

Safer Passages for Migrating Birds

**Sunday, April 27th, 2:00 pm
Manhattan Public Library
Groesbeck Rm.**



Join this talk to learn how you can help migratory birds make their journey safer.

Johnson County Community College's Krystal Anton will speak about their bird strike study and lessons learned over the last six years. This talk will also cover the effects of light pollution and how it is related to window strikes and the health of birds, as well as ways you can mitigate these issues at home and work.

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



prairie falcon

Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

Apr. 1 - Board Meeting 5:30
Manhattan Public Library Study room

Apr. 12 - Sat. Morning Birding
Meet at Sojourner Truth Park,
departs for birding at **8:00 am**

Apr. 26-27 Birdathon (see page 4 -5)

Apr. 27 - Safer passages for Migrating Birds
Talk by Krystal Anton
2:00 Manhattan Public Library, Groesbeck Rm.



Saving the Mother Tree

Dru Clarke



Determining the route to be taken for placement of new electrical line poles to our son's home site was an anxious enterprise. The initial choice was through a pasture to the road where several large and very old oaks would have to have been cut down. That idea was nixed immediately as we had witnessed the wholesale destruction of a venerable swath of ancient trees north of our land along the road, ostensibly removed to improve drainage of the roadbed. For us and itinerant travelers, they created an almost sacred space where you felt a spiritual sense of wellbeing, and it had been destroyed. We still mourn its loss. A second route would have swung inward, avoiding the big trees, but then jogging back to the road where a lovely Kentucky coffee tree would fall victim. Another negative. From another pole set along a cedar-sheltered ridge, we discerned the least invasive path north, down a steep slope devoid of trees, across our lane, to a thin gap along the creek where a dead elm, an adolescent walnut, a hackberry and a cedar would have to be sacrificed, but none, as far as we could tell were mother trees.

The utility rep was patient with us and, fortunately (for us and for him) he didn't ridicule or do eye-rolls when I told him of my concern for mother trees. They are the largest and probably the oldest in a woodland and provide the base source for the mycorrhizal network in the soil that transports nutrients (think carbon) and chemical signals to other trees, nourishing them and providing information about environmental conditions, like potential diseases, drought, and more. Research done by scientists like Dr. Suzanne Simard of the University of British Columbia has revealed that even different species in a forest community benefit from symbiotic relationships: conifers and deciduous trees mutually "care" for one another. Douglas fir and birch exchange nutrients and water at different times of the year, and birch help prevent disease that affects the fir.

Douglas fir, growing chiefly in the Pacific Northwest and the Rockies, is a prime wood for construction due to its straight and rapid growth, strength, and durability. The poles that will carry the electrical lines are made of Douglas fir. Southern yellow pine, a collective term for several species of pine (loblolly, slash, shortleaf and long leaf), is another key source for construction. The framing of our son's home – its joists and rafters – is of one of these woods. It is fragrant, resinous, and straw-colored. Perhaps the wood had been harvested where certain mutual exchanges occurred, or maybe those had been disrupted by the commercial enterprise of logging. One would hope that the research on forest dynamics and mother trees would be regarded positively not only by the logging industry but by private folks who have woodlands.

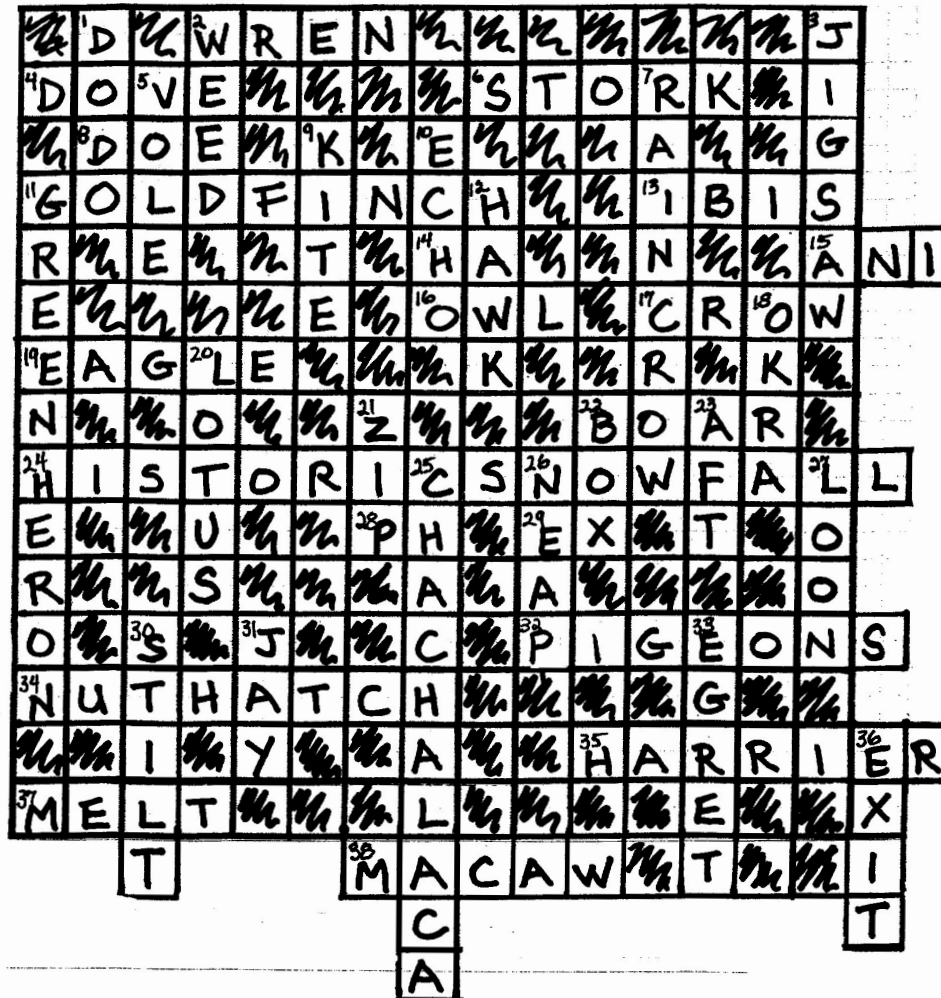
Most of our imposing trees are along the creek, in a riparian zone that stretches like a shaggy ribbon up and downstream. One of the trees sacrificed to make the electrical line path was a walnut whose wood is a dusty wine shade. It would make a pretty bench. There are plans, too, to build a wooden bridge across the creek, and some of the boles are straight and robust enough to become the supports for the deck. It is good to think that the downed trees will still have purpose in a new form. And we left the big and old trees to continue with their mothering.

Note: Foresters used to call big, old and gnarly trees "wolf trees," thinking they garnered all the water and nutrients, not realizing or appreciating that they were the mothers that cared for surrounding trees.

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Crossword Puzzle

ANSWERS



ACROSS:

2. Small houses are made for this family
4. Mourning, Eurasian collared
6. Fabled transporter of babies
8. Female deer
11. Bright in summer, dull in winter, local feeder favorite
13. White, Glossy, White-faced, Scarlet
14. Sound of disdain or amusement
15. One is groovy, one is not
16. Fluffy feathers result in near silent flight
17. Smart test participant
19. Their feathers are sacred to many native peoples
22. Tusks pig
24. Jan. 5, 2025 (two words)
28. Soil information helpful to gardeners
29. Former
32. Avian urban dwellers
34. Two of this family are found locally in winter. Both are vocal in winter.
35. A hawk-like bird with owl-like face.
37. What we wish the snow would do.
38. Large long tailed colorful noisy bird with featherless face

DOWN:

1. A bird selected as a character in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*
2. Menace or asset is defined by the person who encounters it
3. A different kind of puzzle
5. Small herbivore that may gnaw on bird seed below the feeder
7. Colloquial name for a Yellow-bellied cuckoo
9. Swallow-tailed and Mississippi have been seen in Kansas
10. Canyon talk
11. This bird species sometimes uses bait to attract fish
12. Large diurnal raptor
18. Slimy vegetable
20. National plant of India and Vietnam. Seeds can remain viable for many years.
21. Line, tie, code
22. Turtle species
23. Stern of ship
25. Bird found in U.S. primarily at the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. Hint: dance/6th tone/California
26. High tide is lower. Low tide is higher.
27. All five species of this family are found in North America. You may hear its eerie call across a lake.
30. Long-legged shorebird. A summer Kansas resident. Elegant even though it picks at it's food.
31. Closely related to Crows. Insider hint: In the families of both Cindy and Chuck
33. Great, Snowy, Cattle
36. Escape route

2025 Annual Birdathon

24 hour birding - April 27th or 28th



Clyde birding in his backyard



Cecil Best

In 1985, Cecil Best and Clyde Ferguson on a whim during a late April poor fishing outing hatched a plan: to search for as many bird species in a 24-hour period and then send it to their friends to urge them to donate an amount for each species to the North Flint Hills Audubon Society. It worked!

By Jim Koelliker

Cecil pulled me in and I became friends with Clyde and ever since about 1990 I have been hooked. It's an annual must for me and I hope it becomes a must for others too.

This is the **40th** annual Birdathon.

A group of birders will join me on my chase around different habitat areas. But you, as just one birder, can go out and count the number of species you see within a 24-hour period of your choice sometime during April 26th and 27th this year.

An important part of the process is to raise donations for the Chapter, so I hope you would send me the list of species you found along with contact information for your friends, family and anyone who you think would like to be a sponsor. I will send them our report and hope they can donate a certain amount for each species we see this year. From a dime to quarter or more, you would be surprised how much we can raise. Some sponsors just give a set amount. Those donating \$20 or more may receive a year's subscription to the *Prairie Falcon* if requested.

Please send the name and address of each potential sponsor to
Jim Koelliker,
3500 Mintons Lndg,
Manhattan KS 66503

If you don't want to go out alone or don't think you are good enough to ID birds, contact Jim Koelliker (785-776- 4915, voice or text, koellik@sbcglobal.net) and I will help you find someone or a group to search with you. Also, you can contact a board member, or drop a note to NFHAS, PO Box 1932, Manhattan 66502 and we will find someone to count for you. On average we see between 90-110 species this time of year.

PS: Please report your list of species to Jim no later than April 29th to have them included in the master list. Our list will be included in a subsequent edition of the *Prairie Falcon*.

More information and sponsor form are on our our our website: nfhas.org.



2025 Annual Birdathon

Sponsor Form

Your name _____

Email address _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Sponsor's Name & Address	Pledge/species	Total Pledge	Newsletter



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

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The purpose of the Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society is to teach people to enjoy and respect birds and their habitats. NFHAS advocates preservation of prairie ecosystems and urban green spaces thus saving the lives of birds and enriching the lives of people.

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National Audubon Society:

The following gifts qualify for **membership in**

A monthly recurring gift of \$5 or more

An annual recurring gift of \$20 or more

A one-time gift of \$20 or more

ONLINE - www.audubon.org - under membership tab,
and check the FAQ at the bottom of the page.

OR MAIL a check to

The National Audubon Society

ATTN: Donations

225 Varick St. 7th Floor

New York, NY 10014

Questions about membership Call 1-844-428-3826 or email the
National Audubon Society support@audubon.org

When you join National Audubon Society you automatically
become a member of NFHAS.

NFHAS Subscription Information: If you do not wish to join
the National Audubon Society, but still want to be involved in
NFHAS local activities, ***you may subscribe to the Prairie Falcon
newsletter for \$20/yr.***

Make checks payable to the Northern Flint Hills Audubon
Society and mail to: **Treasurer, NFHAS, P.O. Box 1932,
Manhattan, KS 66505-1932**

WE NEED YOU! PLEASE consider joining our NFHAS Board.

NFHAS Board

President: [Patricia Yeager](mailto:pyeagerbirder@gmail.com) - pyeagerbirder@gmail.com 317-1558

Vice Pres.:

Secretary:

Treasurer: Jared Johnson

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Education:

Bird Seed Sales:

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Fieldtrips: Patricia Yeager, and Board

AOK Representative: [Cindy Jeffrey](mailto:cinraney@ksu.edu) - cinraney@ksu.edu 565-3326

At-large: Susan Blackford, Kevin Fay

Contacts for Your Elected Representatives (anytime). Write, call or email: Governor Laura Kelly: 2nd Floor, State Capitol Bldg., Topeka, KS 66612. KS Senator or Representative: State Capitol Bldg., Topeka, KS 66612. Ph# (during session only) Senate - 785-296-7300. House - 785-296-7500. U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, U.S. Senator Roger Marshall U.S. Senate, Washington DC 20510. Representative Tracey Mann, Derek Schmidt, Sharice Davids and Ron Estes: U.S. Capital Switchboard 202-224-3121.