

# Audubon Society News

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

## “Birding in Trinidad and Tobago”

by Matt Gearheart

**Tuesday, 7pm, November 14, 2006,  
Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library**

Matt Gearheart has been an avid birder since a young age and as his passion has grown he has made long journeys to places such as Africa, Peru and Trinidad/Tobago. The presentation on November 14 will cover the great biodiversity of birds and wildlife that can be found in this island paradise.

Gearheart currently serves on the board of the Burroughs Audubon Society, Kansas Ornithological Society and the Kansas Birds Records Committee. When not birding, he works an architect at Gastinger Walker Harden Architects in Kansas City and is the lead architect on the Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center, which is currently under construction in Joplin, Missouri.

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.

## Field Trip Report: Lake Perry Marshes

Ten members of Topeka Audubon walked the dike at Kyle Marsh on the west side of Lake Perry on Oct. 7 and were able to identify 6+ Nelson’s sharp-tailed sparrows from the horde of Swamp sparrows, Song sparrows, Lincoln’s sparrows, white-crowned sparrows, and Savannah sparrows. We also found an area that was full of muttering Marsh wrens (about 20 yards south of the parking lot on the east side of the dike.) The Nelson’s were further south—50-75 yards—and were all on the west side of the dike. They seemed very tame and actually flew to us before anyone did any pishing! It was a life species for several and only my second sighting!

The group continued its excursion to Lassiter Marsh and found a few woodland birds, but no fantastic shorebirds to speak of. We headed southeast to the sanctuary and explored a bit; although our species list kept increasing, there was nothing notable sighted. Finally, we drove across the dam and sighted an immature bald eagle and an osprey, ending the field trip on a high note.

### Field Trip Leader Dan Gish, and Carol Morgan

Species list: Bald eagle, immature; Blue jay, Blue-winged teal, Brown creeper, Coot, Cormorant, Eastern bluebird, Eastern meadowlark, Eurasian collared dove, Flicker, Franklin’s gull, Great blue heron, Great egret, Kestrel, Lincoln’s sparrow, Marsh wren, Mourning dove, Nelson’s sharp-tailed sparrow, Northern harrier, Osprey, Pied-billed grebe, Rd-winged blackbird, Red-bellied woodpecker, Redheaded woodpecker, Red-tailed hawk, Ring-billed gull, Savannah sparrow, Song sparrow, Swamp sparrow, Tufted titmouse, White Pelican, White-breasted nuthatch, White-crowned sparrow.

A wise old owl lived in an oak;  
The more he saw, the less he spoke;  
The less he spoke, the more he heard:  
Why can’t we all be like that bird?

*Anonymous*



# Birdseed Sale A Success!

A special thanks to **Joe Kun** for organizing the annual TAS Birdseed Sale. October 21 was a cold, rainy day, but that didn't keep away the people who preordered their birdseed. Nor did it keep away the walk-ins! Thank you also to these volunteers: **Gary Haden, Glen Caspers, Bob Lawson, Dan Gish, Paul Willis, Sandy Bohnsack, Melody Pollom, Janeen Walters, Diane Llamas, Rhonda Simpson, Dean Grisell, Gladys Grisell, Carol Morgan, Joanna LaCoursiere, Judy Billings.**



Sitting: Dean, Sandy, Melody, checking birdseed orders, accepting money, selling baked goods.

# TAS Sanctuary News:

Do you need a place to go birding? Enjoy *your* sanctuary! The area illustrated on the map covers 101 acres of land leased from the Army Corps of Engineers. There is a gate at the entrance, but it is not locked. TAS Sanctuary Chair **Larry Rutter** keeps the trails mowed and in good condition. TAS has worked to restore the sanctuary to native grasses and plants and is dedicated to preserving the area for the benefit of birds and bird watchers.

Of recent concern to the TAS Board of Directors was a request from the Corps of Engineers for a signature on a certificate of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. After reference to the federal ADA website and after conversations with an attorney, the state ADA coordinator and with a representative of the Corps of Engineers, the board is satisfied that we are in compliance with ADA. The key to compliance is the responsiveness of an organization to reasonable requests from persons with disabilities. But we are not required to take actions that would fundamentally alter the nature of a program, service or activity.

Help us preserve and protect this beautiful area for the future. Send your donation to TAS Treasurer Glen Caspers, 1605 NW 50th, Topeka, KS 66618. Please be generous.

# Birdseed Sale Date Bars

*Date Filling (below)*

*1 cup packed brown sugar*

*1/2 cup margarine or butter, softened*

*1/4 cup shortening*

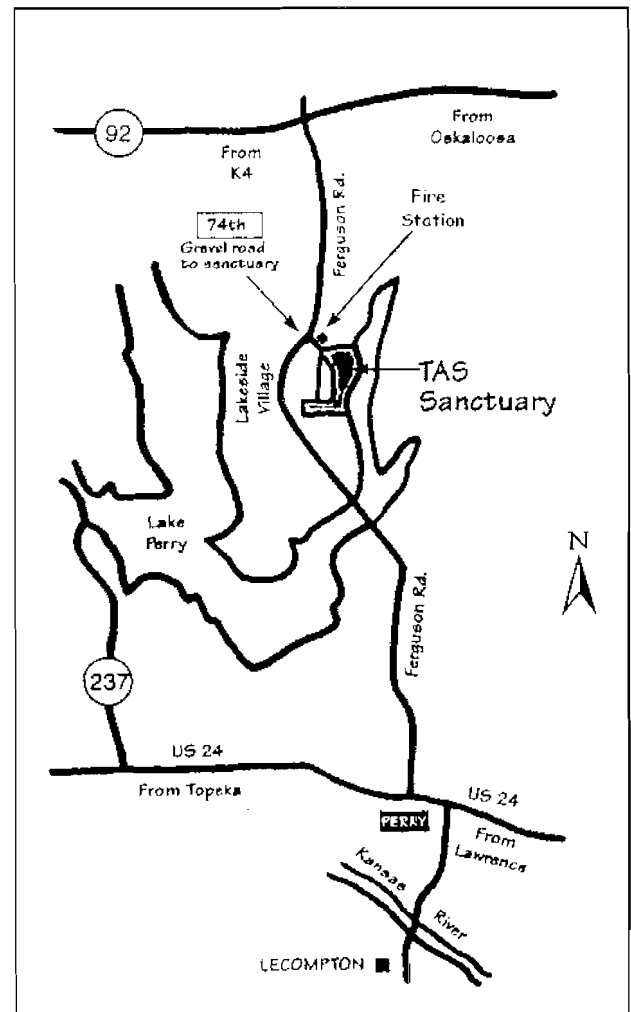
*2 cups Bisquick baking mix*

*1 1/2 cups quick-cooking oats*

Prepare Date Filling; cool. Heat oven to 400'. Grease square pan, 9x9x2 inches. Mix brown sugar, margarine and shortening. Mix in baking mix and oats. Press half of the crumbly mixture in pan; spread with filling. Top with remaining crumbly mixture; press gently into filling. Bake until light brown, 25-30 minutes. Cut into bars, about 20 cookies.

## **Date Filling:**

Mix 1 package (8 oz) chopped dates, 3/4 cup water and 2 tablespoons sugar in saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring often, until thickened, about 10 minutes.



## ASK NATIONAL AUDUBON

**“How should I dispose of OTC or Rx medications?” - Submitted by Nancy D. of Putnam, New York**

Both prescription and over-the-counter drugs - should be disposed of as hazardous waste at the appropriate facilities. The website <http://www.earth911.org> will allow you to search by zip code for nearby hazardous waste disposal centers. Some local pharmacies and hospitals have prescription medicine take-back programs, where they will collect and dispose of the medicines for you.

Throwing over-the-counter or prescription medicines into the trash or toilet can damage the environment. These substances are not filtered by sewage treatment plants and can harm the bacteria used by the treatment plants to kill hazardous microorganisms. A recent U.S. Geological Survey found pharmaceutical contaminants in U.S. lakes and streams, including nonprescription drugs in 81 percent of the waterbodies tested, antibiotics in 48 percent, and other prescription drugs in 32 percent. These drugs pose a threat to birds and other wildlife that rely on these water sources, and cause risks to us as well.

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

**THE TAS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT:  
COMING DECEMBER 16.**

## Congress Approves Migratory Bird Conservation Law

Washington, DC, October 12, 2006 - Congress has approved legislation, known as the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Improvement Act, designed to protect America's native migratory birds when they travel south to Latin America and the Caribbean during their migrations.

By updating six year old bird legislation, it earned the immediate support of the National Audubon Society, and subsequently passed through Congress without major opposition. Its two main achievements are that it increases conservation program funding from \$5 million to \$6.5 million; and it allows Canada to apply for conservation grants.

Audubon lobbied for three years to pass the bill. For more information, Audubon's official 2005 testimony before Congress on the bill can be found at <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/>.

To read Audubon's press release on the legislation, please visit [http://www.audubon.org/news/press\\_releases/Neotrops\\_10\\_02\\_06.html](http://www.audubon.org/news/press_releases/Neotrops_10_02_06.html).

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.

### 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

### 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.\*

### 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!**

\* 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

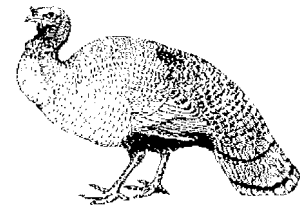
## Topeka Audubon Society

*An affiliate of the National Audubon Society*

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Vice President.....Janeen Walters  
Secretary.....Melody Pollom  
Treasurer.....Glen Caspers  
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Happy  
Thanksgiving!

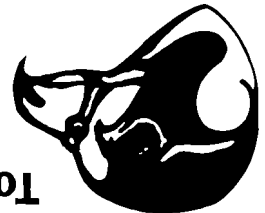
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Society News

Audubon

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