

## “Chasing Woodland Birds”

Nov. 19, 2008, Douglass Community Center, 7:30 p.m.

Dinner with Guest Presenter at 6:00 p.m.

Old Chicago Pizza at Manhattan Town Center

Bob Gress has been photographing birds for publications for 30 years. A commitment to finish a new book, “**The Guide to Kansas Birds and Birding Hotspots**,” for the University Press of Kansas, initiated a quest to photograph the elusive and colorful birds of the woodland canopy. Greeting April migrants as they cross the Gulf of Mexico to land at High Island, Texas, and then in May, these migrants pass through Kansas. In June, we visit the Boreal forests of northern Wisconsin to chase warblers on the nesting grounds, a colorful look at warblers, buntings, vireos, tanagers, grosbeaks, orioles and more. New technologies in digital cameras, flashes and recordings have brought these birds of the shadows into focus.

Bob Gress is director of the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita. He is a graduate from Emporia State University with an M.S. in Environmental Biology. Bob and his wife, Mary Butel, enjoy traveling and photographing wildlife in wild places across the continent. Over 2,500 of his photos have been published and are seen in a wide variety of magazines and in more than twenty books, including “Faces of the Great Plains” “Kansas Wildlife,” “Watching Kansas Wildlife,” “The Smithsonian Book of North American Mammals” and the “Kaufman Focus Guide to Mammals of North America.”

“The Guide to Kansas Birds and Birding Hotspots” by Bob Gress and Pete Janzen will be available for purchase and Bob will be happy to personalize the book. Book proceeds support the educational programs of the Great Plains Nature Center.

NORTHERN FLINT HILLS Audubon Society,  
P.O. Box 1972, MANHATTAN, KS 66505-1972



## PRAIRIE FALCON

NORTHERN FLINT HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER

Vol. 37, No. 3 ~ NOVEMBER 2008

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### Upcoming EVENTS:

Nov. 6 -BOARD MEETING 6 p.m  
(Tom & MJ Morgan Home)

Nov. 8 - MONTHLY BIRDING WITH PATRICIA YEAGER  
MEET SOJOURNER TRUTH PARK 8 A.M.

Nov. 19 “CHASING WOODLAND BIRDS” BOB GRESS  
7:30 p.m. DOUGLASS CENTER (SEE ABOVE)

Nov. 25 - BIRDSEED ORDER DEADLINE

Dec. 6 - BIRDSEED PICKUP UFM, 9-12N

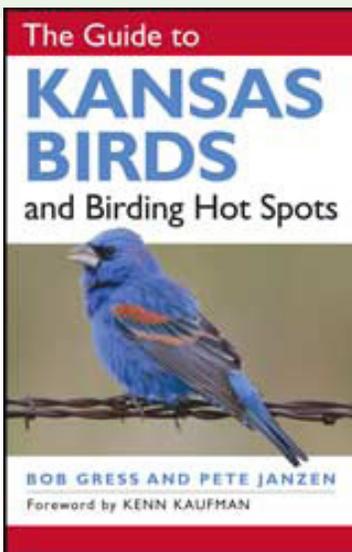
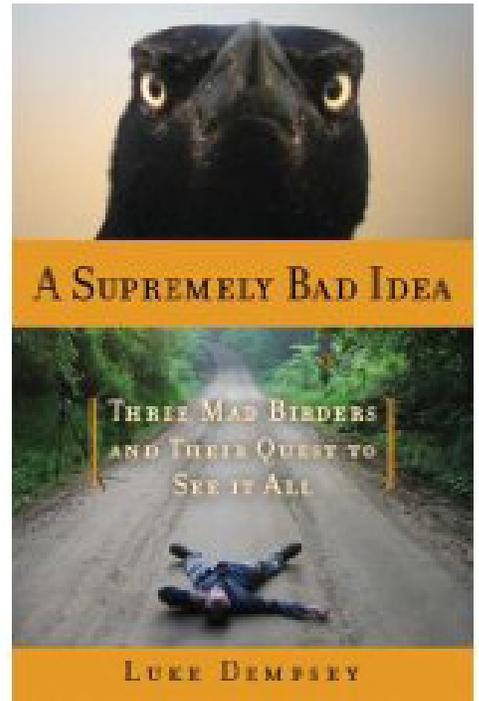
Dec. 20 - MANHATTAN CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

## BOOKS YOU MIGHT LIKE:

A great read -

“A Supremely Bad Idea: Three Mad Birders and Their Quest to See It All” by Luke Dempsey

This book is funny, informative and irreverent at times. But it is always fun to see “birding” through someone else’s eyes. The author was “awakened” to the miraculous world of birds by a chance encounter with a common yellowthroat. Luckily this bird was brought to his attention by a couple of co-workers who knew what they were looking at - this couple and the author become the “Three Mad Birders.” This is a true story-- written by a “writer” and thus a storyteller who brings you into his life and journey as a birder. I laughed out loud at times, cringed at times, marveled at times, but never grew bored. *Cindy Jeffrey*



**“THE GUIDE TO KANSAS BIRDS AND BIRDING HOT-SPOTS” BY BOB GRESS AND PETE JANZEN**

“A wonderful book. Gress and Janzen have national reputations and world-class skills, and you could not ask for better guides to introduce you to the birdlife of the great state of Kansas.” —*Kenn Kaufman, author of the Kaufman Focus Guides*

“This is a veritable Baedeker for Kansas bird lovers—the text is jammed with useful information, and the color plates are spectacular.” —*Paul Johnsgard, author of Prairie Birds*

“A delightful and authoritative introduction to Kansas birds with a wealth of information, on how and where to find them.”—*William H. Busby, coauthor of Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas*

# Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society Bird Seed Sale



**ORDERS must be received by Nov. 25, 2008**

**PICK UP is Saturday, DEC.6, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**UFM, 1221 Thurston, Manhattan**

**If interested in helping unload the truck, come at 8 a.m., or volunteer to help during the morning of pickup - contact Annie (below).**

**Return your order forms with your checks to:**

**Annie Baker  
116 Parkview Dr.  
Junction City, KS 66441  
Phone 785-375-4633**

**Make checks payable to:  
Northern Flint Hills  
Audubon Society  
or NFHAS for short**

## Bird Seed Sale Product Descriptions:

**BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEEDS** are attractive to more species of birds than are striped sunflower seeds. They also supply more energy per pound than striped sunflower seeds.

**STRIPED SUNFLOWER SEEDS** contain larger hearts than black oil sunflower seeds and are particularly suitable for larger songbirds.

**SAFFLOWER** is a favorite with Cardinals and squirrels really do not like it.

**MILLET** is liked by Mourning Doves, Song Sparrows, White Throated Sparrows, Fox Sparrows, White Crown Sparrows, Red Wing Blackbirds, House Finches, Pine Siskins, and Quail.

**FLINT HILLS FEAST** is our premium bird seed mix: 30 % black oil sunflower seed, 20 % striped sunflower seed, and 50 % white proso millet with no milo or fillers.

**NIGER THISTLE** is very attractive to gold finches and all other finches that are here over the winter. Niger is excellent for tube feeders.

**SUNFLOWER SEED CHIPS** are high in energy and can be used in tube feeders. These are especially liked by pine siskins.

**CHEAP CHEEP MIX** is less expensive but still attractive to many species. It is 40 % cracked corn, 40 % white proso millet, 20 % black oil sunflower and no milo or fillers.

**SUPER FORMULA FINCH MIX** is a less expensive option for tube feeders than 100% Niger thistle. It consists of 70% sunflower chips and 30% niger thistle. This is very popular with most tube feeding species.

**SUET CAKES**, in addition to having high calorie beef fat which helps birds maintain body heat in cold winter months as the main ingredient, have other nutritious ingredients.

**PEANUT PICKOUTS** are chunks of peanut hearts and are very attractive to woodpeckers.

**MEDIUM CHOP** is chopped corn kernels- especially good for ground-feeding birds.

## **Quality Seed, Easy Handling**

The products we offer are high quality seeds. Our mixes were created to satisfy the needs of local bird populations at reasonable costs. We have tried to make it easy for you to purchase the amount of seed you want without having to handle heavy, awkward bags. Our seed comes in 10, 25, and 50 pound bags. We try to obtain the seed in paper bags whenever possible.

## **Sales Support Local Chapter Activities**

As with all of our fund-raising activities, proceeds from our seed and store sales go toward supporting the educational and conservation projects of the local chapter. All of our labor is voluntary. Taxes are included in the price of our seed. Even though we are a not-for-profit organization, we are required to pay tax on any retail sales. Any additional donation you may wish to include with your order is appreciated.

PICK UP - Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at UFM, 1221 Thurston

DESCRIPTION	SIZE	COST EACH	QTY	TOTAL COST
Sunflower chips	10lb	\$14.00		
Sunflower chips	25lb	\$32.00		
Sunflower chips	50lb	\$62.00		
Corn on the cob	10lb	\$6.25		
Corn on the cob	25lb	\$12.00		
Finch Mix	10lb	\$16.25		
Finch Mix	25lb	\$38.50		
Finch Mix	50lb	\$75.00		
Med. corn chop	25lb	\$10.50		
Med. corn chop	50lb	\$19.00		
Peanut pick-outs	10lb	\$15.25		
Peanut pick-outs	25lb	\$34.25		
Red Millet	10lb	\$8.00		
Red Millet	25lb	\$16.25		
Red Millet	50lb	\$29.25		
Safflower seed	10lb	\$11.25		
Safflower seed	25lb	\$26.00		
Safflower seed	50lb	\$50.00		
Suet cakes <small>peanut butter, berry,</small>	11oz	\$1.50		
Suet cakes <small>or regular</small>	11oz	\$1.50		
Sunflower (black)	10lb	\$6.75		
Sunflower (black)	25lb	\$15.75		
Sunflower (black)	50lb	\$30.00		
Sunflower (striped)	10lb	\$7.25		
Sunflower (striped)	25lb	\$18.75		
Sunflower (striped)	50lb	\$36.00		
Thistle seed	10lb	\$21.00		
Thistle seed	25lb	\$47.50		
White millet	10lb	\$4.25		
White millet	25lb	\$10.50		
White millet	50lb	\$19.25		
Cheap cheep mix	10lb	\$5.00		
Cheap cheep mix	25lb	\$11.75		
Cheap cheep mix	50lb	\$21.75		
Flint Hills feast	10lb	\$6.00		
Flint Hills feast	25lb	\$14.50		
Flint Hills feast	50lb	\$27.50		
Super Finch mix	10lb	\$16.25		
Super Finch mix	25lb	\$37.50		

For our customers in Manhattan (IN-TOWN only) we offer a local delivery service — please check the box below and include \$5.00 with your order. Thank you for your order and your support. We need volunteers to help the day of pickup - if interested - contact Annie Baker - (address & phone on front of form).

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

DELIVERY (in-town) \$5.00  
 SUBTOTAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 DONATION \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

## SKYLIGHT PLUS PETE COHEN



The word “distance” has roots in the Latin “*di*” signifying apart-ness, and “*stan*” for standing, and only by coincidence contains the word “is.” But it occurred to me during thirty miles of pedaling on a biking excursion that the two words have a stronger relationship. First, consider that there are several ways to measure the distance between two points. One is by dividing it into spaces (e.g., so many miles); another by totting up the time involved in going from one to the other; another is by qualifying one’s pleasure on arriving at Point B from Point A.

Regarding that third measure, I find that a level bike trail, straight and bordered on both sides by fields of corn, tall as an elephant’s eye, can seem, and in seeming become, much longer than one that wanders about across more space and tips up and down amid different surroundings. In either case, one has to slow down to increase the pleasure, either to accommodate the hills and curves of the one route, or to keep alert for the micro-diversions (i.e., the tiny, nearly hidden flowers or vegetative forms, the intriguing marks left by passing animals, the designs of small stones) that almost secretly decorate the macro-sameness of the corn-confined channels. True, the pleasures of either routes are subject to the gravitational pulls of flat tires (especially in the fall when most thorns have scattered) and the other ails of mechanisms, but spare tubes and a couple wrenches don’t weigh much, and by factoring in enough spare daylight, point B can usually be reached in good spirits that make the two distances equal when calibrating by pleasure.

Now for a different contemplation of distance consider the celestial skyscape, which is certainly rich in distance, and amid the reverberations of this political season reminds me of that debate a decade back about the definition of the word “is.” Because, anything that is, is. But what is it? A celestial being’s “is” may be a finite ball of ice or an amorphous array of fiery gases, while to our perception what each “is” is a sparkle of light, each rather similar to the other. And in the case of most of those lights, their sources have had millions of years to change since the sparkles now arriving here left there.

So in regard to them, our “is” is really their “was.” A more terrestrial example would be mountains, which are experienced differently, and thereby are different things, depending on how close one is to them. So another measure of distance is how much it changes what anything “is.”

Among the prominent distant presences in the night sky this coming month, some will not appear until the latter half, the briefest being the Leonid meteor shower. It will be about 20 years short of its next expected 33-year maximum, but will likely do its best on the night of the 17th -18th, though a last-quarter Moon will outshine many zipping flares.

However, lingering from mid-month onward will be Taurus the Bull with his long horns and the Pleiades on his shoulders. According to the National Audubon Society’s Field Guide, Polynesian children long ago would have been told that what the dim Pleiades “is” are the remains of a star so boastful about its brightness that a god threw Aldebaran (the Bull’s bright red eye) at it and smashed it into dim pieces. There are now six pieces visible to good eyesight, though they once were the Seven Sisters, and stories differ about whom the seventh was and therefore why she faded. The Guide says Greek fishermen called them the Sailing Sisters, and would leave shore only when the atmosphere was clear, storm-free enough for them to be seen distinctly.

As to the planets, Mercury will finish up its eastern dawn appearances by the 5th, while Saturn, rising in the wee hours then, will be up by midnight by December. More noticeably Venus sets ever earlier in the western evening twilight, with Jupiter going down ever sooner behind her, almost catching her by month’s end. A chase worth noticing even though the outcome be known. Moon full 17 minutes past midnight on the 13th, new at 10a55 on the 27th.

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## PROJECT FEEDERWATCH BENEFITS BIRDS AND PEOPLE- CONNECTION WITH NATURE PROMOTES WELLNESS

More than 100 studies have shown that getting closer to nature reduces stress and promotes a feeling of well-being in children and adults. So, filling feeders and counting the birds that visit may be just what the doctor ordered! For more than 20 years, that's what participants in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Project FeederWatch have been doing-benefitting themselves and the birds.

The 2008-09 season of Project FeederWatch gets underway November 8 and runs through April 3. Participants count the numbers and kinds of birds at their feeders each week and send the information to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Participants submitted more than 115,000 checklists during the 2007-08 FeederWatch season, documenting unusual bird sightings, winter movements, and shifting ranges-a treasure-trove of information that scientists use to monitor the health of the birds and of the environment.

"Being a FeederWatcher is easy and fun, and at the same time helps generate the world's largest database on feeder-bird populations," says project leader David Bonter. "We are grateful for the contributions our participants have made for the birds and are proud of the joy they say it brings to their busy lives. Since we started in 1987, more than 40,000 people have submitted observations, engaging with the wildlife beyond their windows."

Scientists learn something new from the data each year, too, whether it's about the movements of common backyard birds or unusual sightings of rarely-seen species. Highlights of the most recent season include the largest southward movement of Red-breasted Nuthatches in the history of the project-part of an expected influx of northern birds that fly farther south when their food supplies run short. Other northern species showing up in record numbers included Common Repolls and Pine Siskins. Among the rare birds reported was a Streak-backed Oriole in Loveland, Colorado-the state's first report of this bird, native to Mexico. A December nor'easter deposited a Dovekie in Newton, Massachusetts, the first time this North Atlantic seabird has ever been reported to Project FeederWatch.

Long-term data show some species increasing in number, such as the Lesser Goldfinch in the Southwest. Other populations continue a downward trend, such as the Evening Grosbeak throughout their range. Once one of the most common species seen at feeders in the northern half of the continent, the grosbeaks are declining for unknown reasons.

Beyond the benefits to birds and science, however, is the benefit to participants. "Nature is not merely an amenity; it is critical to healthy human development and functioning," says Nancy Wells, Cornell University assistant professor of design and environmental analysis. Her studies find that a view of nature through the window or access to the environment in any way improves a child's cognitive functioning and reduces the negative effects of stress on the child's psychological well-being. Wells also notes that when children spent time with nature early in life it carries over to their adult attitudes and behavior toward the environment.

Project FeederWatch welcomes participants of all ages and skill levels, from scout troops and retirees to classrooms and nature center visitors. To learn more and to sign up, visit [www.feederwatch.org](http://www.feederwatch.org) or call the Lab toll-free at (800) 843-2473. In return for the \$15 fee (\$12 for Lab members) participants receive the FeederWatcher's Handbook, an identification poster of the most common feeder birds in their area, a calendar, complete instructions, and the FeederWatch annual report, Winter Bird Highlights.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a membership institution dedicated to interpreting and conserving the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. Visit the Lab's web site at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu>.

Contact: David Bonter, Project leader  
Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
(607) 254-2457



## TAKE NOTE



### MONTHLY SATURDAY MORNING BIRDING

**Patricia Yeager leads:** We will meet at Sojourner Truth Park (10th and Pottawatomie) at 8:00 a.m Nov. 8th. If you know of anyone with Barn Owls (or any other owls) nesting on their property - please let Patricia know.

### FYI to our membership:

The National Audubon Society is in the process of redoing their “software/hardware” that handles membership. Therefore chapters have not received an update since last June, and have been notified that it may be November before an updated membership list is posted.

So for those of you who have renewed through the national organization, the old expiration date may still show on your NFHAS newsletter label. Thank you for your patience.

*Jacque Staats, Membership*

### NFHAS SPOOKTACULAR BOOTH



*photos by Cindy Jeffrey*

Everyone loved our “OWL” display  
Kevin Fay brought tape recordings of owl calls - and Patricia Yeager had the photos!  
Several people commented they saw us last year and were glad we were there again this year.



*photo by Patricia Yeager*



One father loved owls so much he had to show us his tattoo!

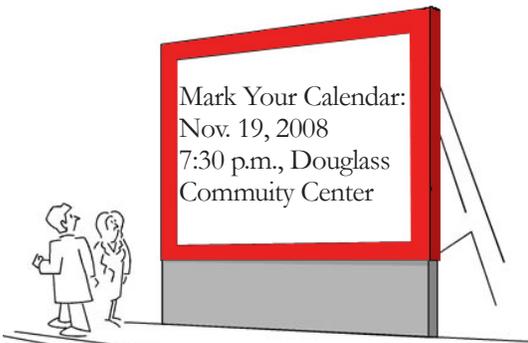


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Program presented by Bob Gress, Dir. of Great Plains Nature Center, and author.

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Subscription Information: Introductory memberships - \$20/yr., then basic membership is \$35/yr. When you join the Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society, you automatically become a member of the National Audubon Society and receive the bimonthly Audubon magazine in addition to the Prairie Falcon newsletter. New membership applications may be sent to Treasurer, NFHAS, P.O. Box 1932, Manhattan, KS 66505-1932. Make checks payable to the National Audubon Society. Membership renewals are handled by the National Audubon Society and should not be sent to the NFHAS. Questions about membership? Call 1-800-274-4201 or email the National Audubon Society [join@audubon.org](mailto:join@audubon.org).

If you do not want to receive the national magazine, but still want to be involved in our 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](mailto:list_serve@ksu.edu)> and join in the discussions.

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Contacts for Your Elected Representatives ( anytime) Write, call or email @  
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