

Wichita Audubon



Volume 35 No. 4 November/December 2000

CNC Upcoming Programs

Friday, November 10
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Star Program

Take a tour of the night sky and discover the constellations. Telescopes will zoom in on the planets Saturn & Jupiter. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for best viewing.

Saturday, November 18
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Turkey Talk

Before you dig in this Thanksgiving, why not take a look at this remarkable bird? The program will start indoors for a little turkey chat and then move outdoors to visit a wild turkey roost. With a little patience, luck, and camouflage we may see the turkeys come home. Dress for the outdoors and be prepared for some silent stalking. Registration for this program is required. Call 316-442-4133, or e-mail cnc@wichitaaudubon.org.



November meeting Coming Events

Join us on Tuesday, November 21, for a trip to the distant past, where we go birding along the western interior sea of Kansas. Kansas is one of the best places in the world to find fossils, including birds. *Hesperornis regalis* (Regal Western Bird) was first described from Kansas by Professor Marsh in 1872. Since then, a number of fossils of extinct birds as well as giant flying reptiles (pteranodons) have been found in the rocks laid down over Kansas when it was a shallow inland sea. This fascinating presentation by paleontologist Mike Everhart will show us examples of many of these strange creatures.

You can join the speaker for dinner at Jason's Deli, in Bradley Fair at 21st and Rock Road, at 5:45 pm.

WAS Receives Grant

Wichita Audubon has received a grant in the amount of \$1000 from the Boeing Company Charitable Trust in support of our programs and speakers.

November 10
Chaplin Nature Center Star Program,
6:30 - 8:30 pm

November 11
Early winter birding field trip. Meet at the north entrance of the Sedgwick County Park at 8:00 am. Leader: Harry Gregory, 263-7608.

November 18
Local Park Birdwalk. Meet in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 8:00 am. Beginners welcome! For more information call Harry Gregory, 263-7608.

November 18
Turkey Talk program at Chaplin Nature Center, 4:00-5:30 pm. Register by calling 316-442-4133 or e-mail cnc@wichitaaudubon.org.

November 21
Regular meeting, 7:30 pm Great Plains Nature Center. "Birding Along the Western Interior Sea - Prehistoric Birds of Kansas," by Mike Everhart.

December - No Meeting

Christmas Bird Counts
see the article on page 2 for details

Christmas Counts

Christmas Bird Counts are a tradition dating back more than 100 years. It is a way for all of us to contribute to science by gathering data about the numbers and distribution of winter birds. Below is information about a number of area counts, with as much detail as is available at this time. The compiler is the organizer who determines the meeting time and place, and the one to call for more information.

December 15 - Quivira NWR
Compiler: Mike Rader
<mike_rader@hotmail.com>

December 16- Wichita
Meet at Lawrence-Dumont Stadium parking lot at 7:30 am. Compilation at the Great Plains Nature Center at 5:30 pm. Compiler: Pete Janzen, 832-0182<prarybrd@southwind.net>

Dec 17 - Udall/Winfield
Compiler : Max Thompson, 316-221-1856 <maxt@skans.edu>

Dec 20 - Slate Creek Marsh
Compiler: Gene Young, 316-441-5331.

December 23 - Arkansas City
Meet at Newman Park on Hwy 77 at 8 am. Compiler: Gene Young, 316-441-5331.

Dec 27 - Old Garfield Co (in western Kansas)
Info from Tom Shane, 316-275-4616 <shane@PLD.com>

December 30 - El Dorado
Meet at McDonald's in El Dorado at 7:30 am. Compiler: Bill Langley, <blangley@butler.buccc.cc.ks.us> 316-321-3495

December 30 - Scott Lake
Compiler: Tom Shane, 316-275-4616 <shane@PLD.com>

December 30 - Cimarron Nat'l Grassland.
Compiler: Sebastian Patti, 552 W. Belden Ave, Chicago, IL 60614, <sebastianpatti@hotmail.com> 312-603-4416

Dec 31- Black Mesa, OK
Compiler: Sebastian Patti

Jan 1- Liberal/Seward Co
Compiler: Sebastian Patti

January 1 - Ulysses
Info: Tom Shane

January 6 - Barber County
Compiler: Pete Janzen.

January 7 - Syracuse
Info: Tom Shane

2000-2001 WAS Officers

		HomePhone	E-mail
President	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	ccumb@swbell.net
Vice-president	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@feist.com
Secretary	Julia Hoppes	682-2623	jhoppes@kscable.com
Treasurer	Sandra Tholen	634-0049	stholen@feist.com
Directors			
	Duane Delong	684-7456	dwdelong@earthlink.net
	Harry Gregory	263-7608	birdfan@wichita.infi.net
	Patty Marlett	942-2164	jmarlett@kscable.com
	Cheryl Miller	978-7900 (wk)	cmiller@twsuvm.uc.twsu.edu
	Jay Newton	316-322-9090	
	Gary Straley	316-221-3664	garrob@hit.net

Committee Chairs

Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	jmarlett@kscable.com
CNC	Gary Straley	316-221-3664	garrob@hit.net
Programs	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@feist.com
Conservation	Patty Marlett	942-2164	jmarlett@kscable.com
Development	Jay Newton	316-322-9090	
Membership	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@feist.com
Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@feist.com
Education	Marsha Ebaugh	682-4782	43042@prodigy.net
Field Trips	Harry Gregory	263-7608	birdfan@wichita.infi.net
Finance	Duane Delong	684-7456	dwdelong@earthlink.net
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	316-442-4133	cnc@wichitaaudubon.org

Chapter Information Line 681-2266 www.wichitaaudubon.org
email any officer: was@wichitaaudubon.org

Send address changes to Kevin Groeneweg,
2603 Capri Ln, Wichita KS 67210, or by phone
(316) 687-4268, or e-mail kgroeneweg@feist.com

Latest Forecast: Hungry Birds

Four thousand pounds of bird seed was sold at the September bird seed sale with a profit of over \$600 for our chapter. Thanks to Walker Butin, Hal Cumberland, Lonny Wright, Cheryl Miller and John Wherry for delivering the seed. Our next bird seed sale is November 18. If you would like to order 25 lb. bags of Black Oil Sunflower (\$10) or Audubon Mix (\$7), call Carol at 685-4867 before November 14. Please note: delivery is in Wichita only. If you would be willing to help deliver November 18, contact Carol at 685-4867.

NAS adopts new membership strategy

The Board of Directors of the National Audubon Society, meeting in Casper, Wyoming, on September 16-17, adopted new "Membership Strategy Guidelines."

The new plan is designed to increase total membership numbers by providing stronger financial incentives to chapters to recruit new members. It is also designed to eliminate the shortfall in NAS's membership department budget by substantially cutting the dues share--the amount of each member's dues that National sends back to the member's local chapter.

The primary feature of the plan is the concept of "net dues share." Net dues is the money the membership-and-magazine budget has left over when all recruitment and renewal expenses, magazine production and distribution expenses have been deducted from the total of membership dues, magazine advertisement revenue and mailing list rental revenue.

Starting in July of 2001 National will calculate the net dues share per member, and send that amount to the chapter for each of its chapter-recruited members, along with half that amount for each of its members who were recruited by the National organization.

For many years the dues share to chapters has been a fixed amount: \$5.50 per member. But under the new plan the amount will depend upon the budget factors mentioned above. If all the budget factors and the membership numbers remained the same the new figure would be around \$2.75 per member for chapter recruited members, and half of that, or \$1.38 per member, for national recruited members. The other half of the dues share for national recruited members would go into a special fund for a state office.

Because of the likely severity of this reduction in chapter income from dues share, National's plan includes a

"safety net" feature, where the chapter is protected from the full impact of the change during a three-year trial period.

Financial incentives to chapters to recruit new members include an offer where the chapter receives 100 percent of the first-year dues of each new chapter recruit.

Letters to the NAS board from many chapters--including ours--protesting the new plan or requesting it be tabled were effective only to the extent of delaying the start date six months and inserting other minor changes.

by Darrel Whipple,

Willapa Hills Audubon, Longview, WA

Editor's Note:

As you can see by studying the financial reports in the enclosed annual report, dues are not a major part of the Wichita Audubon budget. But the lost revenue will have to be replaced, and it will require the assistance of all to assure a sound financial future for our organization.

Confused About Dues?

Are you confused about the amount dues you are asked for when your renewal notice comes from National? Here is some explanation from the NAS Membership department :

The rates offered on the website for new members are:

- \$20 introductory rate
- \$30 special 2-year introductory
- \$15 student/senior
- \$1000 Life
- \$1500 Dual Life (two members at the same address)

Membership renewal dues are increased every year of membership up to \$40. Reaching the \$40 rate can take 4 or 5 years depending upon the rate at which the member joined.

The dues are usually \$20 for the first year, then \$25, \$30, \$35, \$40. If someone renews at \$35 the second year, they are asked for \$40 the next.

The "basic" rate of \$35 is quoted on membership applications for purposes of establishing a standard rate for advertisers.

-Edna Russell
Membership Department
erussell@audubon.org

HOWEVER, AS LONG AS YOU SEND IN \$20 OR MORE WITH ANY NOTICE, YOU RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

The senior citizen introductory rate is \$15 and remains constant at \$15 in

all future renewals. If you are asked for more, JUST WRITE "SENIOR" ON THE RENEWAL NOTICE AND SEND IN \$15.

There are also several mailing options available to members:

- Your name and information not be shared with outside organizations.
- No NAS mailings except the magazine and one renewal notice.
- No phone calls from NAS to solicit donations.
- No magazine be included with your membership.

To request any or all of these options write the Membership Dept., National Audubon Society, 700 Broadway, NY, NY 10003 or e-mail <chadd@audubon.org>

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Wichita, Kansas Permit No. 921

Printed on recycled paper

Report on Global Warming

“Climate Change Impacts on the United States: The Potential Consequences of Climate Variability and Change,” (www.nacc.usgcrp.gov), released in June for public comment, is the first major assessment that combines national-scale analysis of climate change with an examination of potential impacts on different regions. Some observations: temperatures in the U.S. will rise an average of 5-10 F in the next 100 years, more than the projected global increase. Lower greenhouse gas emissions could reduce the impact. But global warming will continue for at least a century because of the long lifetimes of greenhouse gasses already in the atmosphere, coupled with the momentum of the climate system.

Other findings:

Forests in the Southeast could break up into a mosaic of forests, savannas, and grasslands. Northeast forests could lose their sugar maples.

Rising sea levels will cause further loss of coastal wetlands and put coastal communities at greater risk of storm surges.

Reduction of snowpack will alter the timing and amount of water supplies, potentially exacerbating water shortages in the West.

Forest productivity is likely to increase in the short term, but fires, insects, droughts and diseases may cause decline over the long term.

Climate change will likely magnify the impact of other stresses stemming from human development, including air and water pollution and habitat loss.

There is little that can be done to help

natural ecosystems adapt to the projected speed and amount of climate change.

adapted from “Common Ground” Vol. 11, No 6

Watch List Quiz

For a fun and interesting quiz, visit the National Audubon Society website and take the Watch List Quiz at www.audubon.org/bird/watch/quiz.

The Watchlist is a scientifically based early warning system that focuses attention on at-risk bird species before they become endangered. It identifies species that are faced with population decline, limited geographic range and/or threats such as habitat loss on their breeding and wintering grounds.