

Wichita Audubon



Volume 34 No. 5 January/February 2000

CNC Upcoming Programs

Saturday, January 29,
10 am -noon and
Sunday, February 6,
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Eagle Days

See Bald Eagles along the Arkansas River and enjoy the Nature Center in the winter. You have a choice of two days, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Dress warmly!

For more information, call Shawn Silliman at 316-442-4133.

Donations and Endowment Policy

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the fall solicitation letter. Your generosity makes this organization and all its activities possible. The Development Committee would like to make everyone aware of one way you can make your donation go further, and also inform you about the newly adopted policy on Endowment Funds. If you work for a company which will match your charitable donations, be sure to indicate that when you send a contribution. That can double your gift. The Board of Directors of WAS has recently adopted a policy formalizing the way money in the Chaplin Nature Center Endowment Fund is to be used. The Endowment Fund began with the financial campaign conducted to construct the Visitor's Center at CNC. The goal of the

January Meeting

Join us in January for a visit to Newfoundland with Dr. Lowell Wilder as he shares the sights and sounds of the great sea bird colonies. Dr. Wilder's videos are always a excellent and a big hit, so don't miss this one. The meeting will be on Tuesday, January 18, 7:30 pm at the Great Plains Nature Center.

We have a tradition of taking our speaker to dinner before the meeting. You can join us to dine at Jason's Deli, in Bradley Fair at 21st and Rock Road, at 5:30 pm.

Board of Directors is to increase the Endowment Fund to a level where the earnings will cover the operation of Chaplin Nature Center. In order to keep pace with inflation, the principle amount of the Fund will be adjusted annually by the amount of inflation for the preceding calendar year. The principle amount of the Endowment shall be considered a restricted fund, not available for any use other than to generate income. The income of the Endowment Fund in excess of inflation will be used only for the ongoing expenses of Chaplin Nature Center, and not to fund any capital improvements.

If you would like to see a complete copy of this policy, or if you have questions, call the Finance Committee chair Duane DeLong at 684-7546, delongd@netzero.net.

Coming Events

January 18

Regular meeting, "Northern Gannets: The Great Birds Nesting on Bird Rock, Newfoundland," by Dr. Lowell Wilder, 7:30 pm; Great Plains Nature Center.

January 29

Eagle Days at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 am - 12 pm.

February 5

Field trip to the Sedgwick County Zoo Jungle Building. Meet in the lobby at 10:15 am. Leaders: Jim & Patty Marlett, 942-2164.

February 6

Eagle Days at Chaplin Nature Center, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm.

Feeder Counts

If you have bird feeders and access to a computer, you have the opportunity to contribute data to two feeder counts being conducted this winter. The Kansas Winter Bird Feeder Survey is a cooperative effort between the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and the Kansas Ornithological Society, to census birds at feeders throughout Kansas. The data are gathered by hundreds of volunteers, who watch their feeders and count birds on two of four designated days in their backyards or at school

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Membership Drive For the New Millennium

The National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count has just celebrated its 100th anniversary; I hope that many of you had a chance to take advantage of this historic occasion by participating in a Christmas count. Looking back, the last century has brought with it many changes at an ever-increasing pace. These changes have provided great benefits to many of us, but some of these changes have come at a price. As we reflect on the last hundred years we must also look ahead to the next hundred years. What will Audubon's impact be in the 21st century? Will it be enough to ensure that nature's great diversity will be enjoyed by future generations? The challenge for each of us is to keep a strong voice, and with the help of you, the members, we can do it. That is why I

am challenging the membership with the Membership For the New Millennium campaign.

In this newsletter you will find a membership drive flier, which you can use to sign up a new member. Please pass this flier along to a family member, friend, or an associate who you feel may be interested in joining our organization. Feel free to make extra copies, or contact me and I can provide additional copies. Another option, if you prefer, is to have the membership committee solicit your prospective new members by using the space provided on the flier to enter the names of these individuals. Just mail this list to me at the address shown and a personal letter will be sent.

As a way of saying thanks for your help, each member who signs up one or more new members will be eligible for a special gift. For each paid new membership, you will receive your choice of one of the following gifts:

- Audubon Pocket Guide to North America Series (choice of one)
- Birds (all of US)
- Birds, Eastern US
- Birds, Western US
- Audubon Fanny Pack
- Audubon Sports Watch

When credited with two or more paid new memberships, you will have the option to choose among the following gifts also:

- Tote Bag
- Clock/Weather Station
- Organizer with J.J. Audubon Art

You will be notified if you have been credited with any new memberships and qualify for one of the gifts listed above, and you can make your selec-

tion at that time. Just make sure that your name is filled in on the flier in the space which says "who recommended you?".

Each prospective new member will have the opportunity to sign up at the special low introductory rate of \$20.00, which is a savings of 43% off the regular dues. They will receive Audubon magazine and our newsletter. In addition, each new member will receive the free Audubon backpack. Normally this will be sent to them by mail, but for this membership drive I have obtained a small supply of the backpacks to be given out on the spot. Therefore, you are encouraged to invite your prospective new member(s) to one of our regular program meetings and the free Audubon backpack will be presented to them on the spot with their paid membership. This will also give them a first hand look at what Wichita Audubon is all about and to meet some of the other members.

Won't you please help out with this membership drive? Together, we can make a difference!

Kevin Groeneweg
 WAS Membership Chair
 687-4268 kgroeneweg@feist.com

1999-2000 WAS Officers

		HomePhone
President	Carol Cumberland	685-4867
Vice-president	Marsha Ebaugh	683-4782
Secretary	Julia Hoppes	682-2623
Treasurer	Sandra Tholen	634-0049
Directors		
	Bill Barr	316-442-6188
	Duane Delong	684-7456
	Harry Gregory	263-7608
	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268
	Mike Lesan	524-6332
	Jay Newton	316-322-9090

Committee Chairs

Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164
CNC	Rex Herndon	316-442-4550
	Bill Barr	316-442-6188
Programs	Marsha Ebaugh	682-4782
Conservation	Patty Marlett	942-2164
Development	Jay Newton	316-322-9090
Membership	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268
Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	687-4268
Education	Marsha Ebaugh	682-4782
Field Trips	Harry Gregory	263-7608
Finance	Duane Delong	684-7456

Chapter Information Line 681-2266

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

Correction: Mary Skelton was inadvertently omitted from the list of Meadowlark donors for 1998-1999 in the Annual Report.

The Natural History Series

Co-Sponsored by the Wichita Audubon Society and the Great Plains Nature Center

They're Everywhere

Tuesday and Thursday, Jan 25 & 27, 7 pm – 9 pm

Join Dr. David McDonald Chair of the WSU Department of Biological Sciences for two sessions about viruses and bacteria. Fee: \$10.00

Emergence and Extinction of Species

Thursdays, February 10 & 17, 7 pm– 9 pm

Dr. Karen Brown, Biology Professor at WSU presents historical and contemporary patterns in global species diversity. Fee: \$10.00.

Will They Soon Be Extinct?

Thursday, April 13, 7 pm – 9 pm, Great Plains Nature Center , and Saturday, April 15, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

Bob Gress and Suzanne Fellows, naturalists at the Great Plains Nature Center, will take a look at Endangered Species in Kansas. Saturday we will explore endangered species' habitats at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. Fee: \$20.00 including "An Illustrated Guide to Endangered or Threatened Species in Kansas".

Know your " Home Patch"

Thursday, May 11, 7 pm – 9 pm and Saturday, May 13, 8 am – 10 am

Staff members of the Great Plains Nature Center will let you know about Chisholm Creek Park, including a tour on Saturday morning Fee: \$10.00.

All programs are at the Great Plains Nature Center unless otherwise specified. The programs are for adults and class size is limited. For more information call the Nature Center at 683-5499.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Fee enclosed for:

- They're Everywhere (\$10)
- Emergence and Extinction of Species (\$10)
- Will They Soon Be Extinct?(\$20)
- Know Your "Home Patch" (\$10)

To register for these sessions complete this form and mail with check to Great Plains Nature Center, 6232 E 29th Street N, Wichita, KS 67226. Please make checks payable to Great Plains Nature Center.

CBC Reports

As of press time for this newsletter several Christmas Bird Counts, including Wichita, have been completed, and several are yet to come. Here are some highlights from around the state.

The Wichita CBC found 82 species, which is about average. Increased urbanization of the count circle has really had a noticeable impact over the past few years. Species such as Northern Harrier and Loggerhead Shrike have few places remaining with appropriate habitat, although we did find 1 Harrier.

That aside, here are the highlights.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Black-crowned Night-Heron-3</i> | <i>American Crow-75,000</i> |
| <i>(2 at zoo, 1 at Oak Park)</i> | <i>(see latest KOS Bulletin)</i> |
| <i>Pied-billed Grebe-22</i> | <i>Red-breasted Nuthatch-42</i> |
| <i>Blue-winged Teal-2</i> | <i>Brown Creeper-39</i> |
| <i>Double-crested Cormorant-83</i> | <i>Winter Wren-5</i> |
| <i>(all one flock in SW Wichita)</i> | <i>Marsh Wren-3</i> |
| <i>Merlin-1</i> | <i>Ruby-crowned Kinglet-8</i> |
| <i>Killdeer-10</i> | <i>Song Sparrow-330!</i> |
| <i>Semipalmated Sandpiper-1</i> | <i>Swamp Sparrow-8</i> |
| <i>Least Sandpiper-17</i> | <i>White-throated Sparrow-60</i> |
| <i>Thayer's Gull-1</i> | <i>Fox Sparrow-7</i> |
| <i>Barred Owl-1</i> | <i>reported by Pete Janzen</i> |

The Quivira CBC was conducted on December 16. Observers saw 80 species, with two "stunners". The party of Joyce Lent, Suzanne Fellows, Bob Gress and Mike Rader found a Willet at the south end of the Big Salt Marsh. Gress saw the bird fly in with 3 Killdeer and land in good viewing distance. The other bird was a dark Ibis seen southeast of the BS marsh. Presumably a White-faced, it was seen by Rader and Gress initially, as it flushed up out of the cattails. It was seen a couple of more times in flight. I don't think that either of those species has ever been observed on a Kansas CBC before.

Reported by Mike Rader

The Manhattan CBC was conducted in dismal cold weather; it was 21 degrees F when I started at 5 AM and soared to a stunning 27 by midafternoon. But despite the weather, we had a good count, species-wise. We had about 80 observers. Total species = 100 (only the third time ever we have made it into the triple digits). We also had 6 count week species (so far). Three new species for the count - Tree Swallow, Western Grebe and Henslow's Sparrow. Other highlights include ferruginous hawk, hermit thrush, pine warbler, and lots of red-breasted nuthatches.

Reported by Dave Rintoul

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Feeder Counts, (con't)

co feeders. The feeder survey period for January 2000 will run from Thursday, January 13, through Sunday, January 16th. For details go to the website at <http://www.kancrn.org/winterbird/>

The second event is the Great Backyard Bird Count 2000. The National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab are asking everyone - kids, adults, seniors, families, classrooms, and community groups - to count the birds they see at their backyard bird feeders, local parks; and other areas. There is no official signup, and no fee. Participants simply log on to the BirdSource website at <<http://birdsource.org>> and click on the Great Backyard Bird Count button to report their sightings.

So join in and help scientists to define the status of birds for a new millennium, join thousands of other backyard birders across the country, and become a citizen scientist.

CBC's (con't)

The Lawrence CBC set an all time high for species today (December 18) with just 37 observers in 12 parties! We had 18 species of waterfowl, three shorebirds, 11 other water birds (grebes, gulls, pelicans, etc.), seven woodpeckers, and 13 sparrows. There were no new species for the count UNLESS someone got the White-winged Crossbill at my house! We apparently had 103 species (without the crossbill) which is the first time we have topped the century mark....finally!

Reported by Galen Pittman

Udall/Winfield broke our all time high record (with 12 people) with 94 species. We missed obvious things like Pine Siskin. The only real surprise was a Northern Parula Warbler on the Southwestern College campus. It was in winter plumage and was herding with kinglets and nuthatches.

Reported by Max Thompson

Six people did the El Dorado CBC Dec. 21. We had a total of 68 species, with nothing too unusual. Waterfowl numbers were low, except for Canada geese and Mallards. The most exciting was a flock of 63 Hooded Mergansers. One Greater Yellowlegs was seen. There was one Eastern Towhee and one Savannah Sparrow, six Bald Eagles, two Ferruginous hawks, five Rough-legged hawks, and one Peregrine falcon.

Reported by Patty Marlett

Join the Wichita Audubon Society

Who Are We?

The Wichita Audubon Society is an association of more than 1300 members who have been enjoying nature, promoting conservation, and supporting nature education since 1954.



Our major education and conservation project for more than 25 years has been the development of Chaplin Nature Center. This 230-acre preserve near Arkansas City features a Visitor's Center staffed by a full time naturalist. The naturalist conducts programs for school classes from across south central Kansas, as well as civic organizations, youth groups, and the general public. The Visitor's Center.

In addition to the programs of the Nature Center, WAS sponsors Audubon Adventures natural science curriculum in local classrooms and a series of natural history classes for adults.

The life of the chapter revolves around our monthly meetings and many field trips, all of which are free and open to the public. Our volunteers also participate in park cleanup projects, Christmas Bird Counts, environmental advocacy,

Earth Day projects, and a large variety of other activities in support of the chapter and its mission.

Our Mission:

The Wichita Audubon Society actively promotes responsible nature education and conservation of wildlife and the natural environment for the enjoyment of all.

What We Do:

-  Program Meetings - 3rd Tuesday of the month during the months of September-November and January-May, 7:30 pm at the Great Plains Nature Center, 29th and Woodlawn. Features local and nationally known speakers.
-  Field Trips – Day long bird watching outings, 10 trips scheduled for 1999/2000.
-  Chaplin Nature Center Special Events – 7 scheduled for 1999/2000 including butterfly tagging and an owl prowl.
-  Annual Christmas Bird Count – Join in the fun on one of the several area bird counts and participate in citizen science.
-  Camp Horizon Family Weekend – Camping, bird watching, wildflower walks and more.
-  Natural History Classes – Co-sponsored with the Great Plains Nature Center.
-  Audubon Adventure Series – Classroom activities for 4th, 5th and 6th grade.



Want to join? See reverse side

The Wichita Audubon Society, Inc., is a chapter of the National Audubon Society, and a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Yes, I want to join Audubon!

Please complete the following to join the Wichita Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society at the special introductory rate of \$20.00 and receive a free Audubon backpack.

(As a senior citizen or student, I am eligible to join for only \$15.00.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Who recommended you? _____



Make checks payable to National Audubon Society. Dues include \$10.00 for Audubon Magazine.

Mail this completed form along with payment to:

Kevin Groeneweg
WAS Membership Chair
2603 Capri Ln
Wichita, KS 67210

Do you know of others who would like to receive information about Wichita Audubon?

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____



