

# Topeka

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# Audubon Society News

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

## Annual Meeting and Spring Dinner Report

Sixty-five Topeka Audubon Society members gathered at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library on April 11 for the Annual Meeting and Spring Dinner. President Joe Kun called the brief meeting to order. The primary order of business was to elect the slate of TAS Board Members and Officers for the coming year. The only change from the current staff was the nomination of a new Treasurer, Glen Caspers. The members voted unanimously for the nominees: Joe Kun, President; Janeen Walters, Vice President; Glen Caspers, Treasurer; Melody Pollom, Secretary; Joanna Lacoursiere, Executive Secretary; Board Members: Sandy Bohnsack, Bob Lawson, Diane Llamas, Carol Morgan, Patsy Rush and Rhonda Simpson.

President Joe Kun then gave a tribute to the outgoing Treasurer, Charles Vausbinder. Charles has been TAS Treasurer since August 1979. In grateful thanks for his dedicated service, Charles was presented with a beautiful memento, a wood figure of a Yellow-rumped Warbler handcarved and painted by none other than Joanne Ramberg.

The speaker for the evening was David Seibel, who shared an array of digital photographs of both common and rare birds. Time after time, the audience sighed in wonder at the incredible images he presented. Seibel received applause not only for his photography but also for his imitations of a barred owl and screech owl.

Thanks go to Janeen Walters for making the arrangements for this wonderful evening.



Speaker David Seibel and Vice President Janeen Walters



Dr. Joanne Ramberg and Past Treasurer Charles Vausbinder

## Potluck Field Trip, RSVP to [gchaden@earthlink.net](mailto:gchaden@earthlink.net)

TAS is conducting a field trip that will include birding and a cookout at Gary and Carolyn Haden's farm along Clarks Creek in Morris County on Saturday, May 6. This field trip coincides with the KOS meeting which may discourage attendance, but anyone with an interest is welcome to join us. This is a good opportunity to fill out your Morris County list and there should be lots of migrants to go with the local suspects. The trip begins in Topeka, but there will be opportunities to join it at points along the way, or to meet at or near the farm west of Latimer. Hamburgers, hotdogs, condiments and some beverages will be provided. Participants should bring one side dish. Fisherfolk are welcome to bring their flyrods or spinning rods and artificial lures. Surely someone can outfish Dan Gish. If you'd like more information, please contact Gary Haden at [gchaden@earthlink.net](mailto:gchaden@earthlink.net) or Dan Gish at [gishbear@cox.net](mailto:gishbear@cox.net). Please RSVP Gary Haden [gchaden@earthlink.net](mailto:gchaden@earthlink.net) so he can plan for the number of hamburgers/hotdogs etc. to provide.

## Field Trip Report: Felker Park x 2

The March 18th field trip to Felker Park was attended by eight birders who were able to identify thirty-six species/races. The spotty drizzle didn't seem to bother either the birds or the birders. We encountered five species of sparrows: swamp, white-throated, Harris's, fox, and song. Other species of note include a flock of eight wood ducks, a few ruby and golden-crowned kinglets busily foraging high in the tops of gigantic cottonwood trees, a couple brown creepers "creeping" up the trunks of trees in search of insect larvae, and three winter wrens that made their presence known with their calls—but difficult to get binoculars on them. A yellow-bellied sapsucker and a downy woodpecker took a stand on who was going to have "tapping" rights on a particular tree...and the sapsucker won. The downy departed the scene leaving the sapsucker the prize. Some members of our group were able to hear and see an eastern phoebe near the pedestrian bridge that goes to 29th Street. Surely spring can't be far away.

The TAS field trip to the Felker Park trails on April 22nd netted 46 species over a three hour time period. Some of the more interesting observations include several flocks of Franklin's gulls flying in "V" formation to the north. I have never seen gulls of any species flying in any type of formation. We also were able to see a Cooper's hawk incubating her eggs in a nest over the Shunganunga Creek. In the same vicinity as the Cooper's we saw at least one, maybe two, broadwing hawks. The broadwing(s) stayed in the general vicinity and may be nesting. Later in the morning we saw three broadwings soaring above the savannah north of the marsh. We had gone to the savannah in search of Leconte's sparrows. We found a nice patch relatively tall grass interspersed with herbaceous shrubs and formed a line and walked to the south. We soon began flushing LeConte's and was able to get one to freeze in one of the shrubs. As I slowly approached the shrub, the sparrow slowly inched up to the top of the shrub giving us a full view of this most beautiful sparrow.

**Field Trip Leader Dan Gish**

The newsletter deadline is the 15th! Send articles, news and photos you would like to see in the newsletter to [crxmorgan@aol.com](mailto:crxmorgan@aol.com), or mail to Carol Morgan, 2607 SW Westport Drive, Topeka, KS 66614-2513.

## Field Trip Report: Wabaunsee County

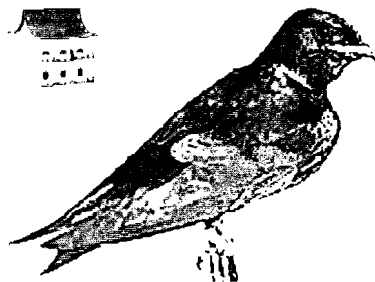
The weather conditions were perfect for the annual field trip to Wabaunsee County on April 14 to look in on the greater prairie chicken lek west of Alma. The lek had moved some 500 yards to the northeast of the lek the chickens had been using for the past several years; but, after some searching some TAS members began to locate strutting male chickens. With 24 participants taking turns looking at the males do their mating dance, it took a while for all to get a sampling of greater prairie chicken spring behavior. While we were at the viewing area, we also saw and heard many upland sandpipers, vesper sparrows, savannah sparrows, grasshopper sparrows, brown-headed cowbirds, and eastern meadowlarks.

After a comfort break in Alma, we stopped at the sewage lagoons where we found nine lesser yellowlegs, a few killdeer, shovelers, blue-winged teal, tree swallows occupying a bluebird house, and chipping sparrows. From the lagoons, we took the Hessdale Road south to Lake Wabaunsee. Along the way we found American pipit, wild turkey, eastern phoebe, eastern bluebird, northern parulas, blue-gray gnatcatcher, belted kingfisher, Swainson's hawk, and a great blue heron rookery that contained between 15 and 20 occupied nests. None of us in attendance had ever seen this rookery before, lending to the notion that it was a new rookery. Lake Wabaunsee offered little in new day species, so, after a short lunch we headed to Echo Cliff near Dover. There we found nesting rough-winged swallows and a couple of Louisiana waterthrushes. We finished the day with 59 species.

**Field Trip Leader Dan Gish**

### Child's Verse: Purple Martin

Bird whose feet oft spurn the ground,  
I always like to have you 'round;  
The Martin house is ready quite;  
Will you be moving in tonight?  
Come bring your song to cheer us all  
From early spring to chilly fall.



# National Audubon Society and National Arbor Day Foundation Give Trees to Katrina Victims

**Moss Point, MS, April 14, 2006** - As part of the Katrina Tree Recovery Campaign, launched last year by National Audubon Society and The National Arbor Day Foundation, nearly 22,000 trees were given away at 20 sites in coastal Mississippi and southeastern Louisiana. The Campaign was created in the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, to help with the region's tree recovery efforts. People from 43 states across America answered the call to help replant trees in Mississippi and Louisiana through financial donations that resulted in the shipment of over 25,000 trees in early March.

During the March 4 tree giveaway program, four native species of trees were available - Bald Cypress, Red Maple, Red Oak, and Live Oak - and were provided free of charge to families rebuilding their lives and their homes after Katrina. The remainder of the 25,000-plus donated trees were distributed to several disaster relief sites and to other organizations. (see next column)

More information about Operation Backyard Recovery can be found at <http://www.msaudubon.org/>. To contribute to the Katrina Tree Recovery Campaign, people can send contributions to The National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, or contribute online at <http://www.arborday.org/Katrina>.

## NEW! Chapter Services Web Site

The Chapter Services Web site is completely updated and all Audubon leaders are encouraged to check it out via <http://www.audubon.org/local/cso> or from the Audubon Home page (click on States, Centers & Chapters on the navigation bar, and then Chapter Resources on the pull down menu).

With a new format and cleaner interface, pages provide easy navigation and numerous links to information about conservation programs, policies, business practices, fundraising, membership and much more that is of special interest to Chapter leaders. We will continue to add new information to the site over the coming months and welcome all suggestions for changes or contributions. Please send all comments to [chapter\\_services@audubon.org](mailto:chapter_services@audubon.org).

## Seafood Wallet Card available at [www.seafood.audubon.org](http://www.seafood.audubon.org)

Not all seafoods are equal: Some carry less environmental impact than others because of differences in their abundance, how they're caught, and how well fisheries are managed. The key is to know which species are in good shape and which are not. Our goal is to help you become more familiar with your seafood, so that you're better able to make selections from healthy, thriving sources. The Fish Scale color bar reflects the state of the fish. If a fish is in good shape – for example, if it's abundant, relatively well-managed, or the fishing methods have little effect on habitat and catch few unintended creatures – it's ranked green. If there are some concerns about a species' status, fishing methods or management, it ranks yellow. Species with significant problems receive a red designation on our Fish Scale.

Consumer demand has driven some fish populations to their lowest levels ever. But you can be part of the solution by choosing seafoods from healthy, thriving species and fisheries. Which fish you buy at the market and off the menu will determine our oceans' future. Protecting our marine life is part of Audubon's mission to protect our great natural heritage. You can help with everyday choices that make a difference.

### Green:

Anchovies  
Catfish (farmed)  
Crawfish  
Dungeness crab  
Halibut (Pacific)  
Mussels and Clams (farmed)  
Oysters (Pacific farmed)  
Sablefish (Alaska, British Columbia)  
Salmon (Wild Alaskan)  
Sardines  
Striped Bass (farmed)  
Tilapia (U.S. farmed)  
Tuna: Ahi, Yellowfin, Bigeye, Albacore (pole/troll-caught)

### Yellow:

Cod (Pacific)  
Lobster (American)  
Mahi-Mahi  
Oysters (wild-caught)  
Rainbow Trout (farmed)  
Scallops (bay and sea)  
Shrimp (U.S. farmed or trawl-caught)  
Squid (calamari)  
Swordfish (Atlantic)  
Tuna (canned)  
Tuna: Ahi, Yellowfin, Bigeye, Albacore (longline caught)

### Red:

Caviar (imported/wild-caught)  
Cod (Atlantic)  
Chilean Sea Bass (Toothfish)  
Flounder and Soles (Atlantic)  
Grouper  
Halibut (Atlantic)  
Monkfish  
Orange Roughy  
Red Snapper  
Salmon (farmed, including Atlantic)  
Sharks  
Shrimp (imported)  
Tuna: Bluefin

## Calendar of Events

### May 2006

- 6 Field Trip: Morris County Cook Out. Meet at the zoo parking lot at 6:30am.\*
- 13 North American Migration Count (NAMC). Volunteers needed. Contact Dan Gish.
- 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.\*

### June 2006

- 3 Field Trip: Skyline Drive in Wabaunsee County. Meet at the zoo parking lot at 6:00am.\*
- 17 Field Trip: Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. Meet at Starlite Skating Rink on 45th Street at 6:30am.\*
- TBA Board Meeting.

### July 2006

- 1 Field Trip: Painted Buntings at Clinton Reservoir. Meet Dillon's 29th & California at 7:00am.\*

\* 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*

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

Send address changes to:  
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Topeka, KS 66611  
lacour2@mindspring.com

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## NAMC scheduled for May 13

Keep your calendars free for May 13, the second Saturday in May. That's the weekend of the annual North American Migratory Count. As usual, TAS is looking for volunteers to count birds in Shawnee County. Contact Dan Gish to volunteer, 232-3731. The plan is to split into at least 4 groups which will take different sections of the county. If you would just like to watch your feeders and report bird numbers and species, that would be a help, too.

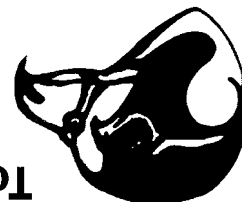
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Society News

**Audubon**

Topeka



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