



Another great photo by Dave Rintoul

EAGLE DAYS

JAN. 8th 9 to 12 noon

Tuttle Creek Corps of Engineers

Meet at Manhattan Fire Station, Kimball & Dennison 9-12n

The Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society is again sponsoring one of the buses.

Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society,
P.O. Box 1932, Manhattan, KS 66505-1932



prairie falcon

Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society Newsletter

Vol. 39, No. 34 ~ January 2011

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Upcoming Events

Jan. 3 - Board Meeting 6 p.m.
2818 Tatarrax Dr., Susan Pusker

Jan. 8 - Eagle Days, see above

Jan. 8 - Birdseed PICKUP
8:30-11:30 a.m.
UFM, 1221 Thurston St.



Skylight plus

Pete Cohen

A news article last fall quoted a woman in New York City declaring that designated bike lanes there violated her right to drive where she wanted. She appar-

ently believes that all rights emanate from her and the rest of the world has the duty to stand aside. Equally annoying was that equally apparently she wasn't asked to justify her statement. This seems common. Reporters so often grab a quote, give it a wider audience and figure they've done their job. No need to ask the next question, to require validity for what they're told.

An AP release, by-lined by Audrey Mcavoy, that appeared about the same time was more competent although it didn't explain why its subject matter was only recently coming to the fore. According to the story, Friday night high school football games at Kapaa, Hawaii, are currently out, being played instead during daylight on Saturdays. The reason is that the population of Newells shearwaters, which numbered 80,000 in the 1990s has been reduced by 75 percent, one reason being that the young fledge during the football season and make their first flight to the ocean, evidently guided by the Moon and stars. Thus numbers of them, confused by the games' lights, have flown round and round, till going to ground in exhaustion, where they have difficulty gaining flight without a launching perch, and become victims of traffic and predators.

Unfortunately, fewer parents can attend on Saturday--the usual attendance of about 1200 people dropped to 1000--and the clime is very hot, which is hard enough on spectators while the players, it seems few enough that they play both offense and defense, require plenty of cold water, externally and internally. Unsurprisingly, so the report states, there is division within the community over the Saturday solution. The local authorities don't have to defend it for they are under a court order, complying with the Endangered Species Act, to not hold the Friday night games, except on nights of the full Moon.

One person is quoted as saying that because they were out in the middle of the Pacific Ocean they didn't have much else to offer kids. The Friday night affairs were literally the only game in town. Despite a large tourist presence, there are no concert halls, amusement parks, etc. Unfortunately, too, the article doesn't explain why so.

Fortunately, though, there's a chance for peace. Constructive minds have arranged for the offending lights to be hooded to shine only downward; hopefully the young birds will no longer be confused by them. It seems to me that the shearwaters cannot be blamed for the dearth of community activities, but they may be credited with saving the community money. For, as I've mentioned before, I spoke several years back with a man in Calgary, Alberta, in charge of a project to hood their streetlights so the light produced went only where wanted. He told me they were finding they were cutting their kilowatt usage, and thus their costs and emissions, by 50 percent.

Anyone with access to unpolluted sky might think the Milky Way is conserving energy these days, too, for it does not show as brightly in winter as in summer because, I'm told, Earth exists in one arm of a pancake-like spiral galaxy.

In the summer we look out through the arm toward the more densely populated center of the galaxy--there's more light to behold. In winter we're looking out at the far reaches of the spiral arms with less to behold--but still sufficient to make a glimmering ribbon containing the bright constellations of Cassiopeia and Perseus in the northwest and in the southeast passing between the even bolder stars of Auriga, Gemini, and Canis Minor, to its east, and Taurus, Orion, and Canis Major (with brightest star, Sirius) to its west.

Venus will be missing but Mars, according to The Old Farmer's Almanac, will outshine every star except Sirius as it gradually moves from Leo into Cancer. Jupiter, briefly in the southwest in the evening will move from Capricorn into Aquarius. We will be closest to the Sun Jan. 2nd; the unpredictable Quadrantid meteors are due pale and quick from Bootes on the 3rd-4th. Moon new 1a15 the 15th, full and at its nearest 12a18 the 30th.

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Manhattan CBC Results

Dave Rintoul



48,000 snow geese

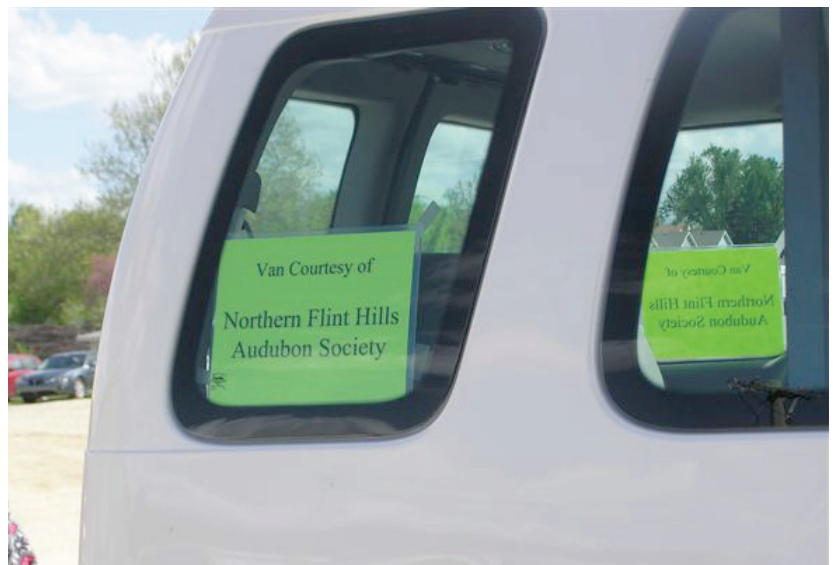
The Manhattan CBC results: 91 species, 96,169 individual birds.

Record high counts for this circle included 200 White-fronted Geese, 10 Ross' Geese, 5 Trumpeter Swans, 318 Hooded Mergansers, 115 Eurasian Collared-doves, 479 Eastern Bluebirds, 9 Hermit Thrushes, and 109 Yellow-rumped Warblers. We missed Logger-head Shrike and Horned Lark, but found Pileated Woodpecker (2nd time in 62 years), Trumpeter Swan (2nd time in 62 years), and California Gull (4th time in 62 years).

Thank you from Carla to all the CBC participants who brought food. It is always a wonderful meal with such a variety of chili soups. Also thanks to those who helped clean up the area at the end, especially Patricia Yeager and Kevin Fay. Thanks to the Senior Service Center for letting us rent their building, too.

Your Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society sponsored a van at the Wakefield Birding Festival, and is sponsoring a bus for Eagle Days.

*photo by
Hoogy Hoogheem*





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Membership Information: Introductory memberships - \$20/yr., then basic, renewal membership is \$35/yr. When you join the National Audubon Society, you automatically become a member of the Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society. You will receive the bimonthly Audubon magazine in addition to the Prairie Falcon newsletter. New membership applications should be sent to National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 420235, Palm Coast, FL 32142-0235. Make checks payable to the National Audubon Society. Membership renewals are also handled by the National Audubon Society. Questions about membership? Call 1-800-274-4201 or email the National Audubon Society join@audubon.org. Website is www.audubon.org.

Subscription Information: If you do not want to receive the national magazine, but still want to be involved in NFHAS local activities, you may subscribe to the Prairie Falcon newsletter for \$15/yr. Make checks payable to the Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society, and mail to: Treasurer, NFHAS, P.O. Box 1932, Manhattan, KS, 66502-1932

RARE BIRD HOTLINE: For information on Kansas Birds, subscribe to the Kansas Bird Listserve. Send this message <subscribe KSBIRD-L> to <list_serve@ksu.edu> and join in the discussions.

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