the 2nd Annual Wings Over Weston and have already secured more than 160 students for Friday. Please bring your family to this wonderful birding festival that opens up the beauty and excitement of birding to everyone of all ages. Watch for future announcements to dedicate the new interpretive signage that will be installed along the Harpst Trail just prior to the festival. Help us make this year even better! If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Christine Kline at (816) 540-3515 or birdsecretary@comcast.net.



President's Nest

by Elizabeth Stoakes, President

In this, my last message, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who have helped me throughout my term. An organization like ours requires dedicated and versatile volunteers to thrive, to sustain the old traditions like the Christmas Bird Count, Annual Dinner, and Birdathon, while creating new programs and experiences for sharing the love of birds and nature with everyone including bird banding demonstrations and programs for children.

First, I would like to thank my officers and Board members past and present for their service: Paul Habiger, Lori Lind, Christine Kline, Marcia Hawk, Heidi Retherford, Sherry Leonardo, Diane Swift, Nic Allen, Joe Alburty, Shari Harden, Michael O'Keefe, and Karen Smith. The work of our Conservation and IBA Committees has enabled Burroughs Audubon to help preserve bird habitat in Central America and support projects here at home such as the planned improvements at Blue Valley Park and Wings Over Weston.

Linda Byrd, who has done an outstanding job of coordinating volunteers for the library, has my eternal gratitude, and no one deserves accolades more than the library volunteers themselves. They have not only answered endless questions but cleaned and reorganized the library, modernized the feeder area, identified birds, installed fixtures, expanded plantings, and even provided merchandise such as cards and birdhouses for our gift shop. We are grateful to JoAnn Moroz for cataloging and managing our incredible book collection.

But special thanks must go to Anne Duffer, who has recently completed approximately 30 years of service to the Burroughs Audubon Library and Nature Center. She

labored tirelessly for many years as the "backbone" of our library, rain or shine, with only a few helpers and an abundance of spirit. We will soon be honoring Anne with a celebration, so please watch for the details.

In short, I hope that these wonderful helpers that I have been privileged to have during my Presidency will inspire others in our membership to give time and energy to our organization. There are activities and jobs to suit everyone. With the dedication of volunteers like these, our group will flourish well into our NEXT 90 years! I leave everyone with best wishes for a bird-filled spring and a prosperous 2011!

Wings Over Weston



Photo by K. Williams

May 14, 2011
9AM to 4PM

Weston Bend State Park
Weston, Missouri

Check our website for more information
www.wingsoverweston.com

Guided Bird Walks, games, and loads of activities and games for the whole family!

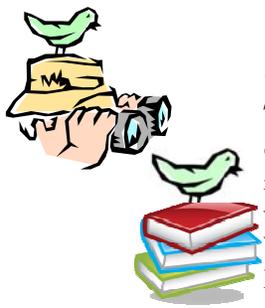
Music by Bill Graham's Bluegrass Tornadoes

**Live Birds by Lakeside Nature Center
and Operation Wildlife**

Purchase Native Missouri Wildflowers and Plants

NATURE CENTER NEWS

The Burroughs Audubon Nature Center has a lot to offer. Its extensive library has over 6,000 books available for checkout and reference. Its bird sanctuary offers floor to ceiling views of more than 80 species of birds that visit its feeders. Finally, we are slowly adding programs and reaching out to scouts and schools. Please visit us. You won't be disappointed. The Burroughs Audubon Nature Center and Library is located in Fleming Park, just off of Woods Chapel Road and West Park Road. Its mission is always expanding and improving. To volunteer at our library, please contact Linda Byrd at (816) 478-4521.



Craig Hensley Returns to Kansas City

I know that everyone was excited to hear that Craig Hensley, a long-time naturalist/educator and a licensed bird bander, has returned to the Kansas City area. Birds, butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies, and native wildflowers and plants are among his natural history interests. Craig is a native of Iowa and has shared his love and passion for the natural world with children and adults from Minnesota to Texas. Craig has returned to be the Lead Education Specialist for the Mr. & Mrs. F.L. Schlagle Library, an Environmental Learning Center, in Kansas City, KS.

Burroughs Audubon is thrilled that he has offered to lead activities at the Burroughs Audubon Library and Nature Center and that he will be helping us with Wings Over Weston.

Craig is the proud father of two children, Jennifer, a pediatric Doctor in Boston, MA, and Noah, a graduate student at the University of MN, studying Environmental Engineering.

Welcome back Craig!

Craig Hensley's Nature Dates

April 10

Wildflower Walk
2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

May 1

Bird Walk
2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

May 15

Bird Banding
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM



**Thank you
Jackson County
Parks and Recreation
for all your hard work
and support!**



Burroughs Audubon Nature Center and Library

7300 West Park Road ~ Blue Springs, Missouri
(Off the Woods Chapel Road entrance to Lake Jacomo)

Come in and see new bird sanctuary!

Hours

Monday, Tuesday ~ 12:30 PM until 4:30 PM
Thursdays through Saturdays ~ 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Sundays ~ 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Hours are 100% dependent upon volunteers. Thank you Volunteers!



SQUAWCREEK

Squaw Creek NWR Spring Calendar

March 19 – May 8

Refuge Office Open on Weekends

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Interpretive Programs

Saturdays at 10:30 AM and Sundays at 1:30 PM

March 5 & March 26

Habitat Workday

9:00 AM

April 2

Burroughs Audubon 91st Annual Dinner

The Endangered Whooping Crane &
Aransas National Wildlife Refuge

Darrin Welchert, Biologist ~ Guest Speaker

Alexander Majors House ~ Kansas City

April 9

Refuge Workday & Friends Annual Meeting

9:00 AM

April 12

Squaw Creek at the St. Joseph Children's Fair

April 15 - 16

Women in the Outdoors

April 30

Habitat Workday

9:00 AM

May 7

International Migratory Bird Day

May 26

Junior Naturalist Program Kick-off

Stay Connected and Check our Calendar!

www.fws.gov/midwest/squawcreek

ABOUT WORKDAYS:

Workday activities are weather dependent and may be canceled due to inclement weather. Please call Corey Kudrna (816) 383-0043 to inquire about cancellations. Safety is a primary concern for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For this reason, on all workdays, volunteers will need to wear work boots, long sleeve shirts, and long pants.



We Need You!

Volunteers are now being coordinated for the spring calendar above. Volunteers are needed on the weekends from March 19, 2011 until May 9, 2011. Volunteers will greet visitors and sell items in our newly expanded nature shop. Please contact Christine Kline at (816) 540-3515 or birdsecretary@comcast.net

Saturday Bird Walks

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Wild Bird Center

Led by Mike Stoakes

4046 W. 83rd Street ~ Prairie Village, KS

Join us on the 1st Saturday of each month on a free bird walk to help you identify birds in our own area! Meet us in the parking lot of the Wild Bird Center at 8:00 AM.

March 5, 2011 ~ Mill Creek Stream Way

April 2, 2011 ~ Antioch Park

May 7, 2011 ~ Overland Park Arboretum

Overland Park Arboretum

Led by Trent Reed

8909 W. 179th Street ~ Overland Park, KS

Learn to identify birds by their songs and calls during one of our free bird walks. Meet us in the main lobby.

March 26, 2011 ~ 7:00 AM

April 30, 2011 ~ 7:00 AM

May 28, 2011 ~ 7:00 AM



Plant the prairie!

Kansas City WildLands Workday

Saturday, May 7, 2011 ~ 9:00 AM to Noon

Help Burroughs Audubon help Kansas City Wildlands!
Plant wildflower seedlings and remove invasive plants.

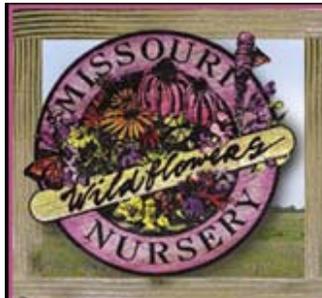
Three WildLands sites will be targeted

Ernie Miller Park Remnant Prairie (Olathe)

Rocky Point Glades (Swope Park)

Jerry Smith Park (Kansas City)

This is a great opportunity to do hands-on restoration and conservation. Contact Linda at (816) 561-1061, ext. 116 to register for your preferred site.



573-496-3492 Phone

573-496-3003 Fax

mowldflrs@socket.net

www.mowildflowers.net

April 23

Burroughs Audubon Library &
Nature Center

May 14

Weston Bend State Park

Gardening with natives is as good as it gets!

"We're enthusiastic about doing something good for the environment, bringing back a little chunk of the native ecosystem that once occupied the neighborhood."

– Mervin Wallace, Owner

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*)

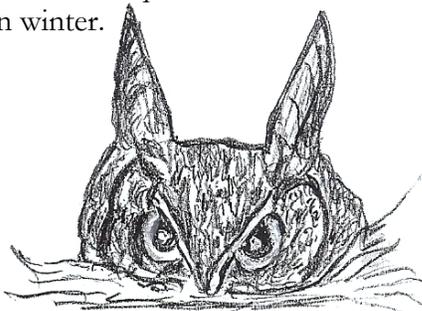
by JoAnn Garrett

The Long-eared Owl has a length of 13-16 inches and a wingspan of 36 to 40 inches. One of the most nocturnal owls, it is a brownish gray or gray with dark vertical streaks with long black tufts and reddish brown facial disks surrounding its yellow eyes.

The Long-eared Owl prefers coniferous trees because they provide more shelter for their nests and more concealment throughout the day. The nests are selected by the female when she joins the male on his territory. The nests are most often old crow stick nests in trees 25-30 feet from the ground. They don't even clean up the old nests. Instead, they add sticks, grasses, and feathers. The Long-eared Owl lays four to five pure white, smooth, and glossy oval eggs which are incubated by the female for about 21 days. During early infancy, the featherless, rather down-like young are constantly brooded by their parents as they are prone to attacks by swarms of mosquitoes. In four or five weeks, they crawl out of the nest onto the branches and flutter down to perch on lower branches before learning to fly. The parents feed them for eight or nine weeks until they can fly and hunt themselves. The Long-eared Owl's diet comprised of rodents, voles, rabbits, frogs, snakes, insects, and small birds.

When stressed, the Long-eared Owl lowers its head and spreads its wings widely over its puffed up body and sways its head back and forth while snapping its beak and hissing. Lewis Wayne Walker, one of America's foremost owl experts, upon visiting an owl's nest at night in the beam of his flashlight, witnessed a Long-eared Owl. She was on the ground lying on one side while pushing itself along the ground with one wing alternately flapping and dragging. He said it was a most brazen fraud - - even better than that of the Killdeer! When followed, the owl led him away, but when he went toward the nest, the owl miraculously recovered and flew back, intercepting him on the path only to once again feign injury to lead him away from the nest. These antics continued as long as the flashlight was pointed at her.

Several years ago, a group of us were birding in Morton County, Kansas with Sebastin Patti. We were out in the country among the hills and gullies. Birding was good, and everyone was intently observing the hawks and grassland birds, so I slipped down into the gully for a little "alone" time. I heard a soft quoo-quoo-quoo. As I looked up in the trees, there were five Long-eared Owls looking down at me! Before I could yell to the others, Sebastin and his entourage came charging over the hill! (That boy could hear a feather drop.) Everyone took in long sights of the Long-eared Owls. In areas where Long-eared Owls are to be found, look for white wash on the tree branches and owl pellets on the ground under the trees. The owl pellets are an accumulation of undigested parts of food regurgitated through the mouth in a compact mass. If you break the pellets apart, you'll find the skeletal remains of what it has eaten which is a good indication of the food sources available in their location. Years ago, the long-eared owl could always be found in a tree line not far from the headquarters at James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area. Over twenty years ago there was a good stand of conifer trees at the top of Dorsett Hill Prairie in Cass County where the long eared owls were ever present until they cut all the trees down. Now, Long-eared Owls can be found at Busch Memorial Wildlife Area in St. Louis, near Chillicothe, and in Lyon County, Kansas from November through May and sometimes even at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge in winter.



Long-eared Owl by JoAnn Garrett

**A wise old owl sat in an oak,
The more he saw the less he spoke,
The less he spoke, the more he heard,
Why can't we all be like that wise old bird.**

-- Anon

Thank you!  *Thank you!*

Corinth Square Prairie Village, Kansas

(913) 381-5633



Our gratitude goes to the Wild Bird Center in Prairie Village, Kansas for supplying us with all our feeders, bird baths, and pole systems for our new Bird Sanctuary at the Burroughs Audubon Nature Center & Library.





ISSUES and ACTIONS

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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.

Conservation Matters: Good for Birds, Good for Us

by Jill DeWitt, Conservation Committee

Missouri Advocates Meet to Assess 2011 Priorities

Missouri's Environmental Summit for 2011 was held Saturday, January 22nd at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Environmental leaders, students, advocates and legislators communicated on key issues affecting the health of Missouri's environment. Our yearly summit provides a platform to discuss environmental priorities and strategies for 2011.

We were welcomed by Sara Parker Pauley, the new Director of Missouri's Department of Natural Resources, and enjoyed a presentation on Missourians' Historical Role in the Environment by Bob Priddy, News Director for MissouriNet.

Afternoon break-out sessions covered water quality, making clean energy work in Missouri, sustainable transportation and land use, greening and preserving our built infrastructure, caring for our parks and natural areas, recycling to create jobs instead of landfills, and becoming more effective environmental advocates.

To become an advocate for the environment in Missouri or Kansas, contact Jill DeWitt, listens2prairies@gmail.com.

More Trees, Please!

Each spring the Missouri Department of Conservation sells bundles of seedlings for planting in Missouri at affordable prices from \$4 to \$35 per bundle. You can order directly by visiting www.mdc.mo.gov and clicking on [Home](#) » [Land/Water Care](#) » [Landowners and Farmers](#) » [Seedling Orders](#). You can also make contributions to Burroughs Audubon for our plantings on trails, the Washington Wheatley Green Block Project, urban reforestation or edible forest projects. Our spring workdays in the Washington Wheatley neighborhood will be held April 13 and 16. Contact Jill to participate at listens2prairies@gmail.com (816) 896-9104 or mail contributions to Lori Lind, Treasurer, 624 N. Kent Street, Excelsior Springs, Mo 64024.

Blue Valley Park to Get a Facelift on Earth Day

by Heidi Retherford, Conservation Chair

The historic Blue Valley Park at 23rd and Topping Streets in eastern Kansas City will be buzzing with activity on Saturday, April 9. This urban park was once traversed by the sons of Daniel Boone as they trapped and hunted along the Blue River which runs along the east side of the park. The historic Santa Fe Trail runs along the south side of the park. During the Civil War, the second day's engagement of the Battle of Westport (Oct. 22, 1864), was fought on the park's hills, repulsing the Confederate troops farther south toward Byram's Ford.

Burroughs Audubon Society is partnering with Kansas City Parks and Recreation and several additional partners to undertake a variety of work projects to enhance the park's appearance and improve bird habitat. We invite you to come be a part of the exciting changes that will be taking place at Blue Valley Park. On April 9, some of the work projects anticipated for that day include tire and trash removal, ground preparation and/or planting native plants, installing rain gardens, etc. Anyone who would like to help out is invited to be at Blue Valley Park's main pavilion at 9:00 AM on Saturday, April 9. We would suggest you wear sturdy shoes or boots, work gloves, and a hat. You may also wish to bring some water.

After a productive morning of park beautification and enhancement, we will gather at the main pavilion at about 12:30 for a potluck-style barbecue luncheon. We will provide the hamburger and hotdogs, paper plates, eating utensils, buns, and punch. Additional side dishes such as potato salad, chips, fruit or desserts, would be appreciated.

In the afternoon, families will be invited to visit informative booths, participate in outdoor games, and learn about bird species and habitat on short bird walks within the park.

To stay informed as we make further plans, details, and progress, please contact Heidi Retherford at purplemoose@swbell.net or (816) 252-7712 to give her your email or mailing address for future notifications. See you there!

**Washington Wheatley Neighborhood Work Day
April 13 and April 14**

Contact Jill DeWitt

listens2prairies@gmail.com



EVENTS

Burroughs Audubon is an organization that promotes the appreciation of birds, enjoyment of nature, natural history, education, and conservation. The Fundraising Committee was formed to help us affirm our mission and through a team effort reach our goals. So please join us for these events and share your love for birding with friends and birders alike.



ALEXANDER MAJORS
HISTORIC HOUSE AND MUSEUM
8201 State Line Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64114

Welcoming Burroughs Audubon on April 2, 2011!

REECE & NICHOLS

WALLACE KILBOURNE

Sr. Sales Executive & Burroughs Audubon Member

3901 West 83rd Street ~ Prairie Village, Kansas 66208

Cell: (913) 244-6636

kilbourne@reeceandnichols.com



Providing habitat for food, water, a place for cover, and a place to raise your young

BIRDATHON 2011 PLEDGE FORM

A Birdathon works like a walkathon.

Birders/participants solicit and collect pledges, but pledges are based upon species observed instead of miles traveled. The funds raised will support Burroughs Audubon programs and projects.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Day Phone: _____

Evening Phone: _____

I would like to pledge \$ _____ for each species that Team _____ identifies. *(You should expect teams to identify approx. 150 to 200 species.)*

I would like to pledge \$ _____ as a flat contribution to Team _____.

I would like to pledge \$ _____ as a flat contribution to Birdathon. (You don't have to pledge to a specific team.)

Send your pledge form to:

Lori Lind, Treasurer
624 N. Kent ~ Excelsior Springs, MO 64024

*Please make checks payable to Burroughs Audubon.
To pay by credit card, call Christine Kline at (816) 540-3515*

**Teams will conduct their Birdathon between
May 7, 2011 and May 16, 2011.**

Leaders will be soliciting pledges until June 15, 2011.

Download the Burroughs Audubon Birdathon Brochure
www.burroughs.org



**Birdathon
May 8-16, 2011**

Spring will soon be here! Along with spring comes bird migration and the Burroughs Audubon Birdathon. A Birdathon is a birding adventure you don't want to miss and won't soon forget.

Teams are now being formed for a little friendly competition to see how many bird species can be identified. The teams can bird for just a few hours or up to a challenging and tiring 24-hour time period. You don't even have to be an expert birder to participate on a team.

A Birdathon works like a walkathon. Participants solicit and collect pledges, but pledges are based upon species observed instead of miles traveled. The funds raised will support Burroughs Audubon programs and projects.

TO JOIN A TEAM

Paul Habiger ~ (816) 616-6402

flickerkc-41@yahoo.com

Whether you just want to have some fun for part of the day, or you want to be one of the "insane" birders adding a new species to your life list, Birdathon provides endless fun with joyous and experienced birders.

TO PLEDGE

There are several ways you can pledge money. You can pledge a certain amount for each species that is identified, or you can make a flat contribution. You can specify which team gets credit for your pledge, or you can just send a pledge to Burroughs. Either way, use the form to the right or contact a team member directly. Burroughs Audubon is a 501(c)(3) organization, all donations/pledges are tax deductible.

The Burroughs Audubon Plant Sales Expands!

Rain or shine, you can't keep a gardener inside! This year, we're expanding our Annual Plant Sale to two locations. We'll have double the plants and a bigger selection. Visit us at the Burroughs Audubon Library and Nature Center in Fleming Park on April 23rd or at Wings Over Weston in Weston Bend State Park on May 14th.

We'd like to encourage you to take orders from your friends, plan your landscaping projects, and welcome Mother's Day with Dwarf Crested Iris and Bluebells. All these things can help us make the Annual Plant Sale dates successful fundraisers just as in year's past.

If you visit us at the Burroughs Audubon Library and Nature Center on April 23rd, consider bringing your "before shots" for some landscaping advice from some of our landscaping professionals. We also now have the capability to accept all major credit cards!

All plants offered at the Annual Plant Sale are plants that thrive in our challenging mid-western climate. Catalogs are available at the Burroughs Audubon Nature Center and Library for those wishing to pre-order.

There's no excuse! Two places to shop, major credit cards and pre-orders accepted. Make this the year that your surroundings burst into color while supporting Burroughs Audubon.

For questions or pre-orders, please contact:
Christine Kline
(816) 540-3515 or
birdsecretary@comcast.net.



Annual Plant Sale Grow Native & Support Burroughs Audubon!

April 23, 2011 ~ 9AM to 3PM

Burroughs Audubon Library and Nature Center
7300 West Park Road ~ Blue Springs, Missouri
(Just off Woods Chapel Road at Lake Jacomo Entrance)

May 14, 2011 ~ 9AM to 4PM

Wings Over Weston ~ Weston Bend State Park
Plants provided by Missouri Wildflowers Nursery
To pre-order, contact Christine Kline
(816) 540-3515 or birdsecretary@comcast.net

Top 10 Reasons to Use Native Plants

by Alan Branhagan, Director of Horticulture Powell Gardens www.powellgardens.org

#10 Spirit of Place

"Homogenize Milk, Not Landscapes." (The Landscape Revolution by Andy Wasowski) Celebrate gardening within the inherent beauty of the Osage and Drift Plains bisected by the magnificent Missouri River.

#9 Aesthetics

Their unique beauty has become "exotic" in a sea of non-native Callery Pears, Yews, Knockout Roses, Japanese Spireas and Stella d'Oro Daylilies.

#8 Less Consumption of Fossil Fuels

The mow, blow and go crew are major air polluters.
Natives require less consumptive maintenance.

#7 Bank Carbon

They are mainly long-lived and bank carbon well.
Remember their roots stabilize climate and enrich soil.

#6 Less Fertilizer

Fertilizer to them is literally waste! They are lean and mean.
Less fertilizer use always improves water quality.

#5 Less Pesticides

Pesticides have not won the war on pests; the balance of life works on diversity.
Detoxify our landscape and bodies.

#4 Free Labor

If you plant them, they will come, shield, protect and pollinate! They are the army of adapted micro-fauna. Predators and pollinators work for free; \$50 Billion dollars worth of pollination (when last estimated by EO Wilson in the 1980's.) Insectaries Gardens are a main-stay at all organic farms.

#3 Conserve Water

They require less water when planted in a place that mimics their native habitat.

#2 Conserve Wildlife

All the fauna has evolved with them: save the creatures big and small.
Native plants accompanying fauna feeds the food chain, provides original habitat, and maintains the balance of life.

#1 Infrastructure

They support the web of life that holds the alive "skin" of our planet together into a working ecosystem that recycles vital elements. Healthy soil, fresh water and clean air are our most important investment. We don't want to end up like Mars!

Thank you, Alan for a personal compilation!

Spring 2011 Field Trips

Field trips are open and free to everyone. Please contact the trip leader to see if there are any last minute changes that may have occurred due to inclement weather. You may also visit www.burroughs.org and click on "Field Trips" for changes or for field trips posted after this newsletter was complete. For all field trips, bring comfortable footwear for hiking, binoculars, water, snacks, sunscreen, and FRS radios if you have them. All trips involve walking on both dirt and/or paved trails.

Jerry Smith Park's Woodcock Walk

Tuesday, March 8th @ 6:00 PM

Whether you call it a mudsnipe, bogsucker, or timberdoodle, the American Woodcock has a fascinating courtship display that can be seen right here in our area! Larry Rizzo will lead us on a short hike to an overlook where these birds often display at dusk. The hard surface trail will lead to the area where the birds display, but some hiking over unpaved ground may be necessary. Bring a flashlight and dress for evening weather. From Holmes Road go east on 139th Street and proceed $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to the park entrance on the left. Follow the long gravel drive to the parking lot at the top of the hill. Regardless of weather, call Larry after 12:00 PM (Noon) for confirmation of this trip. Windy and/or inclement conditions can affect the trip.

Larry Rizzo: larry.rizzo@mdc.mo.gov or (816) 655-6254 ext. 246 after 12:00 PM (Noon)

Nebraska's Platte River

Friday, March 25 through Sunday, March 27

Craig Hensley will be taking us to see the Sandhill Cranes and various waterfowl on Nebraska's Platte River. It's a migratory spectacle not to be missed! We'll view cranes leaving their roosts in the morning and return to the river in the evening. On one of the mornings, we'll get up early to view Greater Prairie Chickens on their lek. We'll also bird Funk Lagoon and some of the surrounding Rainwater Basin areas. We'll leave at 8:00 a.m. on Friday at a location to be announced and return by 6:00 PM Sunday evening. Participants should arrange for their own lodging in Kearney, NE.

Craig Hensley: (913) 299-2384

Big Buffalo Creek Conservation Area

Sunday, April 17th @ 7:00 AM

Linda Williams, a Missouri Master Naturalist and Photographer par excellence, will take us on a day trip to the closest "Ozark-like" habitat you can see right here in our own area. We'll be looking for Carolina Chickadees and spring migrants including the Worm-eating Warblers. Spring wildflowers may also be in bloom. Meet at the commuter lot at Highway 50 next to the QuikMart just east of the entrance to Powell Gardens.

Linda Williams: (816) 536-5001 or lwilliams@kc.rr.com

Van Meter State Park & Grand Pass Conservation Area

Saturday, April 23rd @ 6:30 AM

Sherry Leonardo will take us to bird the campground area, boardwalk, and an adjacent trail at VanMeter State Park to look for rails and migrating songbirds. Next, we'll head to Grand Pass Conservation Area to look for shorebirds and meet up with our Missouri River Bird Observatory friends, Dana Ripper and Ethan Duke to get an update on their research efforts. Meet us at the commuter lot at Highway 7 and I70 in Blue Springs at the north side of Price Chopper for carpooling.

Sherry Leonardo: (816) 763-1393 home172@aol.com

Audubon Society of Missouri Spring Meeting (ASM)

April 30th & May 1st

Lees Summit, Missouri www.mobirds.org



Kansas Ornithological Society Spring Meeting (KOS)

May 6th, 7th, & 8th

Elkhart, Morton County, Kansas www.ksbirds.org



Blue River Parkway & Bird Census

Friday, May 13th @ 7:00 AM

Don Arney, Burroughs Member and Kansas City Wildlands Member will perform two spring bird counts for the Kansas City Wildlands. Meet us at the tennis court parking lot in Minor Park on Blue River Road, just south of Red Bridge Boulevard. We'll walk the trails while helping to conduct a bird census to determine Kansas City Wildlands' effectiveness of their restoration efforts in the Blue River Corridor.

Don Arney: (816) 931-8536 or sora@kc.rr.com

Wings Over Weston Birding Festival

Saturday, May 14th

Weston Bend State Park

Saturday, May 14th @ 7:00 AM

Nancy Leo will take us to the Weston/Iatan River Corridor IBA to walk the 3.5 paved bike trail to look for spring warblers, flycatchers, tanagers and vireos. If there's time, she may also venture onto the Harpst Trail so everyone can see all the new interpretive signage – a great accolade for Burroughs Audubon! Weston Bend State Park has always been a premier spot in past years. Bring the family and plan to stay afterwards for the Wings Over Weston Birding Festival!

Nancy Leo at 913-205-8847 or njleo@earthlink.net

Fort Leavenworth and Leavenworth Bottoms

Sunday, May 15th @ 6:30 AM

Join us on the other side of the river from Weston Bend State Park and the Weston/Iatan River Corridor IBA for an all-day birding trip to the exceptional forest habitats of Fort Leavenworth. We'll start the day by visiting the upland oak-hickory forest where there is a number of secluded walking trails and gravel roads. Next, we'll break for lunch before proceeding to the bottomland forest along the Missouri River. These woods are the largest surviving tract of old-growth, bottomland forest along the entire length of the Missouri River. Target species will include later-arriving spring migrants, plus those species that remain here to breed. In addition to a heron rookery, both Summer and Scarlet Tanagers occur here, as well as Eastern Towhee, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and others. Meet at the commuter parking lot on the north side of Kansas Highway 92 (Metropolitan Ave), approximately 0.5 mile west of the Missouri River Bridge into Leavenworth, or about 0.25 mile east of the main entrance to the Fort. Bring your lunch and as a friendly reminder with all US Military Bases, Photo ID is required for entrance. There will be some moderate hiking, although everyone can proceed at their own pace.

Mike Stoakes at 816-554-1956 or mstoakes@juno.com

A Long-Eared Owl The Return of a Winter Friend

by *Matt Gearheart*

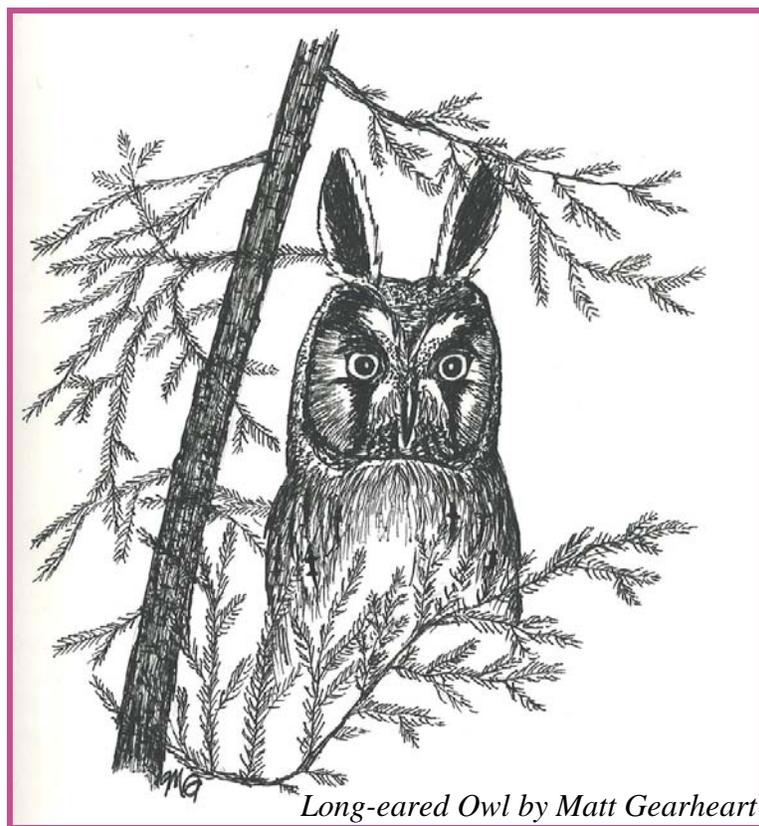
Each November, Burroughs Audubon makes its annual trek to Lyon County, Kansas, in search of Smith's Longspurs, migrant waterfowl, raptors and if we're lucky a Long-Eared Owl or two.

For the last few years, they have been absent or undetected. Many hypothesis' can be formulated as to why: weather patterns, the cedar trees they roost in are aging and a little sickly, and as reported on the Kansas listserv, a few birds were tragically found shot sometime shortly after our last sighting on the field trip in November, 2006.

The Long-Eared Owl, *Asio otus*, is a medium-sized nocturnal owl characterized by its large ear-tufts, and is a partially migratory species in the Mid-West. In Kansas, they have been recorded in at least 74 counties and are documented to have bred in 21 of those counties. Typically, they are found in winter, where they are often discovered in their communal day-time roosts: usually a dense stand of evergreen trees adjacent to an open field for feeding. Lyon County State Lake offers a great example of such habitat and we have historically found as many as 15 birds here.

When searching for a roost of Long-eared Owls, it is best to walk around or amongst the evergreens, checking low for white-wash or pellets and checking higher for a perched bird, usually tight to the trunk of the tree. They can be extremely camouflaged, and often your only view is one flying away which you have unintentionally flushed.

This year, we were pleased to discover the return of our prodigal owl in Lyon County when Carolyn Chips from Girard, Kansas, keenly spotted one bird perched high in a cedar tree. It was an exciting Lifer for her, and the obliging owl stayed put for nearly all of our 27 birders to get a great up-close view. Though not the most rare species found on our trip, it may have been the highlight of the day!



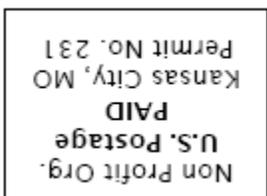
Daniel Dermitzel Receives TogetherGreen Fellowship Award

Daniel Dermitzel wants to help bring sustainable urban food production to the table and to encourage a better balance of joy, respect, and love of nature. Daniel has spent the last ten years as an organic farmer, teacher, urban planner, and co-founder of the Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture. He works with urban farmers, community groups, and planners to develop local food production. The Center runs two training farms, connects farmers to each other and to resources, and consults with policy makers. Together with local partners it has put on events like the biannual Urban Farms and Gardens Tour, “Building Edible Cities”(a panel for planning and design professionals), and the Immigrant and Refugee Farmers Education Day, where farmers from around the world exchanged experiences and farming techniques.

After seeing what intensive annual cropping can do for our soils, conservation in agriculture is very important to Daniel. Urban farming comes in many different forms, and Daniel is curious about perennial food production where soils are not tilled or otherwise disturbed anymore—much like in a forest. Through his *TogetherGreen* fellowship, Daniel will develop an “edible forest gardening” project, experimenting with an agricultural method in which food is grown in a relatively permanent, low-input, and low-maintenance system. With the help from local experts, Daniel will plan and lay the groundwork for a forest garden, where people can learn about sustainable farming and ecology while enjoying a place that is nourishing in more ways than one.

Daniel hopes to develop basic knowledge and build up expertise in edible forest gardening so he can continue inspiring others to advance similar agricultural conservation methods for nature’s sake. He’ll share the lessons of the project widely.

Nominations for the final round of 2011 Together Green fellowship, innovation and volunteer program awards are due in May. For more information, check the website at togethergreen.org or contact Jill DeWitt at listens2prairies@gmail.com or (816) 896-9104.



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the National Audubon Society.