

WingBeat



VOLUME 57 ISSUE 1

SPRING 2005

An Evening of Modern Falconry

Vanessa Avara, Master Falconer from the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, Kansas, will bring falcons, equipment, and videos of raptors in action to the Discovery Center for our March meeting.



Falconry, or 'hawking', has experienced a renaissance in Europe and North America. An apprentice must acquire at least seven years experience with raptors and study to earn the coveted 'Master' title. See 'Sport of Kings' on page 6.

Left: Andy, a gyrfalcon hybrid, takes off at the Utah Sky Trials under his handler, Tyler Stiens.

Peterson on Southern China's Biodiversity

April BAS Annual dinner features Silent Auction

The Hillcrest Country Club in Kansas City will be the setting for the 2005 Burroughs Audubon Society (BAS) Annual Dinner and Silent Auction on April 9.

Featured speaker for the evening will be A. Townsend Peterson, an ornithologist who is curator of bird collections at the University of Kansas and teacher in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

The University of Chicago-trained scholar has published over 150 articles in periodicals and scholarly journals on topics as varied as gene flow in scrub jays and ranges and taxonomy of cave swallows. His talk at the annual dinner will be on biodiversity in Southern China.

Other features of the evening will include:

✂ Door prizes, including books on nature photography and the recent, well-reviewed biography of John James Audubon.

✂ A raffle drawing for a Bushnell 8x42 Nature View binocular. Among items in the silent auction will be bird books, handcrafted bird houses, jewelry, collectibles, plant stands and certificates for message therapy.

Cost of the annual dinner is \$29 per person. The silent auction begins at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Directions to the country club at 8200 Hillcrest Road can be accessed easily on mapquest.com. Early reservations are recommended for this popular event. New members are welcome.

--John O'Neill, Kansas City

General Meetings are held the **FIRST THURSDAY** of each month, September through June, at the Missouri Department of Conservation's **Discovery Center**, 4750 Troost.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2005: "*An Evening of Modern Falconry*," with Master Falconer Vanessa Avara..

APRIL 9: NO General Meeting: See Annual Dinner article on page 6.

Thursday, May 5: "*Birding in Trinidad & Tobago*," with **Matt Gearheart**.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2: "*Birding Hot Spots in Missouri*," by Andrew Forbes, Ornithologist, Missouri Dept of Conservation.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1: "*State Parks in the Kansas City Area*," by Diane Russell, Department of Natural Resources, Weston Bend State Park.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER. 6: "*Birding Identification Workshop: Sparrows*," by Craig Hensley, Missouri Dept of Conservation, Burr Oak Woods.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3: "*Birding the Confluence of Rivers: Manaus, Brazil*," by Greg Griffith.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1: "*Holiday Pot Luck Dinner and Member Slide-Show*," Quizzes and prizes, plan to attend!
Speaker Suggestions? Contact Marilyn at (816) 537-5966 or by email at: koshland@mindspring.com.

Birding Challenge 1:

What bird is the fastest animal on earth, clocked at speeds of over 200 miles per hour when pursuing its prey through the air?
(See page 6)