

3rd ANNUAL BACKYARD BIRDFEEDER TOUR

SATURDAY, **FEB. 20, 2010**

8 A.M. - 12N - MEET AT KEATS PARK



FREE but Limited to 25 participants - so call for RESERVATIONS SOON.

CONTACT: JACQUE STAATS - 537-3664 OR EMAIL - STAATS@wildblue.NET

CAR pooling TO SEVERAL HOMES, AND ENDING WITH BRUNCH.

NORTHERN Flint Hills Audubon Society,
P.O. Box 1972, MANHATTAN, KS 66505-1972



PRAIRIE FALCON

NORTHERN FLINT HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 38, No. 6 ~ FEBRUARY 2010

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Upcoming Events:

Feb. 1 - BOARD MEETING 6:00 p.m. (MORGAN HOME)

Feb. 6 - BIRDSEED SALE PICKUP
8:30-11:30 A.M. UFM PARKING LOT

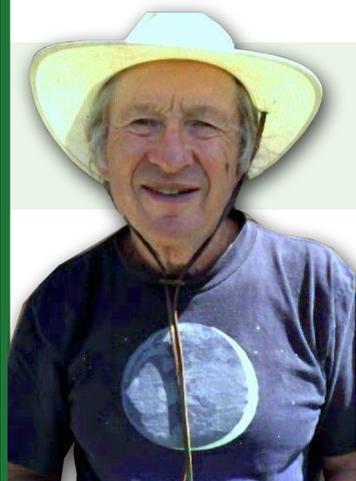
Feb. 13 - SAT. MORNING BIRDING
MEET AT SOJOURNER TRUTH PARK AT 8 A.M.

Feb. 20 - 3rd ANNUAL BIRDFEEDER TOUR
(SEE ABOVE)

MAR. 1 - BOARD MEETING 6:00 p.m.

MAR. 13 - SAT. MORNING BIRDING

MAR. 17 - PROGRAM - PAUL GRIFFIN
w/VIDEO "BIRD CALLS & SONGS OF WICHITA"



SKYLIGHT PLUS

PETE COHEN

It must have been in the mid-1970s when we had several years of wintry winters, and our two growing sons and I cleared our driveway and the area that needed cleared around the hayshed in an hour so.

We ended with two or three

chest-high snow cones to maneuver around in the middle of the area because with our wood-handled shovels it made no sense to carry every shovel-full to the area's edge. After the strongest snow this past December, I essayed such an operation with only a snow shovel for company. We got a decent start, but it seemed that spring thaw would finish the job before we would. So an obliging neighbor came with his tractor. It took only a few minutes (plus the time needed to hook up and unhook the mechanical and hose connections of the tractor's attachment) to clear the area, with no snow cones left behind. And if one looked only at that time frame, one could see it as requiring tens of thousands of dollars of equipment to replace a man and two boys. Of course, the tractor went off to do a great many other things beyond the reach of a man and two boys. Sometimes it's useful to consider the whole picture.

Beyond that hayshed area, snowshoes were very useful, and a necessity for investigating the messages one could see written in the hayfield below the house and across the pasture rising the other direction, to find what creatures had been by – something about who our neighbors are. One year a bobcat had left its telltale trail looking like someone on a double-pegged pogo stick had passed. This year it was all deer except for some rabbit and possum and the traverse of a solitary coyote, but we learned that some deer had spent time in the trees around our buildings and in the (now hayless) hayshed.

There were other things to note, in part because of my preference for snowshoes. Skis have always seemed more in a hurry to get somewhere than I've ever been, and with my level of skill, or lack of, on skis I've had to focus all my attention on keeping vertical and narrowly on where I was going. With snowshoes it seems I become personally acquainted not only with every footprint, but

every piece of vegetation I pass, as well as the surrounding vista. Particularly out in the pasture, look in any direction and there were single stalks or small groups of them sticking up through the snow in unduplicated fine-lined shapes and interesting poses: a gallery of individual and resilient botanical nudes. Although each was part of a much wider, whole picture, each, it seemed to me, composed a picture whole in itself.

And while telescopes can reveal various gaseous shapes in a variety of colors skyward, I think to the naked eye no far star or planet, while it may glow, gleam, and glitter, can strike a pose. The Sun and Moon have such an ability under certain circumstances, but for the other celestial lights, to be part of some form they must each be connected to other lit dots by lines that are not there.

The slenderest stalk in the snow has more claim to existence than Ursa Major, the Great Bear (who occupies twice as much sky as the similarly imagined and even more prominent Orion) and yet we speak of the Bear, Hunter, and others as substantive entities, and as part of whole panorama of entities. A panorama in which the Great Bear will be pretty much balancing on its Big Dipper tail through the evenings this

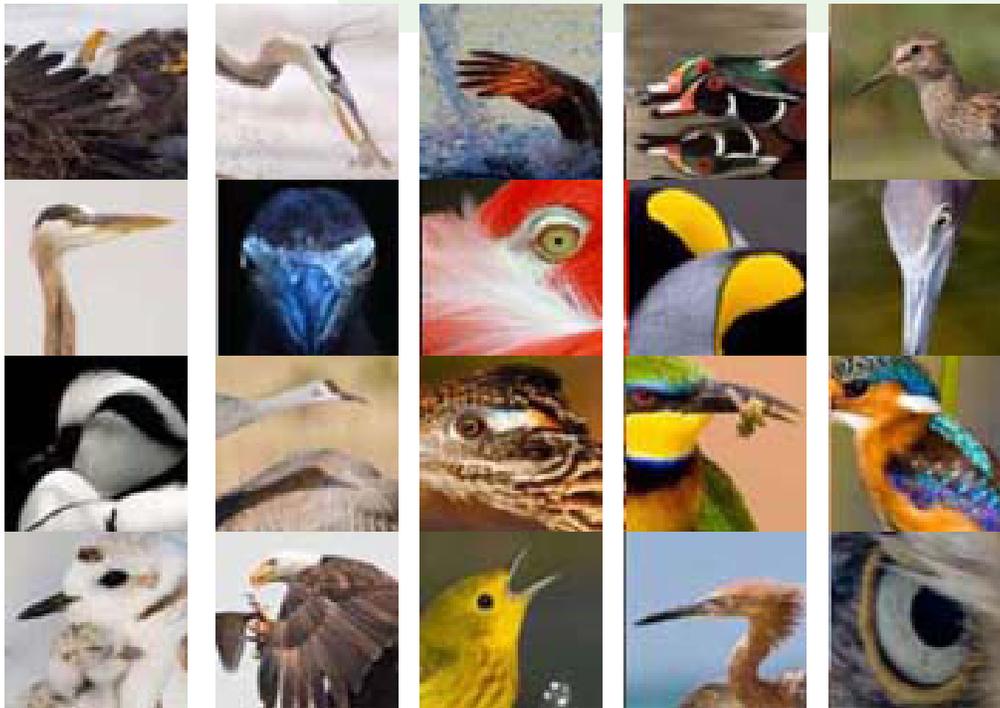
month, gradually rising higher and tipping over backwards to balance on the smaller stars of its nose as dawn arrives.

As for the rest of the sky this month when the Moon is being modest, Mars will start off as a main attraction, appearing in the east, in the region of Cancer the Crab; below the Gemini Twins and trailing behind Procyon, the gleaming star of the Little Dog, as darkness comes. However, its russet brightness will dim by half by March as Earth, passing Mars now on our speedier inner orbit, leaves it further behind. At the same time there'll be Saturn; though its rings are now edge-on toward, it won't be shy coming up soon after dark due east in Virgo, whose only other brightness will be its main star, Spica, which remains at the bottom end of an arc leaving the Big Dipper's handle to head south passing through the noted bright spot of Arcturus in the kite-shaped Bootes.

From the 2nd to the 4th the setting Moon will pass below Saturn to below Spica, all the while above the head of Corvus the Crow, and when almost full will be near Mars on the 25th. Moon full the 28th, 10a38, new the 13th, 8p51.

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If you receive the Audubon magazine - you will see what an eye, patience and a \$6,000 dollar camera with a 500mm lens can do!! If you don't get this magazine - find someone who does, or go to the library and check out the photo contest winners. Truly awesome photos. You can also see them (and more) on the website audubonmagazine.org.

Now that I have your attention:

CALL FOR PHOTOS:

We are going to update our website in the next few months. The design will incorporate photos - so if you would like to submit some - please let me know. Birds are the top priority of course, but if there are some others that "fit" - of people birding, or NFHAS event, etc., they will be considered too.

I know we have some exceptional photographers out there. You may contact me - at cinraney@ksu.edu, or gjeffrey@twinvalley.net, or call 785-468-3587 (after 5).

ROSALIE EDGE

Hawk of Mercy

THE ACTIVIST WHO SAVED NATURE FROM THE CONSERVATIONISTS

DYANA Z. FURMANSKY



Rosalie Edge (1877-1962) was the first American woman to achieve national renown as a conservationist. Dyana Z. Furmanský draws on Edge's personal papers and on interviews with family members and associates to portray an implacable, indomitable personality whose activism earned her the names "Joan of Arc" and "hellcat." A progressive New York socialite and veteran suffragist, Edge did not join the conservation movement until her early fifties. Nonetheless, her legacy of achievements—called "widespread and monumental" by the *New Yorker*—forms a crucial link between the eras defined by John Muir and Rachel Carson. An early voice against the indiscriminate use of toxins and pesticides, Edge reported evidence about the dangers of DDT fourteen years before Carson's *Silent Spring* was published.

Today, Edge is most widely remembered for establishing Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, the world's first refuge for birds of prey. Founded in 1934 and located in eastern Pennsylvania,

Hawk Mountain was cited in *Silent Spring* as an "especially significant" source of data. In 1930, Edge formed the militant Emergency Conservation Committee, which not only railed against the complacency of the Bureau of Biological Survey, Audubon Society, U.S. Forest Service, and other stewardship organizations but also exposed the complicity of some in the squandering of our natural heritage. Edge played key roles in the establishment of Olympic and Kings Canyon National Parks and the expansion of Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks. Filled with new insights into a tumultuous period in American conservation, this is the life story of an unforgettable individual whose work influenced the first generation of environmentalists, including the founders of the Wilderness Society, Nature Conservancy, and Environmental Defense Fund.

Dyana Z. Furmanský (writing as Dyan Zaslowsky) is coauthor of *These American Lands: Parks, Wilderness, and the Public Lands*. Her articles on nature and the environment have appeared in the *New York Times*, *American Heritage*, *Audubon*, *High Country News*, *Sierra*, *Wilderness*, and many other publications. In 1986 she was part of the team of *High Country News* reporters that won a George Polk Award for Environmental Reporting, for the series "Western Water Made Simple." Furmanský lives in Denver.

MANHATTAN CBC 2009 RESULTS

Total = 53 (plus two feeder watchers) in 25 parties

Total party miles – 551.5

Total number of species – 85

Total individuals – 50,159

Notes: Big numbers of Canada geese – 15,274, American Robins – 7,460, American Crow – 8,478

No Northern Shrikes

The full report is on our website <http://www.k-state.edu/audubon/index.html>

As many of you know, Dave Rintoul was in the hospital, but is home now. We wish him a continued recovery.

**FEB. 12-15 GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT**

WWW.BIRDSOURCE.ORG/GBBC

FEB. 20 - 3RD ANNUAL NFHAS BACK-YARD FEEDER TOUR (SEE FIRST PAGE OF THIS ISSUE)**MARCH 18-21 - SANDHILL CRANE MIGRATION FOCUS OF 40TH ANNUAL RIVERS & WILDLIFE CELEBRATION** KEARNEY, NEBRASKA.WWW.NEBRASKA.AUDUBON.ORG

WWW.NEBRASKA.AUDUBON.ORG

MARCH 17- NFHAS PROGRAM - "BIRD CALLS & SONGS OF WICHITA" BY PAUL GRIFFIN**APRIL 23 - WAKEFIELD BIRDING FESTIVAL**

WWW.KANSASBIRDINGFESTIVAL.ORG/

CHICKADEE CHECKOFF

A few of you may have been around when the Chickadee Checkoff was adopted in 1980. That was the same year that Congress passed the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act which was supposed to eventually supply major funding for nongame programs. In the 90s we worked diligently on the Conservation and Reinvestment Act through "Teaming With Wildlife." We did get State Wildlife Grants in this century as a start for what is needed. We may yet see substantial nongame funding through current climate change legislation being considered. But, the Chickadee Checkoff goes on. Supplying a fairly meager \$120,000 or so a year, these precious dollars help leverage State Wildlife Grant money which comes in at about a million per year.

While comparatively small, the Chickadee Checkoff pot is very important in supplying some state match cost share for the State Wildlife Grant program. We still have great need for the checkoff contributions. This money has helped us fund numerous bird projects in the past including the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas and the most recent "Birds of Cheyenne Bottoms" book. Help our birds by making sure you not only donate to the Chickadee Checkoff but make sure your tax preparers have the promotional materials to encourage their clients to donate. You can simply direct them to me to order promotional posters, prints and brochures. Thanks for all your sincere interest in birds and in helping them through the Chickadee Checkoff and many other great programs and efforts.

Ken Brunson, kenb@WP.STATE.KS.US
Wildlife Diversity Coordinator



NORTHERN FLINT HILLS
Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1932
MANHATTAN, KS
66505-1932

PRINTED ON 100% POST-CONSUMER
RECYCLED PAPER

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT No. 662
MANHATTAN, KS 66502

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Published monthly (except August) by the Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society.
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Also available on-line at www.ksu.edu/audubon/falcon.html

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.

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> and join in the discussions.

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

Governor Mark Parkinson: 2nd Floor, State Capital Bldg, Topeka , KS 66612.

KS Senator or Representative: State Capital Bldg, Topeka, KS 66612. Ph# (during session only) Senate - 785-296-7300. House - 785-296-7500. U.S. Senator Roberts <Roberts@senate.gov> U.S. Senate, Washington DC 20510. or Brownback <Brownback@senate.gov> U.S. Capital Switchboard 202-224-3121.

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