Participate in Birdathon by Birding, Pledging, or Both!
May 2 & 3, 2020

Please join us for Jayhawk Audubon Society's annual Birdathon fundraiser! Birdathon is like a walkathon except participants count bird species instead of miles. Sponsors (that’s you, us, everyone!) make a pledge to donate 25¢, 50¢ or more for each bird species on our chapter list. The chapter list is a compilation of all the species seen by chapter birders on their Birdathon day – all birders are invited to add to the list!

Birdathon donations support chapter projects such as Eagles Day, our Plants for Birds program, Monarch Tagging, the Learning About Nature Project, KU Natural History Museum class scholar-ships, out-of-town speakers, and more!

Find out how to participate as a birder, a sponsor, or both at https://www.jayhawkaudubon.org/birdathon-1. If you prefer to donate a set amount rather than pledging per species, please use the form on this page or the donate option on our website. We are grateful for any amount you can manage! Thanks for your support! We miss you and look forward to seeing you when it’s safe to resume our activities!

The JAS Board of Directors

JAS Summer Break

Every year JAS programs and newsletters go on hiatus during June and July with 2020 no exception. Usually this meshes perfectly with travel plans and casual summer schedules. This year though we’ve already been on hiatus since March, so the end of August calendar seems unbearably far away and uncertain.

Nevertheless, while realizing Covid-19 may up-end everything again, the JAS board intends to start programs again the 4th Monday in August.

The board’s annual program/project planning meeting will be in June—fingers crossed—but we already have two exciting programs on tap which had to be postponed in March and May. This fall we’ll hear trip reports on “Peruvian Wildlife” by Jim Bresnahan, and “Wildlife in South Africa” by Roger Boyd.

Later in the autumn we'll celebrate Jayhawk Audubon’s 50th Anniversary with dinner and a special speaker. Happy trails ‘til then.

Keep the Good Work Coming!

Here’s My Birdathon Contribution

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
__________________________

Email: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________
Pledge: _______ per species
(You will be contacted when the chapter list is complete.)

Clip this form and send it to:
Birdathon, Jayhawk Audubon Society
P.O. Box 3741 Lawrence, KS  66046
To donate a set amount, include your check.
You can give via Paypal or card. Visit: https://www.jayhawkaudubon.org/donate

Thank You!
Hidden Valley Trails & Prairie Appreciation Day
Saturday, June 6  9am ~ 1 pm
Hidden Valley Camp     3420 Bob Billings Pkwy

Explore the camp’s 40 acres of hidden wilderness. Hike on your own, go on a scavenger hunt or join a guided tour—birds, wildflowers, and natural history. Enjoy exhibits & activities about prairies, wetlands, pollinator plants, biochar & scouting.

Co-sponsored by Hidden Valley Camp and JAS. Before you go please check for cancellation due to Covid-19 on the JAS and HV Facebook pages and websites: https://www.facebook.com/friendsoflawrencehiddenvalley and https://www.friendshv.org/

June 13 - Akin Prairie Wildflower Walk with Kelly Kindscher. 10 am—12 pm. RSVP and find map at https://www.facebook.com/events/2608833506062291/

July 24 - Kansas Land Trust 30th Anniversary Celebration, 6-9 p.m. Cider Gallery in Lawrence. Buy tickets: https://www.klt.org/event/friends

Native Plant Sales
The Grassland Heritage Foundation Native Plant Sale is now online ordering only. Visit their website for the plant list, ordering and pick-up info: https://www.grasslandheritage.org/ Order until May 10th.

The Monarch Watch Spring Plant Sale/Open House has been postponed until further notice. However, thousands of plants need a home and an online sale with local pick up is in the works. No date or specific info yet, so keep checking the website: https://monarchwatch.org/

JAS Native Plant Garden Is Two! Our garden at Oak Hill Cemetery showcasing native plants for birds was planted on June 2, 2018 with several JAS members contributing time and labor. Plants and other materials were donated by Lawrence Parks and Recreation. The goal of the garden is to inspire people to give native plants a try in their own gardens.

All JAS members are invited to help maintain the chapter’s garden when you have a little spare time. Please feel free to pull a few weeds, cut dead blossoms, and give it a little love. Then it will grow in beauty and usefulness over the seasons. Lynn Byczynski weeded on April 22nd and took the above photo. The plants over-wintered well and before long we’ll have blooms!

~ Jennifer Delisle, Plants for Birds

Here’s a map to guide you to the JAS garden: https://tinyurl.com/y7mps2yu

P.S. Check out https://kidsgardening.org/ for many ideas on garden related activities and lesson plans for kids. Also https://biggreen.org/.

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Preventing Bird Window Strikes

From a National Audubon Webinar

Estimates of the number of birds who are killed flying into windows each year in the U.S. vary widely from 100 million to 1 billion. Whatever the true number it is an appalling loss and means that, after habitat loss and perhaps cat predation, window collisions are the next leading cause of bird mortality. Another factor that makes deaths from window collisions particularly devastating is that, unlike predators which often kill the weaker members of a population, collisions kill the fit as well as the unfit.

Why then do we not routinely find truckloads of bodies?

1. Many animals eat dead birds, even some unexpected ones like chipmunks, thus disposing of the corpses before we see them.

2. 25-50% of collisions do not leave a body at the site. If the bird doesn’t break its neck and die immediately, it may be able to fly away but still have suffered a concussion or bodily injuries and die later in another location.

The basic problem is that birds do not perceive glass as a barrier. Glass is almost always clear and transparent or reflective. Birds simply don’t see clear glass, and if there are reflections of trees, plants or sky then it looks like habitat and they will try to reach it thereby crashing into the window.

Probably surprising to most of us, the majority of bird/window collisions year-round occur at residential and low-rise commercial buildings, not at skyscrapers or towers. This is because usual daytime feeding behavior takes place below 40 feet in the air, right in the zone where there are windows everywhere if birds are feeding and moving near our buildings. Audubon emphasizes that all shapes and sizes of windows in any part of a house or low-rise building can kill if there is a reflection in the window or if the glass is clear and birds cannot see it. No season, time of day, or weather is safe for birds around glass! Glass walkways at any level are especially lethal as birds don’t see them as they try to fly through the apparent gap between buildings.

It is true that lethal strikes with mass mortality that occur during migration are more commonly noticed and documented. These events tend to happen during cloudy or otherwise bad weather when birds are drawn to lighted buildings and end up circling the lights all through the long night, finally flying into windows or dropping to the ground in exhaustion. Lights Out programs in cities are crucial to prevent this from happening, but there is still massive mortality from this sort of event during migration.

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Preventing Bird Window Strikes
From a National Audubon Webinar

In the United States there are no official standards for “bird friendly” products, although New York City just passed some legislation requiring bird friendly design for new construction and setting some standards. Nevertheless bird conservation groups such as National Audubon and the American Bird Conservancy have studied the window strike problem extensively and created lists of suggested commercial products and some simpler solutions that will prevent most bird strikes, although apparently nothing is 100% effective, especially if a raptor is hunting your feeders and birds are in a panic. Here’s the list of solutions:

- Physical Barriers such as netting or year-round screens on the outside of the window.
- Make the glass visible with decals or paint or tape. To be effective these need to be placed close together in grids no larger than 2” x 4” and on the outside of the window.
- Acopian bird savers: https://www.birdsavers.com/ Parachute cord hanging on 4” centers. Visit the website. It’s more attractive than it sounds.
- Collidescape sheets: https://www.collidescape.org/. They come in clear, patterns and colors and you can see through them from the inside.
- American Bird Conservancy translucent bird tape: https://abcbirds.org/abc-bird-tape/
- Feather Friendly DIY tape: https://www.featherfriendly.com/residential/
- Tempera paint in a pattern or design that does not leave large empty spaces.
- Window blinds kept down and partly closed.
- UV stickers are effective but must be deployed in a 2” x 4” grid, so you need quite a few.
- Putting your bird feeder within 3 feet or less of the window is best as the birds can’t get up enough speed for a severe impact. Alternately place them 30 feet or more from the windows.
- Special types of glass such as fritted or acid etched are visible to birds, but expensive.

This list provides lots of options, although all of them will affect the appearance of the window in some way and probably obscure the view to some extent. However, perhaps one of these methods will appeal to you and help you to prevent window strikes at your home or business. Remember that most bird species in the U.S., especially the song birds and some native sparrows that frequent our neighborhoods and towns, have declined alarming over the last 40 years. A drop in the fatalities caused by window strikes would help a lot to slow further winnowing away of our treasured birds.
Migratory Bird Day: May 9th
Story Time and Book Club

Since festivals and activities for World Migratory Bird Day have been cancelled, Environment For the Americas is offering online ways to celebrate migration. There is a children’s story time on April 30th in both Spanish and English. Follow this link: https://www.migratorybirdday.org/storytime and click on your preferred language to register. There is also an archive of recordings of previous story times in case you miss it.

The Book Club will discuss Bird Love by Wenfei Tong on May 7th at 7 pm CDT. Click on https://www.migratorybirdday.org/bird-book-club/ to register. There is also a link to buy the book from the Princeton Press for 40% off & free shipping!

Two migrants back for summer:
Brown Thrasher ➔
& Gray Catbird ➢

Both are mimids, known for imitating the songs of other birds.

Call for Youth Bird Art Entries
Have Your Art Shown in a Museum!

Mass Audubon wants young artists, ages 4-18, to submit work to the Taking Flight juried youth bird art exhibition. This is the fifth year for the exhibition which is hosted by the Museum of American Bird Art in the Mass Audubon wildlife sanctuary in Canton, Massachusetts. The MABA is a professional level art museum with an extensive collection including many engravings and lithographs by JJ Audubon as well as work by other famous bird artists such as Louis Agassiz Fuertes, Charley Harper, Andy Warhol (who knew!), Alexander Wilson, and Lars Jonsson among others.

This year’s theme is “Your favorite bird, or what birds mean to you.” Most non-digital mediums are allowed, but no photography or digital art. Be sure to check the website for the rules and other details so that your artwork meets the specifications: https://www.massaudubon.org/learn/museum-of-american-bird-art/exhibitions/youth-art-exhibit/details-rules. Submissions will be taken until June 15th 2020. The show will be up in the museum from Sept. 2020 to March 2021.

Anti-boredom Resources from NAS

National Audubon has a slew of new ideas for things to do while staying home. Just go to the home page: https://www.audubon.org/. There we are told to “get lost in the joy of birds.” Just click the down arrow and find all these offerings.

They’ve launched I Saw A Bird: Audubon’s Spring Migration Show to bring a bit of the bird world indoors. This weekly Facebook Live show features funny, engaging, educational, and sometimes weird bird-related topics and discussion. Episodes air every Wednesday at 6:00 pm CDT on https://www.facebook.com/NationalAudubonSociety/

A calendar of virtual Audubon events includes field trips, story times, seminars on forest management; water resources; Giants of the Corkscrew Swamp; wildlife gardening; conservation of migratory songbirds; and diversity in Audubon, and there’s something called “Birdy Office Hours” you will have to check out for yourselves!

Finally there is help with the homeschooling effort with new Audubon for Kids topics each week including indoor and outdoor activities and down loadable Audubon Adventures to read. They already have five weeks worth archived there!
Become a Member: Just $20 to join both National Audubon and Jayhawk Chapter.

**National Audubon Society membership is $20.00.** Members receive four issues per year of the Audubon magazine and will be enlisted as members of their closest chapter. Members also receive 9 issues per year of the JAS newsletter and are entitled to discounts on the books and feeders we sell to raise funds to support education and conservation projects. (Make your check payable to National Audubon Society and mail to our JAS membership chair at the address below.)

You may also join National Audubon online at https://secure.audubon.org/site/Donation2?df_id=9431&9431.donation=form1&s_src=2015_AUDHP_topbanner-button-menu.)

**Chapter-only membership to Jayhawk Audubon Society is $10.00.** (Make check payable to Jayhawk Audubon Society.) You will not receive the Audubon magazine. **Those with National Audubon memberships are encouraged to support the chapter by voluntarily paying these dues.** Chapter membership expires annually in July. JAS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

**To join or donate to Audubon of Kansas** make check payable to AOK or use this online link - http://www.audubonofkansas.org/joindonate/.

Please send this completed form & your check to JAS c/o Kristine Latta, P.O. Box 3741 Lawrence, KS 66046.

Name __________________________________________________________
Address _________________________________________________________
City ___________________________ State ______ ZIP Code (9) digit ____________
Telephone (with Area Code) ______________________________
Email address _____________________________________________________________

Jayhawk Audubon does not share membership information with non-Audubon entities. C6ZJ020Z