



## Field Trip: Clinton & Lone Star Lakes

Ten TAS Birders were joined by two Birders from Jayhawk Audubon in the search for birds at Clinton Reservoir and Lone Star Lake on March 3. We were able to identify 53 species during our morning outing. Several of us were able to add to our year lists with sightings including Horned Grebe, Red-Breasted Merganser, Killdeer, Bonaparte's Gull, Eastern Phoebe, and Turkey Vulture. Between the two lakes we tallied 13 species of waterfowl including Gadwall, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Hooded, Common, and Red-breasted merganser...plus several Ruddy Ducks. To finish off our morning, we stopped to see the first successful Eagle's nest in Kansas in over 100 years. While I was getting out my scope, most of the rest of the group had a short look at a Woodcock before it flew a short distance and landed in some grass with no intention of revealing his whereabouts. We continued down the trail to the Eagle viewing area where I set up the scope and quickly found the female sitting sedately in the middle of the nest with just her white head sticking out above the rim of the nest. It was a fine way to end the field trip.

**Field Trip Leader Dan Gish**

### Child's Verse: Chimney Swift

On tireless wings, the Swift goes by,  
Gracefully tracing designs in the sky--  
Up to the blue, then down to the green,  
No faster flyer ever was seen;  
Then at day's end, he drops to rest  
Within his secret chimney nest.



## Field Trip Report: Felker Park

Nine TAS birders rolled out of bed on March 24 for some birding at Felker Park. Jim Malcom led the group back and forth across the area, from woodlands to marsh to prairie meadow to streamside. A collection of sparrows highlighted the field trip, including dozens of song sparrows, several fox sparrows and vesper sparrows. One birder showed up late and connected with the group after being "spotted and positively identified as a Carol-bird."

## Field Trip Report: Wabaunsee County:

Dan Larson led a group of Auduboners to Wabaunsee County on April 14. An even 50 species were seen. Contact Dan Larson (delkan@earthlink.net) if you would like to see the complete list.

## KOS SPRING FIELD TRIP

The Kansas Ornithological Society is holding its May 4-6 Spring Field Trip in Brown, Nemaha, and Doniphan counties in northeast Kansas. KOS is also considering field trips to Squaw Creek in Missouri and Indian Cave State Park in Nebraska and hopes that some members of TAS might be interested in these fun events.

The Spring Meeting/Field Trip is May 4-6, 2007, which is closer than it seems! Registration and details can be found on the KSBIRDS website at: <http://www.ksbirds.org/SpringMtg07.htm>

**Sincerely, Lisa Weeks**

**[LFW@kc.rr.com](mailto:LFW@kc.rr.com)**

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Christmas Bird Count Coordinator Gary Haden, 273-5598, [gchaden@earthlink.net](mailto:gchaden@earthlink.net)

# Sanctuary News



TAS Sanctuary Chair

Larry Rutter recently sent information regarding caretaking at the sanctuary:

"Recognition is given and appreciation extended to the Westar Energy Green Team and Andrew Hale for their work in the replacement of a **footbridge** over a stream at the Sanctuary. This work which was undertaken and completed in late February utilized recycled wood products and was supervised by Green Team members. Brad Loveless, with Westar Energy was very instrumental in coordinating this improvement. Brad, as some of you may not know, is a member of the TAS.

Andrew Hale, along with several Boy Scouts from his troop in Topeka, worked extremely hard in the construction of this bridge replacement. The bridge that was replaced had been severely damaged by high water and ultimately washed down stream. Andrew utilized this endeavor to achieve his Eagle Scout status and badge.

The new bridge was constructed several feet higher than the previous one and has an anchoring system that should withstand high water from any future flooding."

A spring prescribed **burn** is in the planning stages for the prairie portion of the Sanctuary. This event has not been scheduled but the proper authorities have been contacted. The Fairview Volunteer Fire Dept. has indicated their willingness to conduct the burn with the intent to be accomplished before April 15.

**Wanted** - a volunteer from the organization to oversee and maintain the Eastern Bluebird houses that are scattered at several locations throughout the Sanctuary.

All woodland and prairie walking trails were recently monitored and work performed **cleaning up downed trees** and tree branches that had fallen since last fall.

**Since a Spring cleaning has been accomplished, all TAS members and friends are invited to visit the site and become reacquainted with our many feathered friends as well as observing the change of seasons."**

Contact Larry at 484-2509 or [lrutter@earthlink.net](mailto:lrutter@earthlink.net) if you would like to help in any way at the sanctuary!

## Field Trip: Overland Park Arboretum

Six Topeka Auduboners tagged a little over 50 species while birding at Overland Park Arboretum and the KP&L Wetlands outside of Gardner on April 21. The forest floor of the Arboretum is covered with leafed out shrubbery, but the tall trees are still just budding out. High in the canopy the calls of Northern Parulas and Yellow-throated warblers could be heard. After a lot of neck strain, we were able to locate a male and female Parula, but the Yellow-throated warbler did not disclose his location. Blue-gray gnatcatchers, Eastern phoebes, and Louisiana waterthrushes were seen and heard at many locations along the creek, as were Red-headed woodpeckers White-throated sparrows, and Ruby-crowned kinglets. As we were approaching the southwest corner of the property I sounded off my rendition of a Pileated woodpecker (kuk, kuk, kuk, KUK, KUK, KUK, kuk, kuk) calling. Within a minute, a male flew past us coming from the east. The other members of my group looked at me in amazement while I thought to myself "That is quite a coincidence!" Some of the other migrant sightings include a male Summer Tanager, Brown Thrasher, House wren, Red-eyed vireo, and a pair of Brown-headed cowbirds.

We took the 30 minute drive to the KP&L Wetlands and found Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Killdeer, and a nice flock of American Golden Plovers, some of which were kind enough to lift their wings and show that they did NOT have any black axillaries which would have indicated Black-bellied plovers. Ducks were limited to Blue-winged teal and Northern Shovelers. It was a beautiful day to be birding.

**Field Trip Leader Dan Gish**



## Calendar of Events

### May 2007

- 5 Field Trip\*: Camp Hammond & Lake Shawnee, meet at Dillon's at 29th & California 7:00am.
- 12 North American Migration Count. Details TBA
- 16 Board Meeting: TSCPL\*\* 7:00pm
- 19 Field Trip\*: Felker Park, meet at east end of parking lot at 7:00am.

### June 2007

- 2 Field Trip\*: Skyline Drive through Wabaunsee County. Meet at zoo parking lot at 6:30am.
- 16 Field Trip\*: Konza Prairie. Meet at zoo parking lot at 6:00am.

### July 2007

- 7 Clinton's Beautiful Passerines: Painted Buntings. Meet at Dillon's at 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 gas.

\*\*Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library

## Topeka Audubon Society

*An affiliate of the National Audubon Society*

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“Nature is not a place to visit, it is home.”

— Gary Snyder 1930-

American poet, essayist, lecturer,  
 environmental activist

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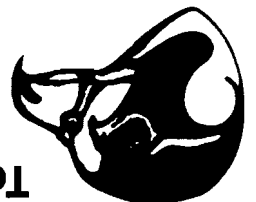
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Joanna Lacoursiere

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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