

Wichita Audubon



Volume 39 No. 3 October 2004

CNC Upcoming Programs

November 7, Sunday

2 p.m.

Community planning meeting

This is a brainstorming session to help us find ways to enhance Chaplin Nature Center and improve its service to the community. We hope to have community leaders and members of the public as well as Audubon members give us their ideas. Jazmin Wood, Director of the Arkansas City Chamber of Commerce, has agreed to facilitate the meeting. Please come and share your input.

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

October Meeting

Our program will be presented by Karen Graham, Curator of Amphibians, Reptiles, and Fishes at the Sedgwick County Zoo. She will share her adventures in the field helping with Iguana conservation projects in the West Indies. Karen serves as Vice President of the International Iguana Foundation and as a member of the IUCN Iguana Specialist Group. She has participated in fieldwork and conservation planning for iguana species throughout the West Indies. She is currently active in field biology and conservation planning for the Saint Lucian green iguana.

The program will be October 19, 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium at the Great Plains Nature Center, 29th and Woodlawn.

You can also join Karen and other members for dinner at Jason's Deli, in Bradley Fair at 21st and Rock Road, at 5:45 p.m. before the meeting.



Attaching transmitters to hatchling iguanas on St. Lucia

Coming Events

October 9

Help clean up Chisholm Creek Park. Meet in the parking lot of the Great Plains Nature Center at 9 a.m. Bring gloves. Leader: Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com

October 15

Slate Creek Marsh field trip. Meet at the Slate Creek Valley Baptist Church (7 miles south of the main intersection in Oxford) at 8 a.m. Bring a lunch. Leader: Kevin Groeneweg, 687-4268, kgroeneweg@cox.net

October 19

Regular meeting, "Iguana Conservation in the West Indies," by Karen Graham, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

October 23

Maple Grove Cemetery field trip. Meet at the entrance at 1100 N Hillside at 8 a.m. Leader: Rosa McHenry, 263-4042, mchenryphoto@sbcglobal.net

November 7

Toronto & Fall River field trip. Meet at the Dillons parking lot at Andover Rd and US 54 at 6:30 a.m. Bring a lunch and plan to carpool. There may be some walking if the weather allows. Leader: Pete Janzen, 832-0182, prarybrd@southwind.net



2005 Calendars

The new calendars are in, and they feature gorgeous pictures of some of your favorite birds. Also, this year the calendar has been expanded to cover 16 months. They are available for only \$4.50, and benefit your Audubon chapter and Chaplin Nature Center. Consider giving them as Christmas gifts for neighbors, teachers, or the mailman. They will be available at program meetings, or you can call Rosa McHenry at 263-4042, or email her at rmchenryphoto@sbcglobal.net.

Help Clean Up Chisholm Creek Park

Wichita Audubon has adopted Chisholm Creek Park, and one of our obligations is to give service to the park. Twice a year we hold cleanup days and pick up trash. We will meet on Saturday, October 9, at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of the Great Plains Nature Center. If you can come for even 30 minutes it would help. We will provide trash bags and pick up sticks. Gloves and long pants are recommended. If you can't make it on that day, consider doing some litter pickup on your own - just let us know so we can report our volunteer hours. For more information call Patty Marlett, 942-2164, or email pmarlett@mac.com.

Bird Feeding Basics

Did you know that over 100 North American bird species supplement their natural diets with birdseed, suet, fruit and nectar obtained from feeders? Bird feeding can benefit birds and also provides great bird watching from your own backyard.

To keep birds coming back to your feeders in any season provide them with the following three essential elements:

- Variety of quality seed.
- Fresh water for drinking and bathing.
- Ample cover, preferably provided by native plants. Native plants also provide potential nesting sites and a source of natural food.

Here are some common questions people have about feeding birds:

Does feeding birds prevent them from migrating on time?

Seasonal changes in the length of day, rather than an abundance of food, determines when birds will begin to migrate. Migration begins in the fall as days shorten (when natural food is still abundant), and commences again in the spring as days lengthen.

Will birds suffer if feeders go empty?

Natural food supplies are typically exhausted during winter, as birds consume all the seeds and fruits at one location before moving on to the next. Similarly, if backyard feeders go empty while homeowners are on vacation, birds will look elsewhere for food. Since feeders only supplement natural foods, most species will not suffer if feeders go empty for days or even weeks at a time.

How soon can birds be expected at new feeders?

continued on page 4

**Be sure to keep up on the latest news by visiting our website:
www.wichitaudubon.org**

2004-2005 WAS Officers

President	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@cox.net
Vice-president	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Secretary	Nancy Beard	722-3081	wbeard@cox.net
Treasurer	Sandra Tholen	634-0049	stholen@cox.net
Directors			
Bill Beard	722-3081		wbeard@cox.net
Mary Engleman-Kemmer	688-5322		rockchalk123@aol.com
Rosa McHenry	263-4042		rmchenryphoto@sbcglobal.net
Gary Straley	620-221-3664		garrob@hit.net
Don DeWitt	722-0742		ddewitt@omnibizcenter.com
Anne Tarver			anne.tarver@wichita.edu

Committee Chairs

Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
CNC	Gary Straley	620-221-3664	garrob@hit.net
Programs	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Conservation	Bill Beard	722-3081	wbeard@cox.net
Development	Rosa McHenry	263-4042	rmchenryphoto@sbcglobal.net
Membership	Sister Patricia Stanley		pstanley@csjwichita.org
Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	687-4268	lauranng@cox.net
Field Trips	Cheryl Miller	978-6659 (wk)	avian67226@hotmail.com
Finance	Don DeWitt	722-0742	ddewitt@omnibizcenter.com
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaudubon.org

www.wichitaudubon.org

email any officer: was@wichitaudubon.org

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

WICHITA AUDUBON SOCIETY 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE SHIRTS

We are offering several styles and colors of shirts in honor of Wichita Audubon Society's 50th Anniversary. The t-shirts are highest quality, 100% cotton "Beefy T's" in either long or short sleeves. The 100% cotton classic denim shirts are long sleeve and come in men and women's styles. These shirts will be available at the meetings, or you can order them using the form below.

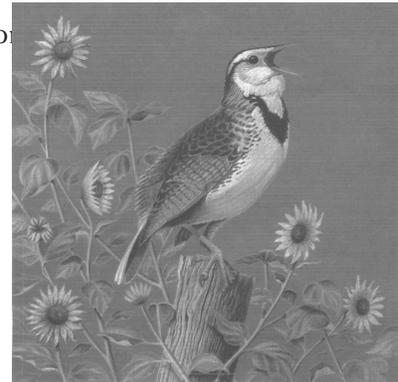
Short Sleeve (SS) T-shirt:

WAS 50th Anniversary Logo screen-printed on left chest.
 Colors: Stonewash Blue, Stonewash Green, Sand, Ice Gray
 Price: \$10.00



Long Sleeve (LS) T-shirt:

Meadowlark in Sunflowers artwork by Dan Kilby screen-printed on the front with "Wichita Audubon Society-Celebrating 50 Years" encircling it.
 Colors: Stonewash Blue, Stonewash Green, Sand
 Price: \$15.00



Long Sleeve Denim Shirt:

WAS 50th Anniversary Logo embroidered on left chest
 Mens or Womens
 Price: \$25.00

Qty	Style (SS/LS/Denim)	Color	Size (Adult) (S, M, L, XL)	Mens/Womens (Denim only)	Price Each	Total
					Shipping Total	

Please check delivery option:

- I will pick up my order at the next program meeting.
- Please ship to the address below. I have included \$2.00 shipping for each item above.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

Send completed order form and check to: Mary Kemmer
 (Make check out to Wichita Audubon) 18 Lakeside
 Wichita, KS 67207

You can call Mary with questions at 688-5322 or email rockchalk123@aol.com

Printed on recycled paper

Bird Feeder Basics, continued

It may be a matter of hours before birds discover new feeders-- or a matter of weeks. The variation depends on the distance to bird habitat, density of nearby feeders, and the kinds of birds that might chance on the new feeder. If there are many feeders in your neighborhood, birds may find new feeders more readily, as they already associate feeders with an easy meal. If birds are slow to find feeders, scatter sunflower seeds on top of the feeders and on nearby surfaces such as bare soil. Bird decoys may help to lure the first visitors, and other birds will soon notice the new food source.

What are the best times and weather conditions to watch feeders?

Birds visit feeders most often in the early morning, and again just before dusk. They use feeders less often in the

afternoon and during rainy weather. In contrast, snow forces sparrows and juncos to congregate at feeders as these species typically feed on bare ground.

Does backyard feeding create a population of "dependent" birds?

While research in this area is limited, so far studies suggest that backyard feeders are not creating a population of dependent wintering birds.

What can I do if a hawk starts killing birds at my feeder?

If a hawk sets up a regular routine at your feeders, stop feeding long enough to let the smaller birds disperse. Soon the hawk will find another place to feed.

How can I stop birds from crashing into my windows?

A recent study found that colliding

with a window is the most common cause of bird death associated with feeders. To avoid such collisions, position feeders at least three feet from the window. If collisions persist, fruit-tree netting stretched taut a few inches in front of the glass is the best deterrent.

Is it okay to leave my cat outside as long as I put a bell on its collar?

Cats account for about 30 percent of birds killed at feeders. Cats are such stealthy hunters that they can stalk and pounce on prey without jingling the bell on their collar. By keeping your cat indoors, you will not only protect birds, but also keep the cat safe from traffic, disease, and fights with neighborhood pets and wildlife. For more information, visit www.abcbirds.org/cats.