

THE 39th ANNUAL RIVERS AND WILDLIFE CELEBRATION

March 20-22, 2009 • Holiday Inn
Kearney, Nebraska

The ultimate wildlife trip to the friendliest place in Nebraska —
See thousands of cranes, geese and other wildlife
all in one fun weekend!


Register before February 28 and save!

Printed on recycled paper with soy ink.

1/09D

**CRANE
VIEWING
INFORMATION:**
Rowe Sanctuary
(308) 468-5282

**CONFERENCE
INFORMATION:**
Spring Creek Prairie
Audubon Center
(402) 797-2301


Audubon NEBRASKA
PO Box 117
111700 SW 100 St.
Denton, NE 68339

THE 39th ANNUAL RIVERS AND WILDLIFE CELEBRATION

March 20-22, 2009 • Holiday Inn, Kearney, Nebraska

presented by Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary, Audubon Nebraska,
and the Nebraska Partnership for All-Bird Conservation

Pete Dunne

Pete Dunne is Director of Cape May Bird Observatory, Vice-President of New Jersey Audubon Society Natural History Information, and founder of the World Series of Birding. He is

the author of numerous books on birds and birding, including *Pete Dunne's Essential Field Guide Companion: A Comprehensive Resource for Identifying North American Birds*, *The Art of Pishing: How to Attract Birds by Mimicking Their Calls*, and *The Feather Quest:*

A North American Birder's Year. Pete has been leading workshops and tours for nearly 30 years and he delights in sharing his knowledge of and passion for birds with others. (Sponsored by Houghton Mifflin.)



Joel Sartore

A life-long Nebraskan, **Joel Sartore** brings a sense of humor and a Midwestern work ethic to all of his National Geographic Magazine assignments. Over twenty years of experience have

allowed him to cover everything from the remote Amazon rain forest to beer-drinking, mountain-racing firefighters in the United Kingdom.

He has authored several books including *Photographing Your Family*, *Face to Face with Grizzlies*, and *Nebraska: Under a Big Red Sky*.

Besides the work he has done for National Geographic, Joel has completed assignments for Time, Life, Newsweek, Sports Illustrated, and contributed to numerous

book projects. Joel's work has been the subject of several national broadcasts including National Geographic's Explorer, the "NBC Nightly News", NPR's "Weekend Edition" and an hour-long PBS documentary. He is also a regular

contributor on the CBS "Sunday Morning".

(Sponsored by Nikon.)



Felipe Chavez-Ramirez

Felipe Chavez-Ramirez is executive director and avian ecologist for the Platte River Whooping Crane Maintenance Trust in Nebraska. The Trust recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. Felipe's program during lunch Saturday is titled, "Current Status and Concerns of Wild Whooping Crane Flock." (Sponsored by Platte River Recovery Implementation Program.)



IMPORTANT SCHEDULE INFORMATION

- Sunday morning breakfast and programs are not being offered this year.
- New Sunday full-day field trip with Pete Dunne.
- No crane viewing trip Saturday evening is scheduled. If you wish to take part in a trip that night, please make your reservation directly with Rowe Sanctuary.
- Completed registration forms must be postmarked or received in the office by February 28 to receive early registration prices.
- Space is limited in the crane viewing river blinds at Rowe Sanctuary during the RWC weekend. Make your trip reservations early!

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

■ Thursday, March 19

Full-Day Birding Trip

Evening Crane Viewing Blind Trip

■ Friday, March 20

Morning Crane Viewing Blind Trip

Full-Day Birding Trip

NPABC Science Symposium

(Friday afternoon, sessions open to the public, exact times TBA)

MONA Art Gala (see below)

Joel Sartore (9:00 - 10:00 p.m.)

Half-Day Birding Trip

Sandhill Crane Behavior (3:30 - 4:30 p.m.)

Evening Crane Viewing Blind Trip

■ Saturday, March 21

Morning Crane Viewing Blind Trip

Lunch — Felipe Chavez-Ramirez (12:30 - 2:00 p.m.),

Half-Day Birding Trip

Banquet — Pete Dunne (6:30 - 9:00 p.m.)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS — 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

“Raptors of Nebraska”

Betsy Finch, Raptor Recovery Nebraska

“Sandhill Crane Nesting Habitat”

Melissa Sikes, Friends of Creamers Field

“Boy Scouts of America: A National Resource”

*Ray Boice, SOAR founder,
Longs Peak Council Boy Scouts*

“Platte River Recovery Effort”

*Jerry Kenny, Director, Platte River Recovery
Implementation Program, Nebraska*

“Bringing Nature to Town”

Justin Evertson, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

“Birding 101”

*Kent Skaggs, Rowe Sanctuary; Kevin Poague,
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Nebraska*

“Snakes Alive”

Dan Fogel, Southeast Community College

“Central Platte Restoration Projects”

*Bill Taddicken, Rowe Sanctuary, and
Kirk Schroeder, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

“Global Climate Change”

Ken Dewey, University of Nebraska

Photography Workshop

**Wildlife Photography with
Randy Hampton and Joel Sartore
Friday, March 20 (1:00 - 5:00 p.m.)**

Randy Hampton, digital photography teacher and retired Lincoln Journal Star photojournalist. Joel Sartore is a photographer with National Geographic. The pair will pool their expertise for an afternoon of teaching and field experience, assisting participants to get professional results through long lens techniques for wildlife photography. This includes tripod use, image stabilization, and other ideas about how to photograph cranes. Session includes a trip to the field to practice the newly learned techniques. Space is limited. \$40 early, \$45 after February 28.

Museum of Nebraska Art Gala

**“Brian ‘Fox’ Ellis portrays John James Audubon”
Friday, March 20 (5:30 - 7:00 p.m.) Free Admission.**

Brian “Fox” Ellis is trekking in from Illinois where he has been a professional storyteller and author since 1982. He has been a lecturer and workshop presenter at many educational and environmental conferences. One of his classic presentations is portraying John James Audubon. Come experience the most interesting life of one of America’s greatest naturalists and wildlife artists. Listen to tales of his adventures as he finishes something no one had ever accomplished before – drawing every bird in North America. Audubon will enchant you with stories of his travels and will celebrate the natural history of the North America he saw in the early 1800s. The Museum of Nebraska Art is located at 2401 Central Avenue in Kearney.

■ Sunday, March 22

Morning Crane Viewing Blind Trip

Birding Trip with Pete Dunne

(Note: Breakfast and programs are not being offered.)



The Country Store

Choose your next set of binoculars,
a painting for your wall, or a new
field guide at our

Country Store in the Holiday Inn.

Merchandise and art will be on
display Friday and Saturday.



FIELD TRIPS

(Open only to conference registrants)

All field trips will leave from and return to the registration booth at the west end of the Holiday Inn.

Transportation is provided for all but crane blind trips — participants will carpool with their own vehicles (30-mile round trip). *Note departure and return times, as several trips will overlap with other conference programs.*

Pre-Conference Full-Day Birding Trip

Thursday, March 19 – 7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Joel Jorgensen, nongame bird program manager with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, will lead this trip to birding hotspots of the eastern Rainwater Basin. The emphasis will be on witnessing the great waterfowl and crane migration. Transportation and a sack lunch will be provided — vegetarian option by request. (\$20/person, \$22 after Feb. 28)

Crane Viewing in River Blinds

Thursday and Friday nights – 6:00-9:00 p.m.

*Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings
6:00-9:00 a.m.*

Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary attracts the largest concentrations of sandhill cranes on the Platte River. Up to 15,000 cranes and geese per mile roost on the sanctuary every night. Join sanctuary staff and knowledgeable volunteer guides for trips to the viewing blinds. Sunrise trips leave impressions different than trips at sunset, so we recommend both! Blinds are enclosed, unheated wooden structures, so extremely warm clothing (especially footwear) is strongly recommended. Participants will be asked at departure time to divide up to drive/carpool in their own vehicles to the blinds (30-mile round trip). (\$20/person per trip.)

Full-Day Birding Trip

Friday – 6:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Our local birding experts will lead this trip to the best wildlife viewing areas within two hours of Kearney. Waterfowl, bald eagles, winter residents and early migrants will be the focus of this trip. A box lunch is provided—vegetarian option by request. Dress appropriately for outdoor viewing. (\$20/person, \$22 after Feb. 28)

Half-Day Birding Trip

Friday and Saturday mornings

6:30 a.m.-12:00 noon

The focus of these trips will be waterfowl in the western Rainwater Basin to view migrating ducks, geese, and other early migrants. Stops at a prairie dog town are also planned if time allows. Dress appropriately for viewing outside of vehicles. (\$12/person, \$14 after Feb. 28)

Birding Trip with Pete Dunne

Sunday – 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Join Pete Dunne for a birding trip to local hotspots to see waterfowl, winter residents and early migrants. Learn birding techniques and tips from a master. Dress appropriately for viewing outside of vehicles, sack lunch included—vegetarian option by request. Space limited. (\$75/person)

MOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn in Kearney, located just north of the I-80 interchange. A block of rooms has been set aside at special prices for RWC participants. **Indicate that you are participating in Audubon's Rivers and Wildlife Celebration to receive the discounted rates.**

IMPORTANT NOTE: Kearney is packed with activities all weekend, so motel rooms all over town will fill up fast. The motel has guaranteed a block of rooms for RWC participants until **Thursday, February 19**. After this date, rooms are released to the general public and will be harder to find. Please make your reservations before this date. Overflow accommodations are available at the nearby Hampton Inn and Wingate Motel. **See the Web site for the Kearney Visitors Bureau, www.visitkearney.org, for more listings of area accommodations.**

Holiday Inn — single - \$74, 2-4 persons - \$79, kids free,
308-237-5971

Hampton Inn — 800-HAMPTON or 308-234-3400

Wingate Motel — 800-228-1000 or 308-237-4400

2009 RIVERS AND WILDLIFE CELEBRATION REGISTRATION FORM

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name(s)
Adults _____

Children (include ages) _____

Address _____ Phone () _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

E-mail (optional; for registration confirmation) _____

■ CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

FULL CONFERENCE:

- * **Registration, all programs**
- * **Saturday meals:** breakfast, lunch,
banquet — vegetarian options available (tax/gratuity included)
- * **Sunday breakfast and programs are not being offered**

Participant	Price Per Person ON/ BEFORE Feb. 28	Price Per Person AFTER Feb. 28	Number of People	Total Price
Adults	\$90.00	\$100.00	_____	\$ _____
Students	\$50.00	\$60.00	_____	\$ _____
Children (17 & under)	\$20.00	\$30.00	_____	\$ _____

■ PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

	Price Per Person ON/ BEFORE Feb. 28	Price Per Person AFTER Feb. 28	Number of People	Total Price
with Randy Hampton and Joel Sartore	\$40.00	\$45.00	_____	\$ _____

■ BRIAN "FOX" ELLIS AT MUSEUM OF NEBRASKA ART

	Price Per Person ON/ BEFORE Feb. 28	Price Per Person AFTER Feb. 28	Number of People	Total Price
	FREE	FREE	_____	

(For planning purposes only, please indicate how many people will likely attend this presentation. Pre-registration is not required, and it does not hold you to attend or not attend if you change your mind.)

FIELD TRIPS

- ◆ Field trips have limited space available. Avoid signing up for field trips that occur at the same time. Field trip requests will be filled in the order registration materials are received.
- ◆ All participants in the field trips must also have registered for the conference.

	Time of Field Trip	Price Per Person ON/ BEFORE Feb. 28	Price Per Person AFTER Feb. 28	Number of People	Total Price
Thursday, March 19					
<i>Pre-conference Birding Trip</i>	7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	\$20.00	\$22.00	_____	\$ _____
<i>Crane Viewing Blinds</i>	6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	\$20.00	\$20.00	_____	\$ _____
Friday, March 20					
<i>Crane Viewing Blinds</i>	6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	\$20.00	\$20.00	_____	\$ _____
<i>Half-day Birding Trip</i>	6:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon	\$12.00	\$14.00	_____	\$ _____
<i>Full-day Birding Trip</i>	6:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	\$20.00	\$22.00	_____	\$ _____
<i>Crane Viewing Blinds</i>	6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	\$20.00	\$20.00	_____	\$ _____
Saturday, March 21					
<i>Crane Viewing Blinds</i>	6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	\$20.00	\$20.00	_____	\$ _____
<i>Half-day Birding Trip</i>	6:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon	\$12.00	\$14.00	_____	\$ _____
Sunday, March 22					
<i>Crane Viewing Blinds</i>	6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	\$20.00	\$20.00	_____	\$ _____
<i>Birding Trip with Pete Dunne</i>	7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	\$75.00	\$75.00	_____	\$ _____
FIELD TRIPS SUBTOTAL					\$ _____

CONFERENCE COSTS

Conference Registration Fees \$ _____

Photography Workshop \$ _____

Field Trips \$ _____

I wish to support Audubon Nebraska's conservation and education programs with a gift of: \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Complete form and return with full payment (check or money order made out to National Audubon Society, or use Visa or MasterCard) to:

Rivers and Wildlife Celebration, Audubon Nebraska
P.O. Box 117, Denton, Nebraska 68339

- Completed registration with credit card information may be faxed to (402) 797-2304. (Please call or write to ensure fax was transmitted successfully).
- Mailed registration must be postmarked by February 28, 2009, to receive the lowest registration rates.

Checks: (Payable to National Audubon Society)

Credit Card: (Visa or MC; print clearly)

_____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

(Processed by Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center)

Refund Policy

Unpredictable March weather is one of the fun experiences of life in central Nebraska. If you need to cancel your reservation because of snow or any other reason, call (402) 797-2301. Full refunds will be issued two to four weeks after the RWC.

If any field trip was filled prior to our receiving your registration, we will keep you on a waiting list and will let you know if an opening occurs. The lists will be kept current up until field trip time. Paid individuals for which there was no space will be issued field trip refunds.