

Audubon Society News

www.topekaaudubonsociety.org

“Fifty Fungi”

by Richard Kay

March 14, 7:00pm
Topeka & Shawnee
County Public Library

Please join us for a slide show presentation by Richard Kay titled “Fifty Fungi.” The show will illustrate the difference between poisonous and edible mushrooms (the most common concern with fungi). It will also show how curious, various, and beautiful mushrooms can be.

Kay is a retired professor of history at the University of Kansas with a specialty in Dante. he is a skilled amateur mycologist and author of *A Checklist of Kansas Mushrooms* and co-author of *A Guide to Kansas Mushrooms*.

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

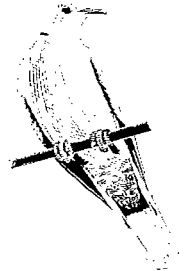
A Guide to Kansas



Attention: Send in your registration for the Annual Spring Meeting on April 11! See page 3 for details.

Field Trip Report: Tuttle Creek & Pott. County

The Topeka Audubon field trip to Tuttle Creek Reservoir and Pott. Co. St. Lake on Feb. 4th was attended by nine birders. Considering the cold conditions, the low turnout was not unexpected. Birding was fair to poor. The day started off with a good stop at Pillsbury Crossings south of Manhattan. We found several woodland species: titmouse, chickadee, bluebird, white-breasted nuthatch, red-bellied woodpecker, flicker, and yellow-breasted sapsucker. As we returned to Deep Creek Rd., we came upon a sizeable flock of wild turkeys in a green wheat field. Tuttle Creek State Park offered little more than an immature bald eagle and a few ring-billed gulls. There was also a flock of 10-12 Eurasian Collared doves hanging around the restroom east of the Park Office. They were engaging in chasing and mating! It was quite a sight to see them copulate while trying to balance on a power line! When they finished, the female flew off with a shake of her tail feathers and the male seemed to have a more buoyant wing beat!!! The holding pond below the dam had several hundred common mergansers and there were several great blue herons sitting on the south side of the island where they often nest in the tall cottonwoods. Perhaps they are hanging around to stake out territory. I wonder if they can do it on a power line? :):)



The Stockdale area had a few sparrow species (Harris, white-crowned, junco), more common mergansers, and just a few gulls. We backtracked and made a stop at Rocky Ford State Fishing Park where we added gadwall, mallard, and common goldeneye. Pott. Co. St. Lake had a few common goldeneye, mallards, and green-winged teal on the water while the trees held blue jays, bluebirds, and a red-headed woodpecker. Maybe the birding will be better on the 18th when we bird Clinton Reservoir and Lonestar Lake—both in Douglas County.

Field Trip Leader Dan Gish

Accessorize Your Computer with Free Audubon Screensaver

Now you can accessorize your computer with Audubon. Second Nature Software, a proud supporter of nonprofit environmental organizations, has made a stunning new screen saver featuring world-class photographs of birds in their natural habitats titled "On Wings of Beauty." It is available as a free download for a limited time. Links to download the free screensaver are located at <http://www.audubon.org/>. Second Nature Software also offers the "Audubon Centennial Collection," a screen saver featuring the bird art of John James Audubon, which is available for purchase at their website, <http://www.secondnaturecd.com/>.

Audubon licenses a wide variety of products including bird houses, wild bird food, plush singing bird toys, singing bird clocks, shade-grown coffee, and the long running series of Audubon Field Guides. Your purchase of Audubon licensed products is a great way to support our conservation work.

Field Trip Report:

Clinton & Lonestar Lakes

February 18, 2006. Richard Field and I were the only persons to show up for the field trip to Clinton and Lonestar this morning. I suppose 3degrees discouraged people from leaving their warm beds! We found several species of waterfowl: Canada geese, mallard, canvasback, ring-necked duck, greater scaup, lesser scaup, common goldeneye, bufflehead, common merganser, and hooded merganser. The highlight of the morning was finding two active bald eagle nests with adults sitting, we presumed, on eggs! One of the nests is at the dead end of Douglas Co 400 E which is about one mile east of Stull. The other nest is the "original" nest that first brought eagle chicks into Kansas in more than a hundred years. Any one wanting more detailed directions to view the eagle nests may email me.

Field Trip Leader Dan Gish

Audubon of Kansas

Please think about contributing to the efforts of Audubon of Kansas. Check out their website at www.audubonofkansas.org. AOK is involved politically with environmental issues in Kansas including wind energy. Recently, AOK testified before the Kansas legislature regarding prairie dog towns. A century-old Kansas law requires the complete eradication of prairie dogs even on private land. AOK is working with several ranch landowners who want to retain prairie dogs on their land for various ecological, aesthetic, recreational and economic purposes, including an experimental effort to reintroduce Black-footed Ferrets in Kansas. Prairie dog colonies support uncounted numbers of breeding Burrowing Owls in summer, numerous Ferruginous Hawks throughout the year, Golden Eagles, Swift Foxes and other wildlife. Ron Klataske is the Exec. Director of AOK. He can be contacted at 210 Southwind Place, Manhattan, KS 66503, 785-537-4385 and by email Ron_Klataske@audubonofkansas.org.

Chapter Only Membership

Topeka Audubon Society

Mail checks/renewal to:

Topeka Audubon Society

28 Peppertree Lane

Topeka, KS 66611

circle one: NEW RENEWAL

Membership Dues: Individual/Family \$18 Student \$10

Name (please print)

Address

City State Zip Phone#

This is a gift from _____
(Gift card enclosed)

*Audubon
Society*

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.

Topeka Audubon Society

Annual Meeting and Spring Dinner

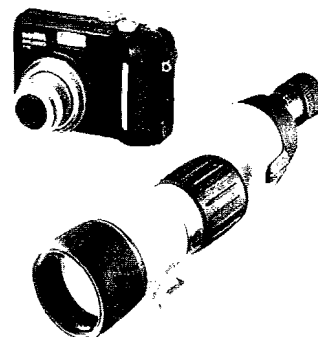
April 11, 2006

Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 SW 10th Ave. Social Hour 6:00pm. Dinner at 6:30pm. Menu: Roast Beef and Turkey Tetrazinni, Parsley Potatoes, Green Bean Almondine, tossed salad, roll & butter, assorted pies, iced tea and water. Cost: \$16.00 per person.

Program Featuring:

“Nature Close to Home: A Photographic Diary of Kansas Wildlife.” by David Seibel

David Seibel is a native Kansan with a passionate interest in birds. He received his Ph.D. in Ornithology in 1988 from the Univ. of Kansas and has been Professor of Life Sciences at Johnson County Community College for over 15 years. Seibel has published numerous scientific papers, educational books and websites on birds and human anatomy. He twice served as president of the Kansas Ornithological Society. Seibel began digiscoping in 2003; he began professional digital wildlife photography in 2005. His photos have recently been featured in American Birds, KC Magazine and others. Don't miss this terrific presentation!



Registration Form: Deadline to register is April 8. Make check payable to: Topeka Audubon Society. Please fill out the form below and send to: Janeen Walters, 3440 NW Button Road, Topeka, KS 66618.

Questions? Call Janeen at 286-3330.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Number of people attending: _____ x \$16 each, Total remitted: _____

Calendar of Events

March 2006

- 4 Field Trip: Topeka Audubon Sanctuary and Lake Perry. Meet at Dillon's 29th & California at 7:30am.*
- 14 Program Meeting: "Fifty Fungi" by Richard Kay. TSCPL**, 7:00pm. See page 1.
- 18 Field Trip: Felker Park. Meet at the softball diamonds at 7:30am.
- 21 Board Meeting: TSCPL**, 7:00pm.

April 2006

- 8 Deadline to register for the Annual Meeting on April 11.
- 11 Annual Meeting and Dinner. Special speaker is David Siebel who will make a presentation titled "Birds." TSCPL**, 6:00pm. See page 3.
- 15 Field Trip: Alma Prairie Chicken Lek and Lake Wabaunsee. Meet at the zoo parking lot at 6:00am.*
- 22 Field Trip: Felker Park. Meet at the east end of the parking lot for the softball diamonds at 7:30am.*

May 2006

- 6 Field Trip: Morris County. Meet at the zoo parking lot at 6:30am.*
- 13 North American Migration Count (NAMC). Volunteers needed.
- 16 Board Meeting: TSCPL**, 7:00pm.
- 20 Field Trip: Overland Park Arboretum and Shawnee Mission Park. Meet at Dillon's 29th & California at 6:00am.*

* Contact Dan Gish at 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 gasoline.

**Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library

Topeka Audubon Society

An affiliate of the National Audubon Society

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Send address changes to:
 Joanna Lacoursiere
 28 Peppertree Lane
 Topeka, KS 66611
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Joanna Lacoursiere
 Executive Secretary
 28 Peppertree Lane
 Topeka, KS 66611

Society News

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