

'Fairly successful' annual bird count

OGALLALA—Frozen waters, wind and cold temperatures were all contributing factors in the third-lowest recorded count during the annual Lake McConaughy Bird Count in Keith County. Despite the unpleasant conditions, local organizer Bill Huntley of Ogallala deemed the 19th annual event as “fairly successful,” with 8,547 individual birds recorded, and only 78 species. Traditionally, the annual count produces species numbers in the high 90’s.—reported in the Keith County News.

Online gallery helps to identify local birds

CURTIS—One of the frustrations of bird watching is knowing what to look for, and now a new feature on ChickenDanceTrail.com is a photo gallery of birds visiting the area in each season, and accompanied by helpful captions to locate or identify a particular species. Called “What to look for on the Chicken Dance Trail,” the new feature is the work of naturalist and photographer Don Brockmeier of Eustis. The bird photo gallery will change as the seasons change and different birds come to the region.—reported in the Frontier County Enterprise.

Combined classroom transition is smooth

ARNOLD—For the first time in the school’s history, Arnold has been transitioning to a combined classroom of fifth and sixth grade students. The decision was made after budget woes forced the school board to make cuts. Mrs. Melva Geiser instructs the combined classroom and has noticed a benefit to both grades as the fifth graders receive a preview of what’s to come, and the sixth graders receive constant reviewing of lessons and topics.—reported in the Arnold Sentinel.

Art of quilting and local heritage part of Q-125

CALLAWAY—Callaway's 125th birthday celebration kicks it up a notch with a quilt show at Nigel Sprouse Memorial Library beginning Feb. 6. Dozens of handmade quilts dating from around 1960 and earlier will be on display showing the artistic heritage of the area. The event will also feature examples of antique quilting equipment and accoutrements associated with the art. Nebraska Humanities council speaker Joanie York will be presenting a program about quilts at the Callaway Senior Center.—reported in the Callaway Courier.