

Wichita Audubon



Volume 45 No. 5 January/February 2011

JANUARY MEETING



Join us on Tuesday, January 18 for a trip to Antarctica. Lorrie Beck is the Visitor's Services Coordinator at the Great Plains Nature Center and works for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Over Christmas of 2009 she took a cruise to Antarctica that turned out to be quite an adventure. Come hear her tale in "Adelies in Antarctica on January 18, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can also join us for dinner with Lorrie before the meeting at 5:45 p.m. at Doc Green's, 10096 E. 13th.

FEBRUARY MEETING



Our February meeting will feature a Master Falconer, Vanessa Avara, who is the assistant director of the Milford Nature Center. She will tell us about the history of falconry, both around the world and in Kansas. Learn about the birds, training methods, and equipment used in this ancient sport. Vanessa's program will be on Tuesday, February 15, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can also

join us for dinner with Vanessa before the meeting at 5:45 p.m. at Doc Green's, 10096 E. 13th, in the Waterfront.

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

January 29 & February 5, Saturdays, 10 a.m. - noon

Eagle Watch

Mid-winter is a great time to view Bald Eagles in Kansas. We will take a 1.5 mile hike to the Arkansas River to look for eagles. Come one day, or both, your choice. Bring binoculars if you have them, or we have some to loan. Dress for the weather!



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.

COMING EVENTS

January 2

Red Hills Christmas Bird Count. Meet at the Indian Grill Restaurant on U.S. 160 in Medicine Lodge. Groups will depart at 7:30 a.m. Compiler: Pete Janzen, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

January 9

Derby/Belle Plaine Christmas Bird Count. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Target parking lot at 2024 N. Rock Rd. in Derby. Compiler: Jeff Calhoun, 737-1307, jecalhoun@wichita.edu

January 18

Regular meeting, "Adelies in Antarctica," by Lorrie Beck, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center

January 22

Wichita Area Field Trip. Depart from the King's-X Restaurant at 21st and Amidon at 8 a.m. on a search for waterfowl and eagles. Leader: Pete Janzen, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

January 29

February 5

Eagle Watches at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 a.m. - noon.

February 12

Winfield City Lake field trip. Meet at the Lake headquarters just off Cowley County 8 north of Winfield.

Leader: Max Thompson, 620-221-1856, maxt@cox.net

GRANT RECEIVED

The Wichita Audubon Society has received a grant of \$11,000 from the Kansas Health Foundation in support of our nature education programs at Chaplin Nature Center. CNC was established because of an abiding belief that a connection to the natural world was an essential part of human physical and mental health. We are pleased to have that affirmed by this gift, and are excited by the opportunities it presents to continue our efforts.



Students explore a fallen log at CNC.

THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

The 2010 GBBC was another record-breaker with more than 97,300 bird checklists submitted by an estimated 63,000 volunteers from across the United States and Canada. These volunteers found connecting with nature to be great fun.

A few highlights from the 2010 GBBC:

- A massive roost of nearly 1.5 million American Robins was reported in St. Petersburg, Florida. Will they be back in 2011?
- The invasive Eurasian Collared-Dove keeps expanding its range. It was reported in 39 states and provinces during the 2010 GBBC. Where will this hardy dove show up next?
- Tree Swallows showed dramatic increases in numbers during the last count, possibly because of warmer temperatures and earlier migration. Will that pattern hold true again for GBBC 2011?

2010-2011 WAS Officers

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Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaaudubon.org

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E-mail any officer: was@wichitaaudubon.org

Send address changes to Sister Patricia Stanley, 3700 E. Lincoln Apt 123, Wichita, KS 67218, pstanley@csjoseph.org

Participants may also enter the GBBC photo contest by uploading images taken during the count. Many images will be featured in the GBBC website's photo gallery. All participants are entered in a drawing for prizes that include bird feeders, binoculars, books, CDs, and many other great birding products.

For more information about the GBBC, visit www.birdcount.org. Or contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at (800) 843-2473, gbbc@cornell.edu or Audubon at (202) 861- 2242 ext. 3050, citizenscience@audubon.org.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD BLITZ

Last year, birders throughout the country scoured the countryside for wintering rusty blackbirds to help us understand their distribution and find important local concentrations (hotspots). We learned a lot. But there is much more to learn. With your help the "Rusty Blackbird Third Times a Charm Blitz" will be bigger and better than Blitz One and Two.

During a single 17-day period, January 29 - February 13, 2011, volunteers will search for rusty blackbirds in any potentially suitable locations. We will revisit areas of concentration in the future to determine if they are indeed rusty blackbird hotspots.

Rusty blackbird populations have fallen steeply, with estimates of an 85-99% population drop over the past 40 years. Although no one knows the cause for this alarming decline, winter habitat loss and degradation are likely candidates. Collaborating with Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's and National Audubon Society's e-Bird project, we are enlisting the power of the birding public (you!) to help locate local,

but predictable wintering concentrations of rusty blackbirds.

It's simple! You can go wherever you like, whenever you like, and as often as you like anytime between January 29 - February 13, 2011. We are simply looking for the number of birds present at each location, along with very basic habitat information.

The Blitz is loosely organized through a steering committee and state team leaders. These valiant volunteers are there to drum up participation and assist with any questions. Also, they may be able to steer you to areas that need coverage. The Kansas team leader is Gene Young, 620-660-0547, young6264@yahoo.com

All you have to do is submit your observations (or lack thereof) via e-Bird. (Failure to find rusties is important information as well). Information and instructions will also be available on Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's e-Bird site: ebird.org

BIRD SEED SALE

Help support Wichita Audubon and Chaplin Nature Center by buying your bird seed from us. We offer high quality seed, **delivered to your home** (within Wichita City limits.)

Please submit your order by **Tuesday, Feb. 8.**

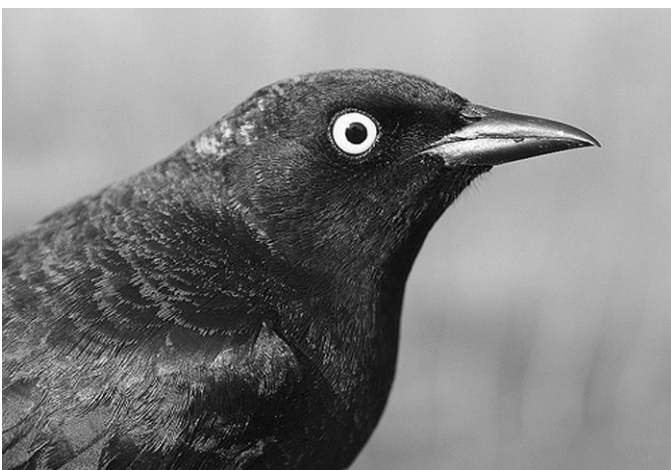
The seed will be delivered on **Saturday, Feb. 19.**

25 lbs Black Oil Sunflower - \$13

25 lbs Audubon Mix - \$12

25 lbs Safflower - \$18

Order by phone, mail or E-mail. Call Carol Cumberland at 685-4867 or carol.cumberland@swbell.net Mail: Wichita Audubon Society, PO Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201




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AUDUBON CAMP IN MAINE

The National Audubon Society has opened registration for their famous week-long birding and environmental education programs at the historic Audubon Camp in Maine on Hog Island. Instructors include Pete Dunne, Kenn Kaufman, Scott Weidensaul, Steve Kress, Lang Elliott and many more. Seven programs are being offered -- 4 birding programs for adults, a teen birding program, an educator's week, and an Audubon Chapter Leadership Program focusing on the Atlantic Flyway Initiative. 2011 is the 75th anniversary of programs on Hog Island, legendary among birders and environmental educators since the time of Roger Tory Peterson, the camp's first ornithology instructor in 1936.

The 2011 programs are being organized by National Audubon's Seabird Restoration Program (Project Puffin), which assumed management of the programs from Maine Audubon in 2010 after the programs were cancelled in 2009. In two 'service-learning' sessions participants will work directly with National Audubon biologists from the Seabird Restoration Program to census seabirds and restore nesting habitat on offshore seabird islands. All programs feature a boat trip to visit restored colonies of Atlantic Puffin and Tern (Roseate, Arctic, Common) at Eastern Egg Rock island, as well as workshops, evening presentations, expert birding tours, camaraderie, and fabulous home-cooked meals (lobster!). Housing is in cabins on the island. For more information, photos or to enroll, visit <http://hogisland.audubon.org>.