

Scott Bean  
presents his  
photography



Oct. 17, 2018  
Manhattan  
Public Library  
Auditorium  
7:00 p.m.

"Growing up in Kansas I had a lot of opportunities to spend time outside, usually hunting or fishing. I hate to admit it, but at the time I didn't pay much attention to the landscapes around me. I did, however, learn to really love being outside.

For me, my first forays into photography were an excuse to be outside and that 'excuse' is still a major driving force for me to be behind the camera. I like being outside, I like being out away from it all. I'd like to be able to say something deeper than that about why I choose to make photographs, but 'I like to' is the most honest thing I can come up with."

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



## prairie falcon

Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society Newsletter

Vol. 47, No. 2 ~ October 2018

### Inside

- pg. 2- Skylight  
Pete Cohen
- pg. 3 -And the Rains Came  
Dru Clarke
- pg. 4-5- BirdSeed Order Form
- pg. 6- Take Note (misc.)
- pg. 7- Big Bird Blog- Austin Roe

### Upcoming Events

- Oct. 1- Board Meeting at Alsop Bird Sanctuary 5:30 p.m.
- Oct. 13- Sat. morning birding-8 a.m.  
Meet at Sojourner Truth Park
- Oct. 17-PROGRAM: Photography by Scott Bean  
7:00 p.m. Manhattan Public Library Auditorium
- Oct. 24- BIRDSEED **ORDER** FORM received
- Nov. 3- BIRDSEED **PICKUP** - UFM parking lot 8-11 a.m.



## Skylight plus

Pete Cohen

Because last month I gave attention to what I referred to as “Peripherals,” particularly two of the constellations that appear at a disadvantage for viewing low along our southern horizon, I

figure it only fair to mention also the other two such autumn appearances.

I spoke of one bright star, Fomalhaut in the Southern Fish. When conditions allow, east of Fomalhaut, will be some tiny stars stretching from under Aquarius to under Cetus, mis-labeled “The Sculptor”. ’Tis said that in the 18th century Nicolaus-Louis de Lacaille, from a Southern Hemisphere location, felt he could see the shapes of a carved head between a hammer and a chisel amid this group of stars, and so he named them “L’Atelier du Sculpteur”, “The Sculptor’s Workshop” in English. In somewhat the same way that the village that began as “El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Ángeles del Río Porciúncula” is now called just “Los Angeles,” or L-A, the man has replaced his milieu.

***Just behind Fomalhaut, and no higher,  
the stars of Sculptor are there to admire.  
Actually, they were all meant to show  
A sculptor’s workshop with lights aglow.  
But gradually people have shortened its name;  
“Workshop”’s been lost, with no one to blame.  
Plain “Sculptor” it’s called; it’s one and the same.***

***Try to see in those stars  
a head carved from stone,  
carved by a carver  
who worked all alone,  
and left behind him  
two carver’s tools.  
Fancy tools, coated with jewels.***

Below the Sculptor a very shallow ‘v’ of three slightly brighter stars will be the tops of The Phoenix. The Phoenix of myth sets her nest aflame, and then perishes within, always to reappear, sometimes as an egg, sometimes already hatched and growing again, to set herself on fire again, once every five hundred years. In our era we seem to see her in her rise-again phase.

***If you’re lying awake between sundown to daybreak,  
and you’re horizon is low with no blurring haze-glow,  
and you can’t keep closed your eyelashes,  
you can then instead arise from your bed  
and seek for that bird of which you have heard  
that keeps rising up from its ashes.***

***If you look out to the south and let your gaze drop  
till you’re looking beneath the Sculptor’s dim shop,  
especially in mid-Novembers,  
you’ll see a star of the Phoenix’s head,  
between the stars of its wing’s outspread,  
above its nest’s still-glowing embers.  
So sing a song of Phoenix who sets her nest afire.  
They say she does it every time simply to inspire  
anyone who’s had bad luck to keep on trying when  
they see her rise up from the flames  
and start to grow again.***

Our companion planets, having put on a summer theatre of appearances are now taking their curtain calls, ever lower earlier in the evenings, with Mars’ special gleaming fading near the bright star Fomalhaut that represents the mouth of the constellation called The Southern Fish, or Piscis Austrinus, that will be low above our SW horizon. (Fomalhaut as noted last month rhymes with ‘bought.’)

But the master of ceremonies for other departures will be the Moon. After visiting with Leo’s bright star, Regulus, the 5th and 6th, it glows above Jupiter the 11th and to the right of Saturn on the 14th, before helping applaud Mars’ show the 17th and 18th. Venus, however, is left to go down pretty much with the Sun in each twilight.

On rare occasions in the past a vibrant meteor show has erupted from among the stars of Draco the Dragon who winds about the two Dip-pers high in the north. Not much seems expected this year but apparently can’t completely rule out a spectacular in a dark sky for the Moon will be new the 8th at 10p47, full the 24th at 11a45.

© 2018 Peter Zachary Cohen

## And the Rains Came

Dru Clarke



Detritus from the land lay stacked against the four-wire fence – one, normally charged, grounded out – corking the culvert that channeled our north stream under the road. The water, funneled from a many-acre watershed, a drainage basin rich in woods and unbroken pasture, charged between baffles of tree trunks and grass stems and slowed just enough to leave the firmly rooted, but fast and strong enough to wash clean the ground in which those roots anchored them. Abraded trunks, fractured limbs, twigs, leaves, and unidentifiable bits carried from where they lay by a torrent that gathered in moments and dissipated as rapidly. The creek ran mocha for a few hours, then cleared. Further up the road, new runnels cut through the gravel and disappeared in the weedy verge. Two trees, felled by the loss of their footing in sodden soil, blocked passage to the north.

Our recent rains, after a prolonged drought, would be more welcome if they had fallen over a longer span of time, but nature doesn't march to our directives. I could only wonder about the triggers of such a deluge: one may be the fires in the West, an anomalous connection that seems counterintuitive.

But bear with me a moment. If you remember the smoky pall that lay for days in the air in August, it drifted our way from California's (and other western states') conflagrations, smoke composed of ash and miniscule particles- the ghostly remains of peoples' homes (and unfortunate residents), whole forests, charred livestock and wildlife. Rain drops condense on such particles, nuclei where vapor becoming liquid again until each drop reaches a critical mass unable to defy gravity any longer and falls to Earth. A transport of possessions unwittingly deposited in a new and unfamiliar place, a bittersweet gift to a parched land.

Once, when I was still in New Jersey, I lived in a hilltop house accessible only by crossing a shallow creek, the one where I spent many of my middle childhood days wading and wondering. My job was 26 miles away, and I had to ford the creek daily to get to a main road. One morning, the normally 'friendly' brook was raging, and my car, a Rambler station wagon, was washed halfway off the ford. Fearful of being carried downstream, I escaped through the passenger side door and barely made it to the bank. I missed work that day. Afterward,

the stream bed was washed of all silt and only gleaming gravel remained. The silt may have flowed all the way to Delaware Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, 100 miles downstream. Water rearranges the features of our homeland.

Odd as it may sound, we're lucky in one way to abut a gravel and dirt, not an asphalt or concrete, road. Those are impervious surfaces, speeding runoff to soft edges, more often than not mowed, further allowing rushing water to gnaw at erodible banks, deepening ditches, steepening slopes, and disallowing infiltration of the falling water to recharge our groundwater, keeping the rain where it falls. Towns and cities – mostly finished with impervious structures (parking lots, roads, buildings)- exacerbate this. Witness the recent deluge that flooded much of Manhattan. Of course, the creek – whose watershed extends all the way to Leonardville- running through town will be blamed, and some will rush to channelize it (an even worse solution), but the town is in a bowl, and better long-range planning and construction of permeable surfaces (yes, these do exist) would have mitigated the effects of the creek taking back its floodplain. Pundits who assert it was a five to one-thousand-year event remove us from a responsible role in creating the conditions that led to a largely avoidable dilemma.

We pulled the debris weighing down our fence with help from a chain saw, a log chain, our Polaris, gloved hands, and two anxious dogs. A large grass spider who rode a log downstream escaped from a dry crook in it as I tossed the log onto the side of the road. A relatively minor problem considering the big picture. And, we did need the rain, and will appreciate it as we watch our pastures green up once again.

*Note: Forty years ago, my brother, a fisheries biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, gave me a button stating "Impervious Surfaces" with a diagonal red stripe across the words. Ignoring that potent warning has been the source of much of our handwringing today.*

## 2018 Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society **BIRDSEED SALE/FUNDRAISER**



ORDER by: Oct. 24, 2018  
return with payment to:  
NFHAS  
P.O. Box 1932  
Manhattan, KS 66505

PICKUP Date: Nov. 3, 2018  
UFM Parking Lot  
8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Checks payable to: NFHAS

**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 or 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/>)

### **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.

### **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 Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018 8-11 a.m.

TYPE	Unit (lb bags)	Price/unit	Number	TOTAL COST
Black oil sunflower				
	10	\$7.28		
	25	\$15.45		
	50	\$28.12		
Striped sunflower				
	10	\$8.09		
	25	\$17.17		
	50	\$30.98		
Flint hills feast				
	10	\$4.82		
	25	\$11.04		
	50	\$20.85		
Cheap-cheap blend				
	10	\$4.09		
	25	\$10.22		
	50	\$17.99		
Sunflower chips				
	10	\$12.85		
	25	\$27.71		
Thistle				
	10	\$20.03		
	25	\$44.96		
Finch mix				
	10	\$15.94		
	25	\$35.97		
Safflower				
	10	\$8.99		
	25	\$20.44		
White millet				
	10	\$4.82		
	25	\$8.99		
	50	\$15.45		
Red millet				
	10	\$5.31		
	25	\$11.55		
	50	\$19.90		
Peanut pickouts (shelled peanuts)				
	10	\$15.45		
	25	\$34.25		
Medium corn chop				
	25	\$8.91		
	50	\$15.12		
suet cake				
	ea	\$1.47		

Delivery service available – Manhattan city limits – Please include addt'l \$5.

**COMPLETE this portion and return with payment.**

**Name**

**Address**

**Phone**

**e-mail**

SUBTOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

DELIVERY: \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks payable to:  
Northern Flint Hills Audubon  
Society or (NFHAS)**



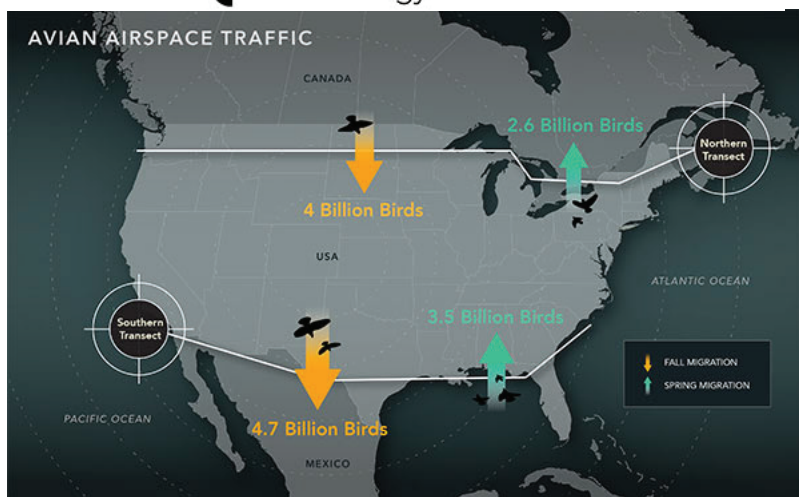
## Take NOTE

### ICE CREAM SOCIAL at Alsop Bird Sanctuary

About 14 people partook of ice cream, fruit and nut toppings and several different kinds of cakes! Some K-State students stopped by, and some folks from the neighborhood joined us! One neighbor has volunteered to help with the watering of the garden!



### The Cornell Lab of Ornithology



### More Than 4 Billion Birds Stream Overhead During Fall Migration

Scientists use radar to shed light on the massive numbers of migrating birds and how many may not return

Radar technology is helping to put a more precise number on the birds migrating through the United States each fall and spring. Graphic by Cornell Lab Illustrator Jillian Ditner.

Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society- [nfhas.org](http://nfhas.org)

Kansas Ornithological Society- <http://ksbirds.org/>

AOK website- <http://www.audubonofkansas.org/>

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology- <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/Page.aspx?pid=1478>

***\*We still need people for the NFHAS Board - Do you find yourself wanting figures and percentages? We need you for our next Treasurer. How about taking notes? We need you for our next Secretary, How about helping us make our chapter even better? We need you for VP, Education Chair, Birdseed Chair, and member at large.***

***Please volunteer.***

**Vice President**

**Secretary**

**Treasurer**

**Board member at large:**

**Education Chair**

**Birdseed Chair**

## Friday Field Notes: September 14, 2018

The pollinators are on their last push it seems before the Fall season begins and the flowers are gone. It's interesting to think that they use the nectar from flowers to provide enough energy to survive through the Winter and be able to go back out the next Spring to collect it all again. The more I think about it, the more amazing this seems.

Not only do the pollinators amaze me, but the fact that flowers have developed such a system to help them reproduce. Through evolution, the flowers easily could have developed ways to self pollinate, but instead this mutual relationship between the flowers and the pollinators has remained their mode of choice. The bees get their food and the flowers are able to reproduce. But bees aren't the only pollinators.

Many people don't think of the other pollinators of this world much. When asked to name one, most people go straight for the bees, but why don't butterflies get as much love? Better yet, why not hummingbirds, or bats. Yes, Fruit Bats do help to pollinate flowers. Again it's a mutual relationship with the flowers. The bats get the nectar, the flower gets pollinated and becomes a fruit, the bat eats the fruit, the seed is released allowing it to become another fruit tree that can support more bats.

The systems of nature fascinate me so much. To think of all the ways in which things in nature are interconnected, I don't believe it is possible. This just goes to support the notion that a small change can make a big difference. We as humans need to take this into consideration when we decide to develop lands to fit our needs. What could we be taking away from nature? What systems are we interrupting? How can we help to support the systems that we are destroying once we do? These are just some of the questions that I want answered. This planet isn't only ours. We are just a small part of a very large system.



Grey Hairstreak Butterfly (*Strymon melinus*) collecting it's nectar from a Dotted Gayfeather (*Liatris punctata* Hook).



Common Eastern Bumble Bee (*Bombus impatiens*) wallowing in the inflorescence of a Tall Thistle (*Cirsium altissimum* (L.) Spreng).

Check out Austin's Blog [Birding Big Life](#).



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

Return Service Requested

Non-profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 662  
Manhattan, KS 66502

Also available online at [nfhas.org](http://nfhas.org)

Published monthly (except August) by the Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society.  
Edited by Cindy Jeffrey, 15850 Galilee Rd., Olsburg, KS 66520. ([cinraney@ksu.edu](mailto:cinraney@ksu.edu))  
Also available online at [nfhas.org](http://nfhas.org)

WE NEED YOU!

PLEASE consider joining our NFHAS Board.

The Board meets on the first Monday of each month. The meetings usually last about an hour.

**Vice President**

**Secretary**

**Treasurer**

**Board member at large:**

Education Chair

Birdseed Chair

#### NFHAS Board

President: [Patricia Yeager](mailto:pyeagerbirder@gmail.com) - [pyeagerbirder@gmail.com](mailto:pyeagerbirder@gmail.com) 776-9593

Vice Pres.

Secretary:

Treasurer: Carla Bishop - [carla.kay.bishop@gmail.com](mailto:carla.kay.bishop@gmail.com)

#### COMMITTEE Chairs:

Membership:

Programs: Kevin Fay

Butterfly Garden:

Alsop Property: Patricia Yeager - [pyeagerbirder@gmail.com](mailto:pyeagerbirder@gmail.com)  
776-9593

Education:

Bird Seed Sales:

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

Fieldtrips: Patricia Yeager, Kevin Fay 776-9593

AOK Representative: Cindy Jeffrey

At-large: Susan Blackford

Contacts for Your Elected Representatives ( anytime) Write, call or email: Governor: 2nd Floor, State Capital Bldg., Topeka , KS 66612. KS Senator or Representative: State Capital Bldg., Topeka, KS 66612. Ph# (during session only) Senate - 785-296-7300. House - 785-296-7500. U.S. Senator Roberts <[Roberts@senate.gov](mailto:Roberts@senate.gov)> U.S. Senate, Washington DC 20510. Jerry Moran U.S. Capital Switch-board 202-224-3121.