

THE 37th ANNUAL RIVERS AND WILDLIFE CELEBRATION

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

March 16-18, 2007
Holiday Inn, Kearney, Nebraska

John Acorn

John is perhaps best known as the writer and host of the television series "Acorn, The Nature Nut," a family-oriented, how-to-be-a-naturalist show that airs on Canadian Learning Television in Canada, Animal Planet in the U.S., and various other broadcasters around the world. He also hosted "Twits and Pishers," a travel show for bird watchers, which aired on Discovery Channel in Canada, and the Outdoor Life Network.

John is the recipient of the Alberta Science and Technology Leadership Awards Foundation Prize for Excellence in Science and Technology Journalism, as well as two "Rosies" as Best Host, in the Alberta Motion Picture Industry Awards. At the University of Alberta, John serves as a lecturer in the Department of Renewable Resources, and is an Associate of the E. H. Strickland Entomology Museum.

Bruce Babbitt

Bruce Babbitt served as Secretary of the Interior from 1993 to 2001, as Governor of Arizona from 1978 to 1987, and as Attorney General of Arizona from 1975 to 1978.

Appointed Secretary of the Interior by President Clinton in 1993, Babbitt served for eight years, during which he led in the creation of the forest plan in the Pacific Northwest, restoration of the Florida Everglades, passage of the California Desert Protection Act, and legislation for the National Wildlife Refuge system.

Babbitt is the author of *Cities in the Wilderness*, in which he lays out a new vision of land use in America. He currently serves as a director of the World Wildlife Fund.

Scott Hereford

Scott is the senior wildlife biologist at the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge in Gautier, Mississippi. He worked with the International Crane Foundation and University of Wisconsin before joining the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in 1985. Scott has more than 22 years experience working with cranes and is a past president of the North American Crane Working Group.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

(All field trips leave from and return to the west entrance of the Holiday Inn by the registration booth.)

Thursday, March 15

6:00-9:00 p.m. Evening Crane Viewing Blind Trip

Friday, March 16

6:00-9:00 a.m. Morning Crane Viewing Blind Trip

6:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Half-Day Birding Trip

6:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Full-Day Birding Trip (box lunch included)

3:30-4:30 p.m. Sandhill Crane Behavior (free with conference registration)

6:00-9:00 p.m. Evening Crane Viewing Blind Trip

8:30-9:00 p.m. NPABC Awards Ceremony
Ballroom I

9:00-10:00 p.m. "Can We Save the Platte River"
Ballroom I
Bruce Babbitt

Saturday, March 17

6:00-9:00 a.m. Morning Crane Viewing Blind Trip

6:30-12:00 noon Half-Day Birding Trip

8:00-9:30 a.m. Welcome to the 36th Rivers and Wildlife Celebration!
Ballroom I
Breakfast

9:00-10:00 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

"Nebraska's Water Resources: Past, Present, and Future"
Jim Goeke, West Central Research & Extension Center, Nebraska

"Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas Project II"
Wayne Mollhoff, Nebraska Ornithologists' Union

"Bats in Nebraska and Beyond"
Keith Geluso, University of Nebraska-Kearney

10:00-10:10 a.m. Break

10:10-11:10 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

"Texas Prairie Rivers Region"
Remelle Farrar, Texas Prairie Rivers Region

“Platte River Cooperative Agreement”
Dale Strickland

“The Raptors of Nebraska”
Betsy Finch and volunteers, Raptor Recovery Nebraska

11:10-11:20 a.m.

Break

11:20-12:20

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

“Economic Benefits of Stream Flow”
Larry Hutchinson, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

“Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail”
Dave Whitehurst, Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail

“Shorebird ID Subtleties”
Jeff Bouton, Leica Camera, Inc.

12:30 noon-1:45 p.m.
Ballroom I

Lunch (served 12:30-1:30)
“The ‘Hurricranes’ (the Mississippi Sandhill Crane and Katrina)”
Scott Hereford, Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge

1:55-2:55 p.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

“Effect of Water Use on Cranes”
Diane Wassenich, San Marcus River Foundation, Texas

“Sandhills Images Photography”
Bob Rooney, Brewster, Nebraska

“Update on Avian Influenza H5N1: A Crane’s Perspective”
Barry Hartup, International Crane Foundation, Wisconsin

3:00-4:00 p.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

“Digiscoping Basics”
Jeff Bouton, Leica Camera, Inc.

“Dispersion Patterns of Sandhill Cranes Staging on the Platte River”
Trina Burgermeister, Platte River Whooping Crane Trust

“Birding Trails of Nebraska”
NPABC Birding Trails Workgroup

5:00-6:30 p.m.
Ballroom I

Dinner

5:15 p.m.
Ballroom I

“Crane Song”
Nebraska Educational Television

6:00-9:00 p.m.

Evening Crane Viewing Blind Trip

6:30 p.m.
Ballroom I

“Crane Song” (repeat showing)
Nebraska Educational Television

9:00-10:00 p.m.
Ballroom I

“On Being a ‘Nature Nut’”(cash bar, 7:30-9:00 p.m.)
John Acorn

Sunday, March 18

6:00-9:00 a.m.

Morning Crane Viewing Blind Trip

8:30-10:00 a.m.
Ballroom I

Breakfast
“Nebraska’s Niobrara and Platte Rivers: The Beautiful and the Dammed” (9:00-10:00)
Paul Johnsgard, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

10:00 a.m.

Celebration Wrap-up

Important Schedule Information

In 2007, Daylight Saving Time will be observed on Sunday, March 11. This is before the Rivers and Wildlife Celebration, not after as in years past. Therefore, the conference schedule has been reworked. Please carefully read the schedule inside. Highlights:

- * All crane blinds trips leave and return from the hotel **one hour later** than normal.
- * Saturday dinner will be served from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

THE COUNTRY STORE

Choose your next set of binoculars, a painting for your wall, or a new field guide in our country store at the Holiday Inn. Merchandise and art will be on display Saturday and Sunday.

For crane viewing information, call Rowe Sanctuary, (308) 468-5282

For conference information, call Audubon Nebraska, (402) 797-2301

CRANE SONG

A special presentation this year will be the debut showing of “Crane Song,” a Nebraska Educational Television production. This 30-minute high-definition program weaves together striking visuals and the sounds of crane migration with stories and insights from the people who love and study them. The program will be shown twice Saturday evening at 5:15 and 6:30.

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.

Crane Viewing in River Blinds

(Note new departure and return times)

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 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 or straw bale 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). (\$18/person per trip; \$20 after Feb. 28)

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. Participants should expect to see waterfowl, shorebirds, bald eagles, early migrants, and winter residents. There is also the chance to visit a prairie-chicken lek if one can be found in the area. 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. The Rainwater Basin is an excellent destination to view migrating ducks and geese, as well as shorebirds 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)

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 15**. 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.

Holiday Inn

single - \$72, 2-4 persons - \$77, kids free
in Nebraska call 1-800-248-4460
outside Nebraska call 1-308-237-5971

Hampton Inn

1-800-HAMPTON
1-308-234-3400

Wingate Motel

1-800-228-1000
1-308-237-4400

2007 RIVERS AND WILDLIFE CELEBRATION REGISTRATION FORM

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 NE 68339

- Completed registration with credit card information may be faxed to (402) 797-2304.
- Mailed registration must be postmarked by February 28, 2007, to receive the lowest registration rates.
- 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 in the Audubon Nebraska office.
- All participants in the field trips must also have registered for the conference.

Name(s) _____
Adults _____

Children (include ages) _____

Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ E-mail (optional; for registration confirmation) _____

Credit card # (Visa or MC; print clearly) _____ Expiration date _____
(cards processed by Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center)

CONFERENCE FEES (Includes registration, all programs, two breakfasts, one lunch, and one dinner —vegetarian options available at all meals)

	Price per person on/before Feb. 28	Price per person after Feb. 28	No. of people	Total price
Adults	\$90.00	\$100.00	_____	\$ _____
Children (under 18)	45.00	55.00	_____	\$ _____
Students	70.00	80.00	_____	\$ _____

FIELD TRIPS (Open only to conference registrants)

Thursday, March 15

<i>Crane Viewing Blinds</i>	6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	18.00	20.00	_____	\$ _____
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Friday, March 16

<i>Crane Viewing Blinds</i>	6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	18.00	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.	18.00	20.00	_____	\$ _____

Saturday, March 17

<i>Crane Viewing Blinds</i>	6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	18.00	20.00	_____	\$ _____
<i>Half-Day Birding Trip</i>	6:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon	12.00	14.00	_____	\$ _____
<i>Crane Viewing Blinds</i>	6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	18.00	20.00	_____	\$ _____

Sunday, March 18

<i>Crane Viewing Blinds</i>	6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	18.00	20.00	_____	\$ _____
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I wish to support Audubon Nebraska's conservation and education programs with a gift of: \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

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RIVERS AND WILDLIFE
CELEBRATION

March 16-18, 2007
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!