

Wichita Audubon



Volume 37 No. 6 March 2003

CNC Upcoming Programs

March 15, Saturday 1 pm - 2 pm Signs of Spring Hike

Join us for a hike around the nature center as we search for signs of spring's arrival.

April 12, Saturday 9 am - 11 am Bird Walk

This introduction to bird watching will begin with bird identification tips and binocular use. Then participants will head for the trails to practice birding skills. Binoculars will be available for use.

For more information about any Chaplin Nature Center programs call Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, or e-mail cnc@wichitaaudubon.org.



March Program

Learn the latest on the newest migrating flock of Whooping Cranes, originally raised at the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin and led south to Florida by ultralight airplane. Our program will be presented by Dietrich Schaaf, Education Coordinator for the International Crane Foundation, on March 18, 7:30 pm, at the Great Plains Nature Center, 29th and Woodlawn.

You can join other members and our speaker for dinner before the program at 5:45 pm at Jason's Deli, 21st and Rock Road.

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- Be sure to keep up with the •
- latest news on conservation •
- issues, local issues and events •
- by visiting our website at •
- www.wichitaaudubon.org. •
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Upcoming Programs

Due to a scheduling conflict, Dr. Orley "Chip" Taylor, Director of Project Monarch Watch, was not able to present our February program. We were able to do some rearranging. Shawn Silliman kindly consented to presenting the February program and Dr. Taylor will be presenting his program in May.

If you are anxious to learn about Monarch butterflies and the Monarch Watch tagging program, be sure to join us May 20.

Coming Events

March 1

Great Salt Plains NWR field trip. Meet at the refuge headquarters at 9 am. Leader: Dan Kilby, 943-5136, ddkilby@prodigy.net

March 15

Signs of Spring hike at Chaplin Nature Center, 1 pm to 2 pm.

March 18

Regular Meeting, "Bringing Whooping Cranes Back to the Eastern Flyway," by Dietrich Schaaf, 7:30 pm Great Plains Nature Center.

March 22

Pawnee Prairie Park field trip. Meet at the old nature center parking lot on S Tyler Rd at 8 am. Leaders: Bill & Nancy Beard, 722-3081, wbeard@cox.net

April 5

Backroads of Chautauqua County field trip. Meet at the convenience store at the west edge of Cedarvale on US 166. Leader: Pete Janzen, 832-0182, prarybrd@southwind.net

May 3

Twilight Dinner at Chaplin Nature Center - see page 4

Meritorious Service Award

The award committee of Barbara Millar, Mary Manlove, and Rick Goodrick is accepting nominations for the annual Meritorious Service Award. The criteria for selection include outstanding or sustained leadership as a member, officer, committee chair, or special project leader. This will be the tenth year this award has been presented.

Because there were so many worthy candidates from the many years predating the award, many people have gotten the impression that only "retired" members are eligible. But any member can be nominated, including currently active officers and committee members. Some people have made nominations in the past, and when their candidate was not chosen they gave up. But only one award is given each year, and many

worthy candidates may have to wait. So if you made a nomination in the past consider resubmitting it.

Nominations can be made by email or snail mail to Barbara Millar, 3850 Woodrow, Wichita, KS 67204, bmi3931874@aol.com Please include a brief description of the nominees accomplishments and why you think they should receive this award.

Previous recipients of this award are:

- 1994 John Wherry
- 1995 Ralph Wiley & Geula McDonald
- 1996 Nathan McDonald
- 1997 Louise Wherry
- 1998 Don Vannoy
- 1999 Bob Gress
- 2000 Dan Kilby
- 2001 Rex Herndon
- 2002 Wallace Champeny

Bird Seed Sale

Last sale until September

Order before March 11 by calling 685-4867 or emailing Carol at ccumb@swbell.net.

Delivery date March 15

25 lb bag of Audubon Mix
\$8 delivered

25 lb bag of Black Oil Sunflower
\$11 delivered

You may also mail your order to Wichita Audubon, PO Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201. Include your name, address, telephone number, and how many bags of each type of seed you would like. Orders will be accepted until March 11.

All proceeds support our Nature Education Program at the Chaplin Nature Center.

Volunteer Update

A BIG THANK YOU to Walker Butin, Kevin Groeneweg, Duane Delong and Hal Cumberland for delivering birdseed Saturday January 25th -- *Our grateful customers and the birds.* 🐦

New Membership Chair

Our new membership chair is Sister Patricia Stanley, who has kindly volunteered to take over this very important job. Sherry Brewer, our former chair, will be moving to Iowa later this spring to be closer to her first grandchild. We wish Sherry the best! Please give a hearty thanks to Sister Patricia.

2002-2003 WAS Officers

President	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
Vice-president	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@cox.net
Secretary	Sharon Bolin	620-584-2314	jbolin@sktc.net
Treasurer	Duane Delong	684-7456	dwdelong@earthlink.net

Directors

Bill Beard	722-3081	wbeard@cox.net
Carol Cumberland	685-4867	ccumb@swbell.net
Mary Englemen-Kemmer	688-5322	rockchalk123@aol.com
Barbara Millar	838-8542	bmi3931874@aol.com
Cheryl Miller	978-7900 (wk)	cherylmiller1@cox.net
Gary Straley	620-221-3664	garrob@hit.net

Committee Chairs

Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
CNC	Gary Straley	620-221-3664	garrob@hit.net
Programs	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@cox.net
Conservation	Barbara Millar	838-8542	bmi3931874@aol.com
Development	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	ccumb@swbell.net
Membership	Sister Patricia Stanley		pstanley@csjwichita.org
Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	687-4268	laurann@cox.net
Field Trips	Harry Gregory	263-7608	birdfan@infi.net
Finance	Cheryl Miller	978-7900 (wk)	cherylmiller1@cox.net
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaaudubon.org

www.wichitaaudubon.org

email any officer: was@wichitaaudubon.org

Send address changes to Sister Patricia Stanley, 6739 Perryton, Wichita, KS 67226
pstanley@csjwichita.org

Ron Klataske Honored

The Kansas Wildlife Federation (KWF) has announced the winners of the 2002 Conservation Awards Program (CAP) awards. Twelve Kansans have distinguished themselves through work on conservation of the state's natural resources.

Ron Klataske, Manhattan, is recipient of the Conservationist of the Year honor. Ron is the executive director of Audubon of Kansas. "Ron's long-term efforts on behalf of Audubon of Kansas and the Audubon Society reveal a lifetime of dedicated work for Kansas natural resources and, in particular, the tallgrass prairie," says Tommie Berger, president of KWF. "His professional and personal commitment and sacrifice epitomize the nature of what these distinguished awards are all about --giving recognition for exemplary conservation efforts."

Ron was recognized at a special banquet to be held at the Holidome in Manhattan on Feb. 15.

Chaplin Nature Center Wetlands Restoration

Chaplin Nature Center has received two grants to fund the restoration of Kingfisher pond. A Five Star Restoration Challenge grant of \$6,225.00 was received from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. An additional \$2,000 has been pledged by the General Electric Elfuns service group, who will also help erect the windmill.

The windmill is different from a traditional farm windmill in that it will use an air lift system. This system allows the windmill to be placed as much as one quarter mile from the well. A well has been drilled at the base of the bluff next to the pond. The windmill will be erected on the



Kingfisher pond in wetter times.

top of the bluff in a place with better wind flow.

Several years ago bentonite was added to the bottom of the pond to seal it. That was successful, but the drought of the last few years has made it apparent that the pond does not receive enough natural inflow to maintain water levels when rainfall is low.

The pond is a valuable tool for teaching aquatic and ecological concepts to all ages of students, from elementary to college level. Once the windmill is operational, native plants will be added to increase the diversity of habitat and provide for an abundance of wildlife.

Wilder Video To Air On PBS

Lowell Wilder, videographer and retired physician, has presented many programs for Wichita Audubon, including last year's popular film "A Voice Crying in the Wilderness," about Limpkins in Florida. One of Lowell's films will air on PBS, Channel 8, on March 20 at 7:30 pm. "Rhinos Horn-to-Horn." documents

the efforts of the Sedgwick County Zoo in introducing a new rhino and preparing it to meet its mate face to face for the first time. This process took 8 months. Be sure and mark your calendars for this event.

Earth Day

Wichita Audubon will have a booth at the Earth Day event at the Sedgwick County Zoo. We plan to have outlines of various bird wingspans so the children can compare their own size to that of the birds. It is an all day event on Tuesday, April 22. If you could help for couple of hours that day it would be appreciated and you will get free admission to the zoo. Call Carol Cumberland at 685-4867 or email ccumb@swbell.net

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CHECK OUT Audubon's New Take Action Center

Did you know that our lawmakers determine the fate of birds by the laws they pass? It's true! Yet each and every year, our laws fall short in protecting birds, other wildlife and our environment. Audubon is working with lawmakers to see that they do more, and we need you to take action if we're going to be successful!

This website is designed to give you an easy and convenient way to communicate with your lawmakers and newspapers on conservation issues that impact birds, wildlife and our shared environment.

This site gives you the ability to instantly identify where your lawmakers are positioned on conservation issues. You can send Letters-to-the-Editor of your local newspapers on these issues, and you wanted to keep track of it all. These services are available to you via our upgraded TAKE ACTION website. Check it out today at www.capitolconnect.com/audubon.

Twilight Dinner

Mark your calendars now for the annual Twilight Dinner at Chaplin Nature Center. Scheduled for May 3, the event will feature outdoor dining, activities for kids, and a program given by Joyce Lent from the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, and featuring "Chuck" the Turkey Vulture. Watch the next newsletter for details and a registration form, or check out our website at www.wichitaaudubon.org