



# JAYHAWK AUDUBON SOCIETY

[www.jayhawkaudubon.org](http://www.jayhawkaudubon.org)

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APRIL 2005

## "Birding in Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands" To be Seen at April Program

On April 14, 2005, the JAS program will feature Dr. Roger Boyd, Professor and Chair of Biology at Baker University. Dr. Boyd will present his program entitled "Birding in Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands," at the Lawrence Senior Center, 8th and Vermont Streets in Lawrence, KS. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. and is open to the public. Prior to the program, join JAS members and Dr. Boyd for a dutch-treat dinner at 5:45 p.m. at Carlos O'Kelly's Mexican Cafe, 707 W. 23rd Street in Lawrence.

On May 12, 2005, the JAS program will feature Tony Stahl, Environmental Scientist, Kansas Department of Health & Environment. Mr. Stahl will present his program entitled "Invasion of the Zebra Mussels."

And on June 9, 2005, the JAS program will feature Mike Watkins, Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Watkins will present his program entitled "Least Terns and Piping Plovers on the Kansas River."

### **LOST & FOUND:**

**Did you leave some money and a receipt from the Lawrence Main Post Office in the Ladies Room of the Senior Center on Thursday March 10th?**

**Contact Pam Chaffee at 887-6868 with details to reclaim your property.**

## WITNESS SANDHILL CRANE MIGRATION THROUGH 'CRANECAM'

People Flock to Nebraska for the Annual Migration Concentration of Cranes and Waterfowl; Improved 'CraneCam' Brings the Migration Spectacle to Everyone

Kearney, NE, February 28, 2005 - Each spring, over a half million Sandhill Cranes congregate on Nebraska's Platte River in one of the world's greatest migration spectacles. Along with these majestic birds, tens-of-thousands of bird watchers flock to Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary to see and hear this astounding migration display. This year,

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### **JAS has Leftover Birdseed for Sale:**

- (1) 10# Premium Blend \$6.00
- (1) 10# Sunflower Chips \$9.50
- (1) 15# Ear Corn \$5.25
- Premium Blend 25# \$12.00
- Economy Blend 25# \$8.00
- 50# \$15.00

Contact Pam Chaffee at 887-6868 to inquire about birdseed.



## Become a Citizen Scientist to Help House

Ithaca, NY, March 8, 2005 - Coast to coast, House Finches have become afflicted with a debilitating form of conjunctivitis. Two projects through Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology, Audubon's partner in the Great Backyard Bird Count, offer budding Citizen Scientists the opportunity to take part in tracking and understanding this disease. Neither requires any experience and both are offered free of charge.

Citizen Scientists participating in the "House Finch Disease Survey" help monitor the spread and prevalence of the disease. Participants observe their feeders and submit data on the presence or absence of healthy and/or diseased birds in their particular location. Data can be submitted either on paper or online. The only equipment you need to participate is a feeder and the ability to observe your feeder visitors. Sign up at <http://birds.cornell.edu/hofisignup/signup.html> and you'll receive a kit with instructions and information in the mail.

Citizen Scientists participating in the "House Finch Nest Survey" are helping to determine if differences in breeding biology are the cause of seasonal and geographic variation in disease prevalence. Participants locate and monitor House Finch nests around their homes and neighborhoods and keep detailed nest records (nest cards provided). Sign up at [www.birds.cornell.edu/hofisignup/nestsignup.html](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/hofisignup/nestsignup.html) and we'll send you an information packet to teach you how to safely observe House Finch nests.

**Questions welcomed at [housefinch@cornell.edu](mailto:housefinch@cornell.edu) or visit the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology at <http://birds.cornell.edu/>.**

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Audubon and National Geographic Magazine again invite nature enthusiasts, bird lovers, and photography buffs to witness one of the world's most spectacular wildlife migrations from a unique "cranes-eye view" via the "CraneCam".

From February 28 through April 15, a camera mounted on an island within Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary on the Platte River - [www.audubon.org/local/sanctuary/rowe/](http://www.audubon.org/local/sanctuary/rowe/) - will provide never-before-seen views of Sandhill Cranes roosting in the thousands in the shallow water. The CraneCam, maintained by Sanctuary staff and volunteers, will operate the hour before and after sunrise every morning and the hour before and after sunset in the evening. During the day, the cranes are feeding in local farm fields: they return to the river to spend the night on sandbars and in shallows, where they are secure from predators. Images from the CraneCam can be seen on the National Geographic Magazine's website - <http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/cranecam/> - along with lots of great information about cranes, Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary, and the Iain Nicolson Audubon Center, located on the Sanctuary.

This year the Crane Cam will feature new on-line educational programs for families, students, teachers or anyone interested in learning more about Sandhill Cranes. The programs are designed to provide a new, fun and innovative way to learn about cranes and to see them in action when they are not at the river. The programs will also provide background information for classes and groups coming to view the cranes at the sanctuary. One new program will be available each week starting on February 28 through the middle of April. All six programs will be available to view throughout the year.

Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary in conjunction with the National Geographic Society, the University of Nebraska at Kearney and the Geographic Educators of Nebraska are working



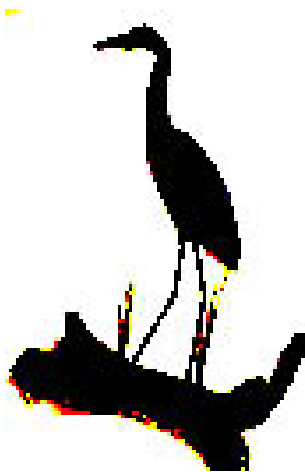
to develop these programs. This collaboration and the enhanced CraneCam were made possible by a grant from the National Geographic Education Foundation.

For over 30 years, people from across the United States and many other countries have come to witness this mysterious and awe-inspiring event. The arrival of the 4-foot-tall cranes on the Platte signifies the beginning of spring. In addition to the visual spectacle of the crane migration is the incredible sound. All cranes call with an amazing rattle. And when tens of thousands of cranes call at once, it is like a roar of a crowd at a football game. With the addition of the CraneCam, visitors can enjoy both the visual and aural impact of this natural spectacle.

“The sanctuary’s unique vantage point on the river allows for some of the best viewing of the cranes,” said Rowe Sanctuary Manager Paul Tebbel. “Nearly 80 percent of the world’s population of Sandhill Cranes stops in the Platte River Region en route to their breeding grounds in Canada, Alaska, and Siberia. As the birds’ silhouettes fill the sky, one of the most spectacular bird migrations unfolds before your eyes. It’s truly a once-in-a-lifetime sight.”

Rowe Sanctuary’s staff and volunteers take visitors to viewing blinds on the edge of the river, where, out of the view of the cranes, people can watch this dramatic scene unfold. Skilled guides accompany all visitors to answer questions about the Platte River, Rowe Sanctuary, the Iain Nicolson Audubon Center, and the life of the Sandhill Cranes. Guided tours are available at Rowe Sanctuary mornings and evenings from March 5 to April 10. Reservations are required.

**To obtain more information, call Rowe Sanctuary at 308-468-5282 or visit [www.rowsanctuary.org](http://www.rowsanctuary.org)**



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**The mission of the Jayhawk Audubon Society is to encourage enjoyment of, to promote understanding of, and to advocate conservation of the natural world.**

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Jayhawk Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 3741  
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Application for New Membership in both: **National Audubon Society** and **Jayhawk Chapter**  
\_\_\_\$15 Student; \_\_\_\$20 Introductory for NEW members; \_\_\_\$15 Senior Citizen.  
(Make check payable to *National Audubon Society*.)

Application for Chapter-only Membership (Jayhawk Audubon Society). No Audubon magazine.  
\_\_\_\$7.50 Chapter-only (Make check payable to *Jayhawk Audubon Society*.) Those with National Audubon memberships are encouraged to support the chapter by voluntarily paying these dues. Chapter membership expires annually in July.

National Audubon Society members receive four issues per year of the Audubon magazine and are also members of the Jayhawk Chapter. All members also receive 10 issues of this newsletter per year and are entitled to discounts on books and feeders that are sold to raise funds to support education and conservation projects. Please send this completed form and check to Membership Chairs at the following address:

**Ruth & Chuck Herman**; 20761 Loring Road, Linwood, KS 66052; e-mail contact:  
[hermansnuthouse@earthlink.net](mailto:hermansnuthouse@earthlink.net). {National Members Renewing: please use the billing form received from National and send it with payment to National Audubon Society in Boulder, CO}.

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