

Wichita Audubon



Volume 40 No. 3 October 2005

OCTOBER MEETING



Join us for “Gorillas on the Move: the Sedgwick County Zoo Gorilla Story.” Lowell Wilder, wildlife videographer, and Andrew Haig, Senior Keeper of Mammals at the Sedgwick County Zoo, will present the challenges of bringing Billy and Tommy to the Zoo’s Downing Gorilla Forrest. Billy and Tommy are brothers who were born at the Bronx Zoo, hand reared in Albuquerque, and came to Wichita after several

years at the Kansas City Zoo. They joined six other young males in the Sedgwick County Zoo’s bachelor group. This behind-the-scenes look at how these giants are handled, trained and kept happy and healthy is a rare treat.

The program will be presented on October 18, 7:30 p.m., at the Great Plains Nature Center, 29th and Woodlawn. You can also join Dr. Wilder and Andrew Haig for dinner before the meeting at Jason’s Deli, 21st and Rock Road, at 5:45 p.m.

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Saturday, October 29, 7 - 8 p.m., Night Hike

Who is afraid of the dark? We’ll be hiking through the woods without flashlights to learn about our five senses. We’ll listen to night sounds and learn about those intriguing nocturnal animals while on the trail. Dress for the outdoors and wear sturdy boots.

Saturday, November 5, 7 - 9 p.m. Star Program

The cool air of winter makes it the best time to view the night sky. With the Center’s telescope and those of the Kansas Astronomical Observers we will be able to see Saturn and some deep sky objects. Constellations will be pointed out and their legends discussed. Bring a lawn chair or blanket or best viewing.

COMING EVENTS

October 8

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

October 15

Field trip to Slate Creek Marsh. Meet at Slate Creek Baptist Church at 8 a.m. Leader: Gene Young, 620-442-4165, youngg6264@yahoo.com

October 18

Regular meeting: “Gorillas on the Move: the Sedgwick County Zoo Gorilla Story,” by Lowell Wilder and Andrew Haig, 7:30 p.m. Great Plains Nature Center

October 22-23

Field trip to Red Slough. See page 2 for details.

October 29

Night Hike at Chaplin Nature Center, 7 - 8 p.m.

November 5

Star program at Chaplin Nature Center, 7 - 9 p.m.



For more information about any Chaplin Nature Center programs call Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, or e-mail cnc@wichitaaudubon.org. CNC is located 3 miles west of Arkansas City on Hwy 166, north 2 miles on 21st Rd, east 0.6 miles on 272nd Rd.

RED SLOUGH FIELD TRIP

Every fall the elusive Yellow Rail is found at Red Slough, in southeast Oklahoma. Local experts are going to help us drag ropes through the marsh to flush the birds. The slough is in the extreme southeast corner of Oklahoma, near Idabel. This is a long-distance trip involving a 7-hour drive each way and one or two nights of motel lodging. Be prepared to walk long distances in marshy areas while dragging a rope. We will also visit nearby southern pine forests where we hope to observe Brown-headed Nuthatch and a variety of other species. We will try for the rails on Saturday and possibly again on Sunday. A number of other wetland birds are expected.

Here are three possibilities for lodging in Idabel:

Budget Inn, 1301 SE Washington, 580-286-6526

Comfort Suites, 400 SE Lincoln Blvd, 580 -286-9393

Microtell, 2906 NW Texas, 580-286-4466

You can sign up at the September or October meetings, or contact Pete Janzen for further details at prarybrd@southwind.net. Or call 832-0182 in the EVENING.

**KEEP UP TO DATE AT OUR
NEWLY DESIGNED WEBSITE:
WWW.WICHITAAUDUBON.ORG**

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. We are having a clean up day to pick up trash on Saturday, October 8, 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.

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email any officer: was@wichitaaudubon.org

Send address changes to Sister Patricia Stanley, 6739 Perryton, Wichita, KS 67226
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ENVIRO TIP

Back to school notebooks, paper, pens, pencils, folders, backpacks, computers, clothes...the list doesn't seem to end, does it? As consumers, we can choose to support products that help protect wildlife and the environment, and suppliers will respond. Start with something simple like buying recycled notebooks and paper.

Nearly half the trees cut down in the U.S. are used to make paper. These trees come from wild forests and tree farms, which have been cleared and planted with a single tree species, leaving little habitat value for wildlife. Buying recycled paper will reduce the demand for trees, helping to safeguard habitat for forest wildlife.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP

The extended field trip this year will be to southeast Arizona with an extension into northern Mexico July 31- August 6, 2006. In Arizona we will visit famous hotspots in the Chiricahuas mountains like Portal and Rustler Park, and the Sierra Vista area with attractions like the Ramsey Canyon Preserve and the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Sanctuary. Following the Arizona birding we plan to rent a van to bird our way to Yecora, Mexico.

This trip is still in the planning stages. Sign up at the meetings or contact one of the trip leaders if you are interested and we will keep you informed as plans progress.

Kevin Groeneweg is planning the itinerary. He can be reached at 687-4268, kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net. Patty Marlett is planning logistics like lodging. She can be reached at 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com.

CALENDARS

The 2006 bird calendars are here, and they feature gorgeous pictures of some of your favorite birds. They will sell for \$5 apiece, the profits benefiting your Audubon chapter and Chaplin Nature Center. Consider giving them as Christmas gifts for neighbors, teachers, or the mailman. You can purchase them at meetings, or contact Rosa McHenry, 263-4042, rmchenryphoto@sbcglobal.net.

A big thank you to Dr. Tom Gray, who is our number one calendar salesman. Every year he sells at least forty to help support CNC!

FIELD TRIP TO QUIVIRA AND CHEYENNE BOTTOMS - SEPTEMBER 17, 2005

The morning started off chilly, as clouds moved in and the southerly winds picked up. Passerines were almost non-existent. However, we knew it was going to be a pretty good day when, just after leaving the headquarters at Quivira, an American Bittern took flight. Eight of us, including Dan Kilby, Tony Schaar, Brian & Sherry Addis, Cliff Miller of Hutchinson, Joyce Davis of Dodge City and Bob Regier of Newton continued to the wildlife loop drive, observing good numbers of waterfowl and shorebirds. Dowitcher numbers seemed to be low, as were phalarope numbers (only one Wilson's.) However, the group got great looks at three Red-necked Phalaropes. A flock of eight Marbled Godwits was a treat along the loop drive. Flashes of cinnamon under the wings

were seen as the birds flew back and forth, but they remained obscured by the cattails. Persistence paid off when finally we were able to position ourselves for great looks



through our scopes. Waders were represented in good numbers, especially White-faced Ibis, and there was a large number of pintail. Cheyenne Bottoms was a different story. With very dry conditions present, we quickly headed up to the Prairie Dog town. We failed to see the Burrowing Owls, and didn't find the resident Barn Owl at the headquarters either. But there was a good supply of water in the inlet canal where we found large numbers of American Avocets, Franklin's Gulls and good numbers of waders. We were relieved to see water in pool 1B, and were rewarded with great looks at a Lesser Black-backed Gull sitting on some rocks. We returned to Quivira to find five Common Moorhen enjoying a warm, late afternoon swim. Back at the headquarters, we discovered that Joyce had a flat tire. Although not quite in pit crew form, we quickly changed her tire and we were on our way home with a list of 69 species for the day.

by Kevin Groeneweg


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YOUR HELP NEEDED TO SAVE THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT!

The Endangered Species Act has been incredibly successful in protecting rare and endangered animals and plants. Out of the more than 1,800 species sheltered by the act, only nine have been lost. And, despite claims to the contrary, a tiny fraction--less than 1 percent--of development has been stopped to save endangered critters. In many cases, the act can spur positive solutions that benefit people and wildlife.

Representative Richard Pombo (R-CA) and other lawmakers are leading efforts to re-write and gut the Endangered Species Act. This

program has shown time and time again how powerful, successful and essential it has been – from the California Condor to the Bald Eagle, this program has been the safety net for America’s most imperiled birds.

Representative Pombo’s “Extinction Bill” would make it harder to list species as endangered, would reduce the size of areas that could be designated as critical habitat, and would even repeal the entire Endangered Species Act in the year 2015!

Let your lawmakers know that any move to gut the Endangered

Species Act is unacceptable. Birds like the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker, Whooping Crane, and California Condor need the protection of this critically important conservation law! Tell Congress that you expect them to uphold the Endangered Species Act, for the critically imperiled birds and wildlife that can’t speak for themselves!

You can find out more on the National Audubon Society website at www.audubon.org, or at www.saveesa.org.