

Topeka

October 2006 Volume 59, Number 9

This newsletter is published monthly by Topeka Audubon Society

Audubon Society News

www.topekaaudubonsociety.org

“Intriguing Animals of the Tropics”

by Dr. Mary McCoy

Thursday, 7pm, October 12, 2006,

Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library

Mary McCoy is a Professor of Biology at Washburn University, where she has taught for 30 years. She holds a Master's and Ph.D. in Entomology from the University of Kansas. She has traveled to the tropical rainforests of Central and South America seven times to learn about this complex ecosystem and its organisms. Most recently she has been to Belize, the Galapagos Islands, and the Amazonian rainforests of Peru and Ecuador. She is interested in art, photography, and writing as well as biology, and combines these fields when possible. She established the Insect Zoo at Washburn, and uses the live cultures of various insects for research projects and presentations.

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. Remember, it's **Thursday** this month.

New Search for Ivory Billed Woodpecker

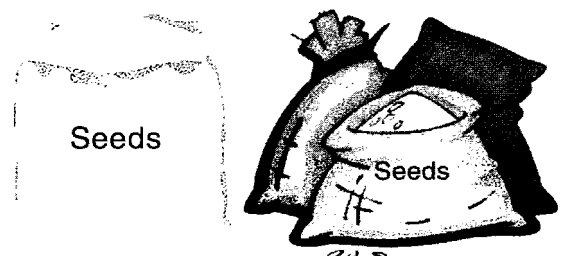
There are news reports out of another Ivory-billed discovery - this time on the Choctawhatchee River in Florida. Check out <http://web2.uwindsor.ca/courses/biology/dmennill/IBWO> and <http://www.ace-eco.org/vol11/iss3/art2/> for more information. Definitive photos are hoped for.

ANNUAL BIRDSEED SALE

The Topeka Audubon Society is having its annual fund-raiser, the Birdseed Sale, on October 21. That's right around the corner, so order now! The Birdseed Sale Co-Chairs are President Joe Kun and Earlene Kun, and many thanks in advance to them for their hard work organizing this event. An order form is enclosed with this newsletter, and remember: **Call NOW**. Pick up your birdseed on October 21 at the usual location: Gage Park Service Area on Civitan Lane.

Members have volunteered to help on the day of the sale, but if YOU would like to help please call Carol Morgan at 272-6766. It's fun to chat with your birdy friends while taking checks and cash, loading seed for customers into vehicles, and selling TAS T-shirts, bird feeders and miscellaneous. We also need volunteers to bake cookies, brownies, bread, etc. Baked goods are so tempting to impulse buyers! And to our TAS workers! Contact Carol Morgan at 272-6766 or crxmorgan@aol.com.

Remember, profits from the birdseed sale support teacher scholarships to National Audubon Society Ecology Camps and nonprofit local and state wild-life-environmental-educational activities. If you want to make a direct tax-deductible contribution to the Topeka Audubon Society, send your check to Glen Caspers, 1605 NW 50th Street, Topeka, KS 66618.



KTWU Pledge Drive and TAS

TAS members and friends answered the call to help with the KTWU pledge drive in August. Thanks to the following folks for saying, "Yes!" when asked to staff the phones on Sunday evening, August 13: **Judy Boltman (standby), Denise Eulert, Bob Foster, Dean and Gladys Grisell, Steve Hitchens, Bob Lawson, Marilyn Morford (standby), Paul Post, and Paul Willis.** Those who generously give up a Sunday evening to help the station are donating their time for the privilege of insuring that our local PBS station will be able to provide the nature shows and other programs that we have come to rely upon.

A special thanks to **Gladys Grisell** for the many years she has been the TAS liaison between KTWU and TAS. She has turned the reins over to me to coordinate the volunteers and prepare the Beginning Birders package for the KTWU auction. Thank you, Gladys, for your dedicated service to this worthy cause.

TAS Member Evelyn Davis

Audubon of Kansas Representative Needed

Paul Willis has offered his resignation as Topeka Audubon Society's Chapter Representative to Audubon of Kansas. TAS is seeking a volunteer to take his position. Paul provided the following information regarding the AOK Representative position:

- a) There are 3 scheduled meetings of the AOK Trustees per year. One of these includes the Annual Meeting. Some board members almost never attend; some attend all meetings. The expectation is that board members should plan to attend unless there are circumstances which make it difficult or impossible.
- b) Board members are expected to help support AOK through committee work and advocating for conservation of natural resources and responsible environmental decisions.
- c) Board members are asked to make financial contributions to AOK. Recognition is given to the fact that some board members are able to give comparatively large amounts, while others are not.
- d) The TAS representative is the liaison between TAS and AOK.

Won't you raise your hand and volunteer? Call President Joe Kun at 582-4662, or email joe.kun@bcbsks.com if you would like to be a part of TAS and AOK.

Rain Discourages Participation in Field Trip to Quivira

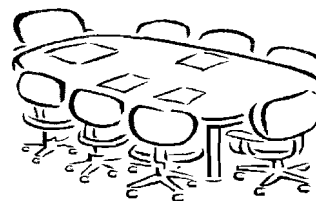
Rainy skies and an early wake-up call may have been the reason for the very low participation in the September 9th field trip to Quivira NWR and Cheyenne Bottoms. Glen Caspers, Earl White and I were the only fealess birders to travel through sprinkles and showers that didn't even fall on the two birding areas we visited. By the time we got to Salina, the roads were pretty dry. We tallied 66 species highlighted with a soaring kettle of White Pelicans over the north marsh, a flotilla of Snowy egrets running about in 12 " water foraging for minnows, a squadron of Black terns snatching insects from the surface of the water, and a very coy Warbling vireo peeking through the leaves of a dogwood bush to see what was "pishing". Other birds of interest were a Swainson's hawk, a Mississippi kite near the Claflin elevator, and the sighting of several groups of Scissor-tailed flycatchers bunching up for the big migration to the south country.

Hope to see more of you on October 7 when we travel to Lake Perry where we will check the marshes and the TAS Sanctuary. We will leave from the Dillon's at 29th & California at 7:00 a.m.

Field Trip Leader Dan Gish

More Volunteers Needed for TAS

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: To increase public understanding of natural ecosystems through preservation, recreation and education. Please step forward and devote some of your time to our society, and enjoy not only the fine programs and excellent field trips, but one of those who help make these events possible. Call President Joe Kun if you are willing to get involved, at 582-4662, or email joe.kun@bcbsks.com. We need to fill these empty chairs!



White-tailed Kite Sighted



Galen Pittman reported to the KSBIRD listserve that he had seen a white-tailed kite north of Lawrence, Kansas on Sep. 11. Pittman is the Station Manager/Biologist for the Nelson Environmental Study Area (NESA). The bird has been a hot topic on the listserve, and it is estimated that up to 100 birders have made the trek to Jefferson County to see it. The bird has been hanging out in a research area that is not open to the public, but there is a spot on a public county road that has been a good vantage point for viewing this rarity. The bird often perches on low roosts 6-8 feet off the ground and can be easy to overlook. But it does have a few favored perching spots, enabling birders to have a good chance to see it. The kite has been seen foraging, hovering, preening, hunting and eating. David Seibel has taken some wonderful photos of the bird, and you can view those at Seibel's website at <http://staff.jccc.edu/dseibel/birds/WTKI.htm>. The bird was last seen on Sep. 24. Check the listserve for sightings before you head to Lawrence.

How to signup for the KSBIRD listserve:

It's easy to get the news on what birds people are seeing across Kansas. First, go to the Kansas Ornithological Society website at <http://www.ksbirds.org/kos>, then click on Electronic Ornithological Information, then click on KSBIRD-L website, then Join or Leave the List. Many people post email messages to the listserve, so be aware that if you sign up you will see messages in your email inbox increase dramatically. But there is no better way to find out about rarities like the white-tailed kite in Jefferson County or the vermilion flycatcher in Washington County than by being a part of the KSBIRD listserve. And consider becoming a member of the Kansas Ornithological Society!

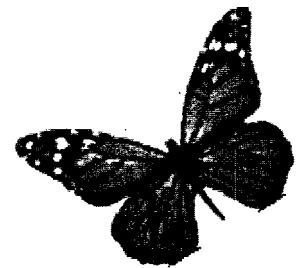


Field Trip Report: Baker Wetlands and WTKI

The Topeka Audubon field trip to Baker Wetlands on September 23, 2006 was attended by twelve birders. The number of birders represented half of the species we ended up identifying! We did have a few interesting observations, however. For example, we found several Indigo buntings—both adults and juveniles. The usual last date for Indigo migration is the 25th of September. The juveniles represent a second or third nesting for the adults.

We also found a "Monarch Tree" that was loaded with Monarch butterflies. They were grouped together in preparation for their migration to Mexico. Dozens of school children were at the wetlands hoping to catch and tag the Monarchs before they headed south.

After our walk at the wetlands, eight of us went to check on the **White-tailed kite** (WTKI) in southeast Jefferson county. Two cars were just leaving when we arrived and they indicated the kite was "right over there". We set up a couple scopes so those seeking a life bird could get a good look at the kite. Three of our group ticked off another lifer. For the rest of us, it was a second visit to the site. Before we left a couple of gals from Prairie Village showed up and we escorted them to the scopes. It turns out that one of the women was Nancy Leo's mother! I'll bet that "Mom" had a big role in encouraging Nancy's interest in birding. (For those of you who don't know Nancy, she is a top notch birder from the KC area and a friend of many Topeka birders.)



Field Trip Leader Dan Gish

ASK AUDUBON

“Rubber concrete, made with recycled tires, was used in Tallahassee, FL for city sidewalks where tree roots can lift regular concrete and create injury (with lawsuits to the city) to pedestrians/runners. I’d like to know if this product can be used in the upper Midwest climate and elsewhere?” - Submitted by Laurie H., Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The short answer is yes; it can be used in the upper Midwest, as well as other climates. Currently in use in many areas of the United States, rubber concrete is effective in a variety of climates.

Rubber from discarded automobile tires can be added to concrete used in sidewalks or asphalt used for roads. It is particularly well-suited to situations such as protruding tree roots, which require a bit of give, as well as playgrounds and running tracks, and building applications. This hybrid material has many benefits. For starters it is a way to tackle ever-growing piles of discarded tire—each year more than 242 million scrap tires join the almost 3 billion tires already in stockpiles in the U.S. In addition, asphalt rubber roads provide smoother rides for highway users, greater skid resistance and reduced tire spray in wet weather due to their highly drainable nature. What’s more, rubber also absorbs sound; rubber asphalt and concrete make for quieter highways and sidewalks. When asphalt rubber was installed along Superstition Freeway (US 60) between Tempe and Mesa, Arizona, nearby residents commented how much quieter the highway had become. A Belgian study found asphalt-rubber reduced noise by 75 percent when applied to the Brussels Loop.

Asphalt rubber or concrete is more costly per ton than plain cement or asphalt. However, lifecycle analyses show that the product is actually more economical in the long run. For one thing, less material is used; 2 inches of asphalt rubber will do to cover a cracked highway, whereas 4 inches of cement would be needed. The asphalt rubber lasts much longer, meaning less ongoing construction costs and fewer highway detours.

Why isn’t this amazing innovation more widely used? Early on, patents limited its use, and there were only a few manufacturers. Since 1992 the last of the patents has expired and the material has become more readily available. An additional early roadblock was the product’s experimental status—federal funding was not allocated for its use on highways. None other than the late Sonny Bono, then mayor of Palm Springs, spearheaded the effort to change the experimental designation. Now over 23 states are using asphalt rubber and concrete rubber. In the future, we will undoubtedly see more widespread use of rubber concrete and asphalt, and, hopefully, a bigger reduction in the stockpiles of discarded tires.

For more information see: <http://www.asphaltrubber.org/ari/index.html>.



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.

Chapter Only Membership

Mail checks/renewal to:

Topeka Audubon Society

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)

Attention: Audubon Chapter Leaders and Members

The *Summer '06 Chapter Networker* is now available online! Please take a moment and checkout what's happening at Audubon and access the latest tools and information available to Audubon chapters. *Summer '06* issue includes:

- 2006 Newsletter Contest Results
- Regional Elections Update
- Wetlands Wilderness in Jeopardy
- Audubon Adventures Update
- Distribution Center Order Form
- 2006 Callison Award Winners

The website address is: www.audubon.org/local/cn/networker.html.

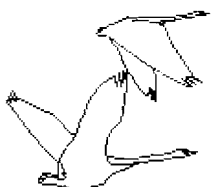
Audubon Urges People Coast to Coast to Help Birds Make it Safely to Their Wintering Grounds

New York, NY, September 14, 2006 - Each year from August to November, 5 billion birds in North America - including songbirds, hummingbirds, raptors and others - make their way from their summer breeding grounds in northern areas to their winter homes in the south. Their migration is wrought with perils, such as storms, limited food supplies, and exhaustion. Compounding these natural threats are the ones created by humans, including the bright lights and tall structures of cities, prowling domestic pets and toxic lawns.

People can provide a safer journey for migrating birds, especially when the birds stop in their yards and communities for rest and food.

To view the steps the Audubon At Home program urges people to take to help ensure a successful fall migration for our feathered friends, please visit

http://proto.audubon.org/news/press_releases/Fall_Migration_Tips_09_13_06.html



National Audubon ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audubon's back-to-school checklist is now available for viewing at http://www.audubonathome.org/Back-to-School_Checklist.html (a PDF version of the checklist is also available for downloading at this URL). Come take a look and see how you can make environmentally-responsible choices for school, home or the office!

Another milestone in Audubon magazine's proud 108-year history has been achieved with the re-launching of the website at <http://www.audubonmagazine.org>. It has everything you've come to expect from Audubon: timely conservation stories that set the agenda, fun news you can use, and a breathtaking design that establishes a standard by which the competition will be measured. This is the first phase of an overhaul that aims to give the magazine's online version a more dynamic presence, thus driving more traffic to the organization's website and expanding the print version's base of 1.6 million readers.

Audubon Licensing Announces *Birds of America Centennial Edition*

New York, NY, September 14, 2006 - Audubon Licensing is proud to announce the premiere release of Audubon's *Birds of America* "Centennial Edition" from Zebra Publishing. The "Centennial Edition" includes reproductions of the entire Double Elephant Folio of 435 bird images, as created by John James Audubon and printed by R. Havell & Son, London, in the early 19th century.

Each image is strictly limited to only 200 prints with 50 of each edition being reserved for collectors as complete suites of 435 images entitled the "Centennial Edition Suites."

For more information visit <http://www.audubon.org/market/licensed/artprints.html> or call Zebra Publishing at (561) 881-7514.



Calendar of Events

October 2006

- 7 Field Trip: Lake Perry Marshes and TAS Sanctuary.
Meet at Dillon's, 29th & California, 7:00am.*
- 12 Program Meeting: "Traveling in the Tropics" by
Dr. Mary McCoy, TSCPL**, **Thursday** night, 7:00pm.
See page 1 for more information.
- 18 Board Meeting, 7:00pm, TSCPL**.
- 21 **Bird Seed Sale**
- 21 Field Trip: Felker Park, meet at east end of parking
lot, 7:00am.*

November 2006

- 4 Field Trip: Lake Shawnee, meet at the heated
fishing dock, 7:30am.
- 14 Program Meeting: "Tobago and Trinidad" by Matt
Gearheart, TSCPL**, 7:00pm.
- 15 Board Meeting: 7:00pm, TSCPL**.
- 18 Field Trip: Squaw Creek NWR. Meet at Dillon's at
29th & California, 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 gas.

**Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library

Topeka Audubon Society

An affiliate of the National Audubon Society

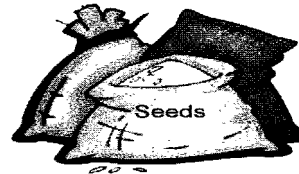
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 Vice President.....Janeen Walters
 Secretary.....Melody Pollom
 Treasurer.....Glen Caspers
 Executive Secretary.....Joanna Lacoursiere
 Newsletter Editor.....Carol Morgan
 Website.....Patsy Rush

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Seed Sale!

October 21,
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