

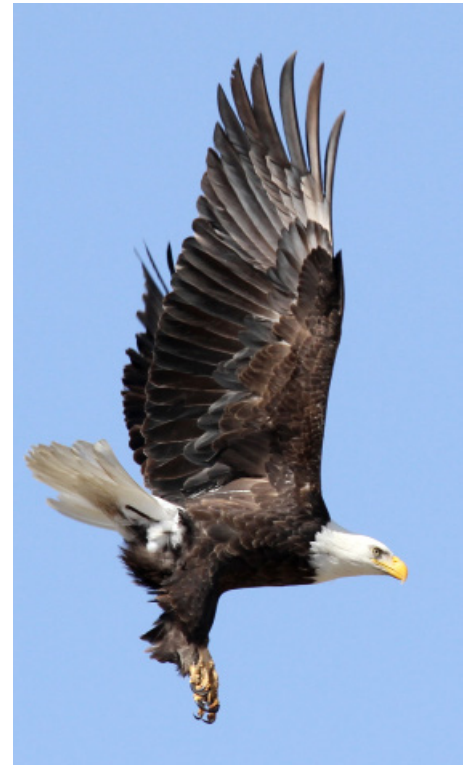
# “TAG! You’re it!”

Join the Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society for an enjoyable evening about eagles.

**Jim Crawford** volunteers with the State & Federal wildlife authorities in tracking eagle nests and tagging eaglets. It will be a fun evening filled with stories and photos about Jim’s adventures.

Program will start at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 15, in the Groesbeck Meeting Room on the second floor of the Manhattan Public Library.

Want to meet our speaker? NFHAS is hosting supper with Jim Crawford, 5:30p.m. at Applebees.



*photo by Donna Roper*

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



## prairie falcon

Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society Newsletter

Vol. 43, No. 2 ~ October 2014

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### Upcoming Events

**Oct 6 - Board Meeting 6 p.m.**

Home of Tom & MJ Morgan

**Oct 11 - Saturday Morning Birding**

8 a.m. Sojourner Truth Park

**Oct 15 - Eagles - 7-9 p.m. Jim Crawford**

Groesbeck Meeting Rm. Public Library

Dinner 5:30 - Applebees

**Nov 3 - Board Meeting 6 p.m.**

Home of Tom & MJ Morgan

**Nov 3 - DEADLINE birdseed order**

**Nov 8 - Saturday Morning Birding**

8 a.m. Sojourner Truth Park

**Nov 19 - Chuck Otte presentation**

7 p.m. location TBA

**Nov 22 - 8-11 a.m. Birdseed PICKUP**



## Skylight plus

Pete Cohen

Once upon a time, the common world view wherever the concept of personal ownership of land was recognized, was that a

property owner owned not only a certain surface area, but also everything below to the center of the Earth and everything above to the furthest reach of the sky. Now in an era of separate mineral and water rights, doorstep parcel deliveries, and a great variety of traffic overhead: how quaint.

As to air traffic much has gone on since the mythological days of Daedalus and Icarus who flew by arm strokes and a combination of feathers and wax. The first intentional fixed wing efforts seem to have appeared in China as kites 2500 years ago. Serviceable balloons had days of glory in France in the late 1700s. Steerable heavier-than-air devices—gliders—came in the 1850s. And the Wright Brothers put together the first powered flight in Ohio and North Carolina in 1903. Then in 1929 in Connecticut Igor Sikorsky filed a patent for a “vertical lift aircraft” which by the mid 1930s had developed into the kind of rotary-winged “choppers” we know today. And Sikorsky seems generally regarded as the inventor of the helicopter.

But a patent for such an invention was filed in 1910 by two railroad mechanics in Goodland, Kansas. We came across this information by driving down a street that used to be US 24, in search of a vehicle repair, and came upon the High Plains Museum, which contains a replica of what Bill Purvis and Charles Arthur Wilson put together there when steam locomotives were providing the main means of transportation.

It was children playing with sticks attached to little wings—whirligig—that stirred Purvis’ imagination as the whirled sticks floated gently to ground. He figured that with more power applied and different wing arrangements, such sticks should be able to rise and as well as descend. With much trial and error, scrap materials provided in part by

the Rock Island Railway (whose superintendent would get dust in his eye), and \$30,000 in subscriptions by local people, they put together a machine with two levels of rotors that carried Purvis twenty feet into the air, overpowered the fellow holding its safety tether and crashed to pieces into a water tower that let thousands of gallons gush out toward the gathered spectators.

Purvis’ bruises would recover, but the enthusiasm of the Goodland Aviation Company’s backers would not. Another case of people seeing only a present stumble, not the future possibilities. A much fuller accounting of the Purvis-Wilson story is available in a \$2.50 booklet from the High Plains Museum at 18th & Cherry in Goodland 67735. It contains the full text and diagrams of the original patent issued June 4, 1912.

The marquee attraction overhead this month are two eclipses. The Moon will perform its ruddy fade out for early birds the 8th starting at 4a15 and reaching totality at 5a25. Folks in the Northeast will see an eclipsed moon go down, but with moonset and sunrise here within moments of each other near to 7a22, we’ll have to make do with the full show. Then a partial eclipse of the Sun will reach its peak at 4p45 the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

It’s been an unusual year for total lunar eclipses, with two. *StarDate* tells that by staying in one place one will tend to see one lunar eclipse a year, including partials and penumbrals (when the Moon moves only into the Earth’s faint outer shadow).

Meanwhile bright white Jupiter will be rising earlier, up by midnight at month’s end, and tinier but redly sparkling Mars will be setting earlier in the evening.

In other action, the Moon and Taurus’ Aldebaran will move closer during the night of the 11<sup>th</sup>, and the Moon will be stacked between Leo’s Regulus and Jupiter on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and will be near Mars and Sagittarius’ Teapot Spout in the evening twilight the 27/28<sup>th</sup>. Moon full the 8th at 5a51, new the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4p57.

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Northern Flint Hills  
Audubon Society

## 2014 NFHAS Birdseed Sale/Fundraiser

**ORDER by: Nov. 3, 2014**  
**return with payment to:**  
NFHAS  
P.O. Box 1932  
Manhattan, KS 66505

**Pickup Date: Nov. 22, 2014**  
UFM parking lot  
8 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Checks payable to: NFHAS

### Bird Seed Descriptions:

**CHEAP CHEEP MIX** is less expensive but still attractive to many species. It is 40 % cracked corn, 40 % white proso millet, and 20 % black oil sunflower (with no milo or fillers).

**BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED CHIPS** are high in energy and can be used in tube feeders. It is especially liked by pine Siskins. Hulled sunflower seed is consumed by a variety of birds, large- and small-beaked.

**FINCH MIX** consists of 50% sunflower chips and 50% thistle seed.

**FLINT HILLS FEAST** is the premium seed mix: 30% black oil sunflower seed, 20% striped sunflower seed, and 50% white proso millet (with no milo or fillers).

**MEDIUM CHOP** is chopped corn, a little finer and cleaned.

**PEANUT PICKOUTS** are chunks of peanut hearts and are very attractive to woodpeckers, nuthatches, chickadees, titmice, jays, wrens, and more.

**AUDUBON PREMIUM BLEND** is a premium blend of 40% blacks, 40% striped and 20% millet.

**SAFFLOWER** is a favorite with Cardinals, and squirrels really do not like it.

**SUET CAKES**, in addition to having other nutritious ingredients, the main ingredient is high calorie beef fat. It helps birds maintain body heat in cold winter months. Bird seed, berries and peanut butter are mixed in with suet. Enjoy woodpeckers, wrens, nuthatches, and chickadees.

**BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEEDS** are the preferred seed of many small feeder birds and attractive to more species than are striped sunflower seeds. Black oil supplies more energy per pound than striped.

**STRIPED SUNFLOWER SEEDS** contain larger hearts than black oil sunflower seeds and are particularly suitable for larger songbirds.

**THISTLE SEED** is very attractive to Gold Finches and all other finches that are here over winter. It is excellent for tube feeders.

**WHITE MILLET** is a favorite of most small-beaked ground-feeding birds; Red millet is also readily eaten. Quail, doves, juncos, sparrows, towhees, cowbirds, and red-winged blackbirds are attracted to millet.

*(Taken from Audubon At Home Bird Feeding Basics, <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/Page.aspx?pid=1179>)*

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### Sales Support Local Chapter Activities

As with all of our fund-raising activities, proceeds from our seed sales go toward supporting the educational and conservation projects of the local chapter. All of our labor is voluntary. Taxes are included in the price of our seed. Even though we are a not-for-profit organization, we are required to pay tax on any retail sales. Any additional donation you may wish to include with your order is appreciated.

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### Quality Seed, Easy Handling

The products we offer are high quality seeds. Our mixes were created to satisfy the needs of local bird populations at reasonable costs. We have tried to make it easy for you to purchase the amount of seed you want without having to handle heavy, awkward bags. Our seed comes in 10, 25, and 50 pound bags. We try to obtain the seed in paper bags whenever possible.

Volunteers welcome! Help unload the delivery truck at 7:45 a.m. and/ or volunteer throughout the morning. Pickup Nov. 22, 8-11 a.m.  
 UFM Parking Lot (Prices include sales tax.)  
 COMPLETE this portion and return with payment.

Description	Size	Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
CHEAP CHEEP MIX	10	5.10		
"	25	\$10.49		
"	50	\$19.43		
SUNFLOWER CHIPS	10	\$15.83		
"	25	\$36.75		
FINCH MIX	10	\$17.24		
"	25	\$38.92		
FLINT HILLS FEAST	10	\$6.91		
"	25	\$14.55		
"	50	\$25.93		
MEDIUM CHOP	25	\$9.67		
"	50	\$16.18		
PEANUT PICKOUTS	10	\$21.57		
"	25	\$49.76		
AUDUBON PREMIUM	10	\$11.38		
"	25	\$22.66		
"	50	\$43.25		
SAFFLOWER	10	\$15.07		
"	25	\$34.58		
"	50	\$64.93		
SUET CAKES - high energy	EACH	\$1.46		
" peanut butter	EACH	\$1.46		
" berry	EACH	\$1.46		
SUNFLOWERS (BLK)	10	\$10.73		
"	25	\$22.66		
"	50	\$41.08		
SUNFLOWER (STRP)	10	\$15.07		
"	25	\$31.33		
"	50	\$58.43		
THISTLE	10	\$19.40		
"	25	\$43.25		
WHITE MILLET	10	\$4.80		
"	25	\$8.94		
"	50	\$15.37		

Delivery within Manhattan – additional \$5.00		<b>Subtotal</b>	
<b>Name:</b>		<b>Delivery</b>	
<b>Address:</b>		<b>Donation</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	<b>Email:</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	

# Mending

Dru Clarke



Sometimes you are laid low by what is supposed to be a temporary condition but seems to stretch into an interminably long time. Mine is what my surgeon euphemistically called knee 'resurfacing', better known as total knee replacement surgery. Chronic pain from bone-on-bone and a knock down from a hungry cow finally drove me to this decision which, eventually, I will be glad to have made. Having a place to mend helps: for me, it is our front porch.

The porch, outfitted with relic glider, recycled wicker and an assortment of potted plants, faces east onto a broad, sloping meadow planted to brome but happily invaded by native forbs whose configuration and colors make the lush green like an unkempt lawn. The cows with their calves visit it at least once a day, grazing leisurely, then lie down to ruminate (literally) in the shade of the walnut trees that mark its edge. Occasionally they are joined by a flock of wild turkey whose humped shapes move like miniature tanks through the tall grass.

Right now, the festive purple of Iron weed and the yellow of tall wingstem and ground-hugging buffalo bur dominate, with sprays of pink gaura lending a misty quality to the landscape. Goldenrod seems early, but probably is right on time, and the Asters are just now coming on. Is it possible to have too many butterflies - both species and numbers? Tiger swallowtails, pipevine butterflies (from larvae who fed on the pipevine entwined around our deck railing), a luna moth trapped by an aerial web, then released by an observant husband, the revered monarchs, and the successful cabbage butterflies. A swarm of dragonflies came and went, doing loop

de loops like winged yoyos, catching tiny gnats with each dip and rise. (Gnats carry a type of hemorrhagic disease that affects deer and cattle, so this predation is welcome.)

Usually, I hear more than see the birds: one morning, a brilliant goldfinch sat on a limb of a scrawny elm near the porch and serenaded me (or someone) for several minutes. Ruby-throated hummingbirds have gotten used to me sitting quietly (usually with a cat by my side), and they arrive in pugilistic pairs, then, after several buzzing strikes at each other, settle on separate feeders hung on the porch. The phoebes, having given up on nesting on the eaves, still fly in and hover, as if checking to see if they miscalculated the first time. On a bare branch of the tallest tree near the creek is an abandoned oriole nest, tethered tightly, resisting intense sun, pounding rain, and wind. From the dead trees call red-bellied woodpeckers, bragging of another year of successful brood rearing.

A cousin came to visit last year and spent much of her time on the front porch. Each time we talk, she mentions how peaceful it was, and how it helped her to forget her cares. Maybe she'll come back this fall and take a seat again in this healing place.

Meanwhile, I'm looking forward to fall and the changes it will bring to the view from the front porch. Mending is easier when you have a place like this.

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*Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.*

*~ Albert Einstein*







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Membership Information: Introductory memberships - \$20/yr., then basic, renewal membership is \$35/yr. When you join the National Audubon Society, you automatically become a member of the Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society. You will receive the bimonthly Audubon magazine in addition to the Prairie Falcon newsletter. New membership applications should be sent to **National Audubon Society, PO Box 422250, Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250**. Make checks payable to the National Audubon Society and include the **code C4ZJ040Z**. Questions about membership? Call 1-800-274-4201 or email the National Audubon Society [join@audubon.org](mailto:join@audubon.org). Website is [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org).

Subscription Information: If you do not want to receive the national magazine, but still want to be involved in NFHAS 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, 66505-1932

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.

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