

Topeka

December 2006 Volume 59, Number 11

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# Audubon Society News

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

## Christmas Bird Count

The 2006 Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will be conducted on Saturday, December 16th, said Gary Haden, Topeka Audubon Society CBC Coordinator. Members and nonmembers are welcome to participate. Individuals who may have concerns about their ability to identify all of the birds spotted will be matched with more experienced birders. Counters will work within 10 separate areas comprised within a circle that extends in a radius for 7.5 miles around the State capitol. Individuals who cannot or do not wish to take part in the field count can participate by watching their feeders on the 16th, provided they live within the count area.

The Topeka Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count is one of hundreds conducted nationally within a two-week period on either side of Christmas Day each year. Last year Topeka counters recorded 77 species and more than 26,000 birds during the day-long count.

The count compilation occurs at the end of the same day of counting. Counters will meet at 5:15pm at Golden Corral. This is a good time to see old friends and discuss those hard-to-identify species.

**We need volunteers! Please call or email Gary Haden at 273-5598 (home) 913-522-2004 (cell) or at [gchaden@earthlink.net](mailto:gchaden@earthlink.net).**

**Tens of Thousands of Citizen Scientists to Join with National Audubon Society for 107th Christmas Bird Count Ivyland, PA, October 26, 2006** - National Audubon Society's longest-running wintertime tradition, the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will take place throughout the Americas from December 14, 2006 to January 5, 2007.

Results from the over 2,000 individual counts expected to take place this year enable Audubon and other conservationists to assess the population status of both resident and migratory birds across the Western Hemisphere, as well as the state of the habitat that is critical to these feathered flyers. For more information about CBC participation, visit Audubon's website at [www.audubon.org/bird/cbc](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc).

### **“Landon Trail” by John Purvis**

**Tuesday, 7pm, January 9, 2007,  
Topeka & Shawnee County  
Public Library**

John Purvis, Kanza Rail-Trail Conservancy board member, will provide information about the Landon Trail, which stretches 38 miles from the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic site to the Flint Hills Nature Trail near Pomona Lake. It is made up of two former Missouri Pacific Railroad corridors. Near completion is a 3.8-mile section connecting Topeka with Berryton. By 2007, work should be complete on a five-mile segment that will push the trail to the wildlife area. Come hear more about it on Tuesday, January 9.

As usual there will be a no-host dinner at Annie's Place at 5:30pm before the program meeting. All TAS members members are welcome.

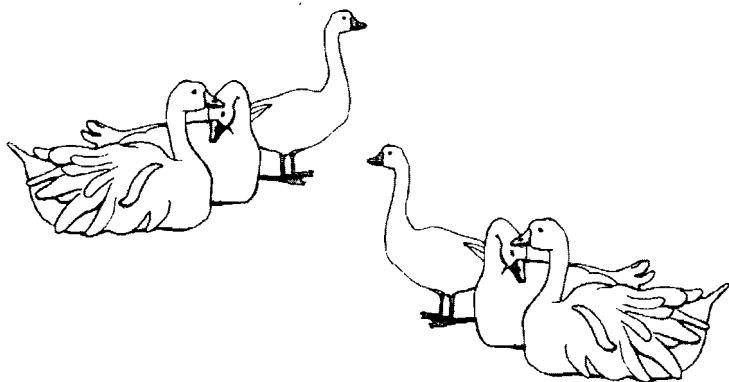
In the end, our society will be defined not only by what we create but by what we refuse to destroy.  
— *John Sawhill 1936-2000*



# Field Trip Report: Squaw Creek NWR

Seven Topeka Auduboners headed to Northwest Missouri early this morning (Nov. 18) to observe waterfowl at Squaw Creek NWR. We found five species of geese and 15 species of ducks along with a few pied-billed and eared grebes. We also had a possible sighting of an immature Common Moorhen—pretty late in the year for this species. Four Killdeer were the only shorebirds seen. The 28 degree weather was more than offset by the sighting of six Trumpeter swans north of the observation deck. The two adults both were sporting red neck bands, one of which was “H 52”—the other band was illegible. **Field Trip Leader Dan Gish**

Note from **Rhonda Simpson**: Tens of thousands of snow geese were present. The green-winged teal showed off beautifully in the sunlight. A belted kingfisher made a noisy and entertaining display on a fencepost. We were amused by all the “duck butts” seen as the birds went head down in the water.



When one tugs at a single thing in nature,  
he finds it attached to the rest of the  
world. — John Muir 1838-1914

If you are a member of National Audubon, you are automatically a member of Topeka Audubon. However, you have the option to become a member of our chapter without belonging to National. If you plan to continue your National membership, DO NOT send the \$18 for a chapter-only membership.

A hearty thank you to all who watch the address label on the newsletter and renew your chapter-only membership as it becomes due. This is a big savings to the chapter as your label is the only renewal notice you will receive. Let us know of an address change, too, as it costs each time we mail a newsletter to the wrong address.

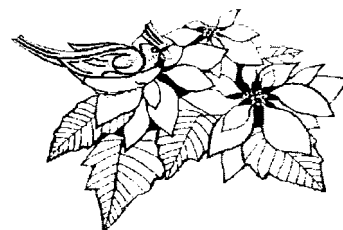
# Field Trip Report: Lake Shawnee

Eight Topeka Audubon birders met at the Lake Shawnee heated fishing dock parking lot at 7:30 Saturday morning Nov. 4 and canvassed the species found on the west side of the lake. Ruddy ducks dominated the duck inventory followed by a few mallards, one Gadwall, one Bufflehead, two Wood ducks, and a few Lesser scaup. The highlight of the field trip was when an Osprey took to the air over our heads on Gazebo Point. There was a moment when I was standing in the gazebo and I was eye level with this majestic fisherman. When he/she saw me he flared off to the east. Pretty exciting!

Some of the other more interesting species included Cedar waxwings and four Wilson’s snipe. After we had birded the west side of the lake, we went to the Oakland area and walked some ATV trails that parallel the river. This area is very wild with big weed patches and large stands of trees along the riverbank. Here we found Golden-crowned kinglet, Harris’s sparrow, Brown creeper, Greater yellowlegs, Cooper’s hawk, and Barred owl. The hawk was harrassing the owl, as was a flock of jays.

We totaled 46 species between the two locations.

**Field Trip Leader  
Dan Gish**



**Chapter Only Membership**

**Topeka Audubon Society**

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28 Peppertree Lane

Topeka, KS 66611

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# ASK AUDUBON

**“What is the purpose of bottle deposits? Where does the money go?” - Submitted by Carol C. of Peekskill, NY.**

Bottle bills, also called container deposit laws, require a small deposit on soft drinks, beer and other beverage containers, which is returned to the consumer when the empty bottle is returned to the vendor. The purpose of these regulations is to help ensure a high rate of recycling. States that currently have bottle bill legislation are: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Oregon, and Vermont. Most of these states reported a reduction of beverage container litter ranging from 70 to 83 percent after implementation of the bottle bill. The collected funds are used by the state for environmental purposes.

When bottles are not returned, the unclaimed deposits, which total millions of dollars a year, remain the property of the distributors and bottlers in most states. In Michigan and Massachusetts, the courts have ruled that these unclaimed deposits rightfully belong to the state, and they are now used to fund environmental programs in those areas.

Currently Arkansas, Tennessee, Illinois, and West Virginia are trying to enact bottle bill legislation, and Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York are trying to expand their existing legislation to include the newer types of bottles, such as non-carbonated soft drinks, that have been developed since the laws were first passed. To read more about this, go to <http://www.bottlebill.org/legislation/usa.htm>.

Submit your questions about consumer choices and how they affect the environment to [cblayer@audubon.org](mailto:cblayer@audubon.org).

## Topeka Audubon Society

*An affiliate of the National Audubon Society*

President.....Joe Kun  
Vice President.....Janeen Walters  
Secretary.....Melody Pollom  
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28 Peppertree Lane  
Topeka, KS 66611  
[lacour2@mindspring.com](mailto:lacour2@mindspring.com)

Printed on recycled paper with soybean ink.

## Irania Bird Counting Game

This online website gives you practice at counting flocks of birds. There are five flocks of birds that “fly” by and you enter how many birds you think are present. The game keeps score for you and lets you know how much your estimates are over or under the actual number. It’s good practice! It’s also quite humbling.

<http://personal.inet.fi/cool/live/birds/index.html>



## Christmas Gift Ideas!

Topeka Audubon Society still has T-shirts for sale! Buy one for yourself or for that birdlover friend or family member of yours. Shirts cost \$12, which includes tax and shipping and handling. Make your check payable to Topeka Audubon Society. Sizes include S, M, L, XL, XXL.

*Audubon  
& Society*

This red cardinal on a gray T-shirt can be ordered from Melody Pollom. Contact her at her email address: [pollomhome@hotmail.com](mailto:pollomhome@hotmail.com) or phone: 286-2033.



This TAS logo on a beige T-shirt can be ordered from Dan Gish. Contact him at his email address: [gishbear@cox.net](mailto:gishbear@cox.net) or phone: 232-3731.

## Calendar of Events

### December 2006

- 2 **Field Trip: Melvern and John Redmond Reservoirs, meet at Starlight Skating Rink, 301 SE 45th Street, 7:00am.\***
- 16 **Field Trip: Christmas Bird Count. Your participation would be appreciated for one of the groups counting in Shawnee County. Say yes if you are called or contacted by a group leader!**
- 25 **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

### January 2007

- 6 **Field Trip: Lake Shawnee Not-So-Competitive Birding Contest. Meet at the heated fishing dock 8:00am.**
- 9 **Program Meeting: The Landon Trail by John Purvis, TSCPL 7:00pm.**
- 17 **Board Meeting: TSCPL 7:00pm.**
- 20 **Field Trip: Eagle Watch on Lecompton River Road and Lake Perry. Meet at Dillon's, 29th & California, 7:30am.**

\* Contact Dan Gish at [gishbear@cox.net](mailto:gishbear@cox.net) or 232-3731 for more information regarding field trips. If you carpool on a field trip with a fellow TAS member, please chip in for the gas.

\*\*Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library

# Merry Christmas!



## Volunteers Needed

Like many organizations, TAS struggles to find members who will help with managing programs, leading field trips and accepting roles as officers and board members. A nominations committee will soon be formed to search for members who will step forward to promote the mission of the Audubon Society: Call President Joe Kun if you are willing to get involved, at 582-4662, or email [joe.kun@bcbsks.com](mailto:joe.kun@bcbsks.com).

Address Service Requested

Topeka, KS 66611  
28 Peppete Lane  
Executive Secretary

Joanna Lacoursiere

Society News

# Audubon

Topeka



A hearty thank you to all who watch the address label on the newsletter and renew your chapter-only membership as it becomes due. This serves as your renewal notice. See renewal form inside this newsletter. Let Joanna Lacoursiere know of address changes, too.

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