



Operation WildLife (OWL),

provides rehabilitation and veterinary services to injured and orphaned wild animals in the Kansas City metro and surrounding communities in northeast Kansas.

As the largest publicly funded wildlife rehabilitation in Kansas, we're dedicated to helping thousands of animals return to the wild each year, as well as educating local residents on how to keep wildlife wild!

Join us on a Field Trip to "OWL" Open House, Sunday Oct. 6. The Open House is from 1- 4 pm.

Reservations Available Only in Advance by Mail or on the Bidding Owl Site.

<https://new.biddingowl.com/owlopenhouse>

If made before Sept. 26 it is \$15, after that it is \$25

You can also contact Merry Bower, mdbower@ksu.edu if you wish us to make the reservation for you. Contact Merry no later than Sept. 20.

THE EARLIER THE BETTER - it might fill up!

INCLUDES: Tour of Main Facility, Music, Meet their Public Education Birds.

Leaving Manhattan at 11:00 am - Meet to carpool at the South side of the Mall parking lot.
(Or you can drive yourself and meet us there)



Operation
Wildlife

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



prairie falcon

Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society Newsletter

Vol. 53, No. 1, Sept 2024

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Upcoming Events

- Sept. 3 - Board Meeting 5:30 pm,
Manhattan Public Library
Study room
- Sept. 14 - Saturday Birding
Departs Sojourner Truth Park at 8 am
- Oct. 6 - OWL field trip
See above
- Oct. 12 - Saturday Birding
Departs Sojourner Truth Park at 8 am
- Oct. - Birdseed Sale Order Form in Oct. Newsletter (and online)



Skylight plus

Pete Cohen

Pete is in the hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery! The night sky is just not the same.

If you would like to send him a card

Select Medical

Pete Cohen, Rm 104

1731 N. 90th St.

Kansas City, KS

66112



photo by Dave Rintoul

Get
Well
Soon

Do you need a last minute birthday, anniversary or Christmas gift? Give a Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society Subscription.

Gift Subscription

Recipient Name

Mailing address

Email

Welcome to the Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society

This gift is from

NFHAS Subscription Information: \$20 subscription

Mail this form with your check (payable to the Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society) to:

Attn: Gift Subscription

**Treasurer, NFHAS, P.O. Box 1932,
Manhattan, KS 66505-1932**

Cycles Dru Clarke



At first, it was death camas (sometimes spelled camass), wide swathes of it, in our northwest pasture. A deceptively lovely early blooming forb, with lily-like leaves opening in clusters, then, later, a wand of creamy white flowers sprouting in the cluster's center. Lovely to look at, but toxic (due to an alkaloid called zigadenine) when eaten by livestock, especially lethal to sheep. Several clusters showed evidence of grazing, but they were few: the animal must have detected something amiss. Early immigrants to the plains mistook the plant for another, edible one (wild onions), and suffered mightily for their ignorance. They should have taken a great whiff of the leaves – camas lacks that characteristic onion odor. Natives crushed the bulbs to make a poultice for wounds and bruises, hence, a redeeming value for humankind. We checked for pollinators, but came away shrugging. How did this plant spread? Why was it so dominant this year? Early spraying with a herbicide (PastureGuard in our case) seemed to wilt the green leaves after a few days (the control has to be absorbed through the roots) but we aren't sure what next year will bring.



A second notable abundance of a usually uncommon prairie forb was whorled milkweed. A delicate, slender slip. The amateur eye would simply not recognize it as a member of the milkweed tribe, lacking the robust pods of silky seeds, wind-driven to far places when the tough pods dry and split to release them. Blooming later than camas, when spring becomes summer, it appeared in broad expanses on open, sunlit prairie. It, too, has grass-like leaves that whorl the stem, the tiny, white flowers appearing within these whorls. When crushed, a white,

milky juice oozes from leaves and stems. And, it is toxic as well, possessing 'cardioactive' glycosides and resins. Again, why so abundant and obvious this year?

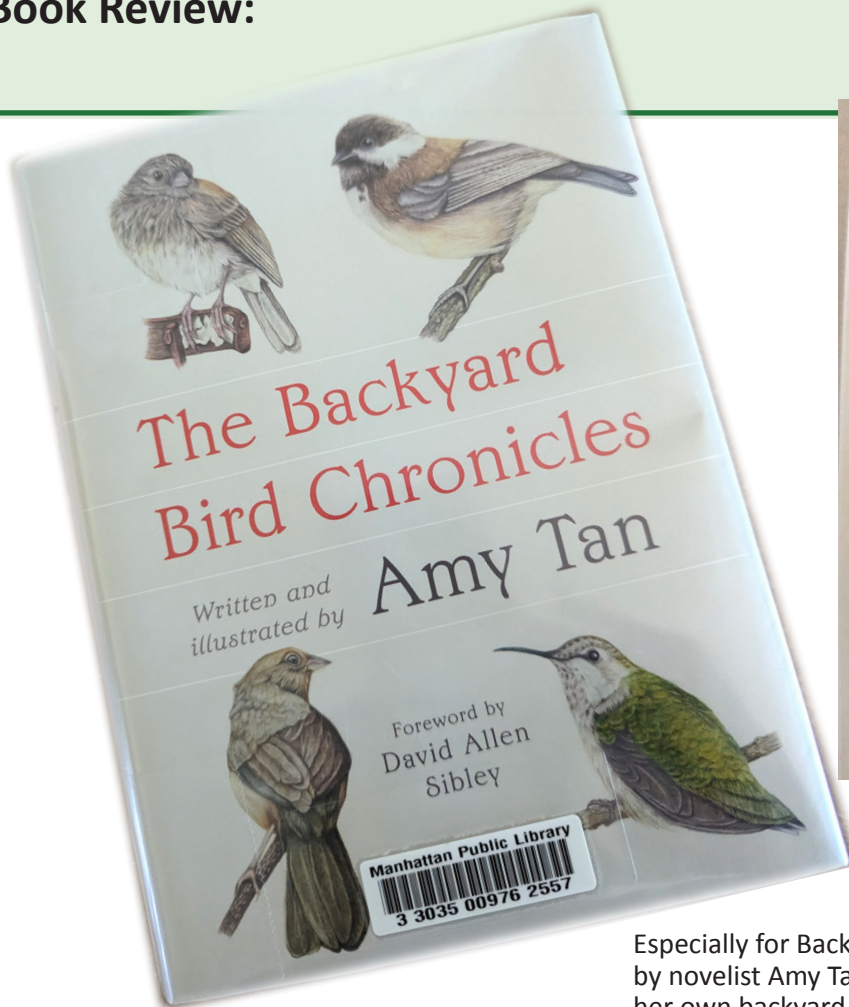
A more desirable (i.e. non-toxic) profusion of a native forb is Illinois bundleflower. Found in waste areas and especially along roadsides, this thigh-high plant has leaves sensitive to touch (like sensitive catclaw brier) and creamy white blossoms appearing in gumdrop-size clusters. In fall, it can easily be identified by its brown-black knots of seeds that, collected in a bundle, can serve as a child's rattle (or yours, if you enjoy rattling). It is a good indicator of pasture health (it is highly palatable) although cattle and other livestock are usually fenced off from where it likes to grow. Maybe that is why we see our cows twisting their heads under the fence and licking at the greenery on the other side.) Why this year it seems to occur more abundantly is a question to answer. Could it be, for all mentioned here, heavy rainfall at opportune times for growth? Milder, early season temperatures coupled with the rain?

Missing – at least at our piece of land – are the toads. We usually have several fat ones foraging on our deck, hanging around the bird waterer on the ground, but we've seen none – nada – this season. Tree frogs seem to be doing okay. And the reptiles – snakes, skinks, turtles and collared lizards – seem unaffected. But we miss our charming toads. Someone out there might have an explanation for all of these observations and I hope to hear them aired. I just wonder what the next few seasons and years will bring. Who doesn't relish a good mystery?



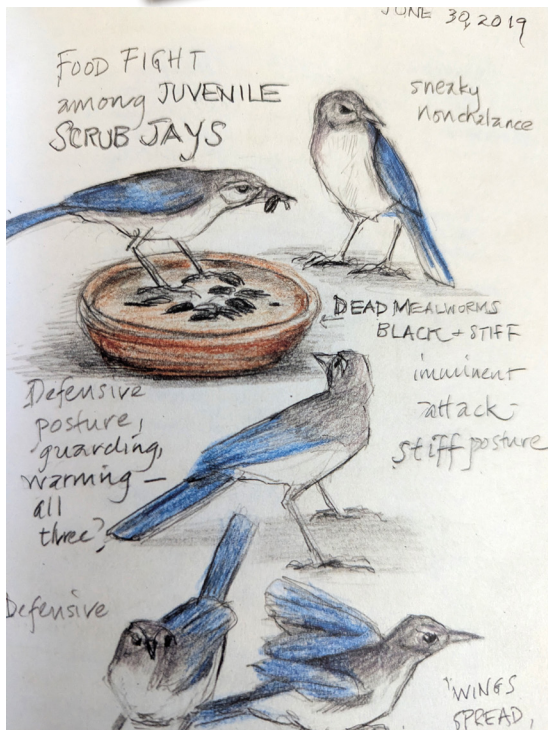
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Book Review:



Especially for Back Yard Birders, this book has great writing by novelist Amy Tan (The Joy Luck Club). Tan writes about her own backyard. Since childhood she has loved the natural world, but was not really a birder. But her observations of life in her backyard brought a focus on birds - "there is beauty in plain sight!"

"The drawings and essays in this book do a lot more than just describe the birds. They carry a sense of discovery through observation and drawing, suggest the layers of patterns in the natural world, and emphasize a deep personal connection between the watcher and the watched. The birds that inhabit Amy Tan's backyard seem a lot like the characters in her novels." —David Allen Sibley, from the foreword



2024 Birdathon Report - 20 years

THANK YOU Jim Koelliker

The complete Birdathon report can be found on our website:
<https://www.nfhas.org/document-center.cfm?fx=R5WKBSF92Z9Z621E>

We were fortunate to receive about \$4,000 in total from donations directly to me and others sent directly to the chapter. Thank you all for helping to make the effort a success.

And THANK YOU JIM!!!

Volunteers needed

ALSOP BIRD SANCUTARY GARDEN

SEPTEMBER FEATURED TASK:

Meet at Alsop Bird Sanctuary Garden Sat. Sept 17th at 9:00 am. Bring your garden gloves and/or a shovel and let's get digging and pulling! Look forward to seeing you.

- Dig beds-turn and rake soil
- Weed .There are lots of them to pull.
- Haul load of compost from the transfer station and unload at the garden
- Haul load of cedar mulch from 1 mile outside city limits and unload at garden
- Paint sign post
- Cut back and dig out overgrown species. Bring a pot or two if you want plants.
- Cover about 1 quarter of the garden with dark plastic to organically kill off bind weed and all else. We will renew that section after 8 months of darkness.
- Clear out overgrown brush under bushes.
- Dig out every bush honeysuckle sapling that may have planted itself.
- Haul off garden waste pile
- Distribute compost to garden beds
- Mulch around trees
- Letter plant identification markers

NORTHEAST PARK INFORMATIONAL SIGNS RESTORATION

- Clean up the post, sand lightly and stain.
- Finish the "white board" side. Make (or shop for and purchase) and attach container for wet erase pens.

CECIL BEST BIRDING TRAIL- REESTABLISH AND REPAIR

- Look over bridge and make carpentry repairs.
- Sand / finish if need be
- Weed eat / cut back vegetation along trail edge
- Cut down and poison bush honeysuckle
- Wheelbarrow in gravel to fill eroded spots in trail (or use 4-wheeler if someone has one)
- Remove old birdhouses and replace or relocate new ones. Urgent task. So that any virus may be removed.
- Look over wooden benches and repair if need be
- Look over observation deck and sign and repair as needed

MICHEL-ROSS PRESERVE

- Walk through preserve and haul out trash.
- Inspect signage and paint posts.
- Volunteers will be needed to put up a goat fence for 2 hours or so next year. This will need to happen when the bush honeysuckle is just getting its first leaves. It will be scheduled in late winter before other plants start sprouting and before the ticks and chiggers are present. The focus here is to make a long term plan to remove as much bush honeysuckle as possible over the next 5 years or so. Then it will need to be managed every year thereafter. This will eventually keep natural walking paths open and help maintain plant diversity in the 26 acre forested preserve.

As you can see, there is much to do to maintain our green spaces. We will feature a task every month in the Prairie Falcon. Generally, we will work for two hours and do whatever we can. The more hands the more we can get done.



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

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Manhattan, KS 66502

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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Edited by Cindy Jeffrey, 15850 Galilee Rd., Olsburg, KS 66520. (cinraney@ksu.edu)
Also available online at nfhas.org

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

COMMITTEE Chairs:

Membership: Merry Bower mdbower@ksu.edu

Programs: Board

Butterfly Garden & Northeast Park

Alsop Property: Patricia Yeager and Merry Bower

Education:

Bird Seed Sales:

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

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, Jacob LaTurner, Sharice Davids and Ron Estes: U.S. Capital Switchboard 202-224-3121.