

# Wichita Audubon



Volume 36 No. 5 January/February 2002

## CNC Upcoming Programs

**January 26, Saturday,  
10 am to noon  
and  
February 3, Sunday  
1:30 pm to 3:30 pm**

### Eagle Watch

Take a hike down to the river to search for Bald Eagles and enjoy the Chaplin Nature Center in winter. Bring binoculars and we will provide the spotting scopes. If you can't make it on January 26, try for the second one on February 3.

### March 8, Friday 7:30 pm to 9 pm Night Hike

No need to be afraid of the dark. Families will hike the trails without the use of flashlights. Once our night vision kicks in, the group will do a few activities in the dark to learn about how people and animals can cope with darkness.

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



## January Meeting

Our January speaker comes to us all the way from Toronto, Canada. Dr. Jim Rising is author of the book "A Guide to the Identification and Natural History of The Sparrows of the United States and Canada." He is also a native Kansan, from the Kansas City area originally. His talk will emphasize problems of identification - especially the "problem" species that occur in Kansas - but he will also discuss sparrow behavior, biogeography, breeding habits, and ecology. He will talk about what species you can expect to see during the different seasons and in different habitats, including grasslands, oldfields, and at your feeders. Join us on Tuesday, January 15, at 7:30 pm at the Great Plains Nature Center to hear Dr. Rising.

You are also invited to join us for dinner before the meeting at Jason's Deli, in Bradbury Fair at 21st and Rock Road, at 5:45 pm.

## February Meeting

The February meeting will feature Glenn Salsbury, telling us about our backyard insects. Glenn is a Survey Entomologist with the Kansas Department of Agriculture, and coauthor of the new book "Insects in Kansas." Join us on Tuesday, February 19, 7:30 pm at the Great Plains Nature Center for the presentation.

You are also invited to join us for dinner before the meeting at Jason's Deli, in Bradbury Fair at 21st and Rock Road, at 5:45 pm.

## Coming Events

### January 13

Field trip to Sooner Lake, Ponca City, OK. Meet at the McDonald's in Ponca City at 9 am. Leader: Patty Marlett, 942-2164, [jmarlett@kscable.com](mailto:jmarlett@kscable.com)

### January 15

Regular meeting, "North Am Sparrows: Their Identification and Natural History," by Dr. James Rising, 7:30 pm Great Plains Nature Center.

### January 26

Eagle Watch at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 am to noon.

### February 3

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

### February 15 - 18

Great Backyard Bird Count. See page 3 for details.

### February 19

Regular Meeting, "Backyard Insects," by Glenn Salsbury, 7:30 pm Great Plains Nature Center.

### March 2

WAS planning meeting, Great Plains Nature Center, 10 am - 2 pm.

### March 8

Night Hike at Chaplin Nature Center, 7:30 to 9 pm.

### March 9

Backyard Birding field trip. Visit several backyards to study feeding and feeder birds. See page 2.

## Bird Seed Sale

Wichita Audubon sells and DELIVERS bird seed. To place an advance order call or email Carol Cumberland at 685-4867 or ccumb@swbell.net, or you can send an order by mail to: WAS, PO Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201.

The next delivery date is January 19, so orders must be in by January 16. Order enough for two months, as the next sale is March 16.

25 lb Black Oil Sunflower seed is \$10  
25 lb Audubon Mix is \$7.00

## Backyard Birding Field Trip

Volunteers who would like to show off their yards and share their birdfeeding secrets are needed for the backyard birding field trip on March 9. If you would like to help call Harry Gregory at 263-7608 or birdfan@infi.net.

## Help Us Plan for the Future

The National Audubon Society has recently revised their policies concerning Chapter requirements. Instead of requiring that chapters provide a certain number of newsletters, programs, field trips, and conservation projects, the policy now requires an annual plan and a year end report on progress toward the goals established by the plan. The Wichita Audubon Board of Directors will hold a planning meeting on Saturday, March 2, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Great Plains Nature Center classroom. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Your input is very important. More details about the meeting will follow at program meetings and in the next newsletter.

## Saving Red-winged Blackbirds

With the U.S. Department of Agriculture poised to initiate a program to kill by poison 2 million blackbirds a year for three years starting in the Spring of 2002, your help is needed to stop it. The poisoning threatens to kill numerous other birds including the steeply declining populations of grassland songbirds. The Department has conducted blackbird poisoning in an effort to reduce sunflower crop damage in the Northern Plains. Audubon opposes the blackbird-poisoning program because it cannot be justified on economic or scientific grounds. APHIS's own studies have not shown that killing large numbers of red-winged blackbirds is effective in reducing damage to sunflower crops. Please contact Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman and urge her to end the poisoning of red-winged blackbirds in North and South Dakota.

email : agsec@usda.gov

web site : <http://www.usda.gov>

phone : (202) 720-3631

capitol address : 14th St. & Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20250

## Thanks!

On Saturday, October 20, six Audubon Society members participated in a cleanup of Chisholm Creek Park. Lawrence Smith (all the way from Elkhart), Anne Tarver, and Lavell Wilder picked up trash around the Great Plains Nature Center while Patty Marlett, Patricia Stanley, and Paul Hobelman spruced up the grounds around the picnic area and parking lot at the west entrance to the park. Thanks to all for their efforts!

*Paul Hobelman, Greenways chair*

### 2001-2002 WAS Officers

President	Patty Marlett	942-2164	jmarlett@kscable.com
Vice-president	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@kscable.com
Secretary	Julia Hoppes	682-2623	jhoppes@kscable.com
Treasurer	Duane Delong	684-7456	dwdelong@earthlink.net

### Directors

Carol Cumberland	685-4867	ccumb@swbell.net
Merle Manlove	264-4238	mmanlove@aol.com
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Cheryl Miller	978-7900 (wk)	cheryl.miller@wichita.edu
Jay Newton	316-322-9090	
Gary Straley	620-221-3664	garrob@hit.net

### Committee Chairs

Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	jmarlett@kscable.com
CNC	Gary Straley	620-221-3664	garrob@hit.net
Programs	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@kscable.com
Conservation	Jay Newton	316-322-9090	
Development	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	ccumb@swbell.net
Membership	Sherry Brewer	778-1648	lpbrewer@earthlink.net
Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	687-4268	lauranng@kscable.com
Education	Marsha Ebaugh	682-4782	43042@prodigy.net
Field Trips	Harry Gregory	263-7608	birdfan@infi.net
Finance	Merle Manlove	264-4238	mmanlove@aol.com
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaudubon.org

[www.wichitaudubon.org](http://www.wichitaudubon.org)

email any officer: [was@wichitaudubon.org](mailto:was@wichitaudubon.org)

Send address changes to Sherry Brewer, 3231 SW Farmstead Rd, Benton, KS 67017  
(316)778-1648 or e-mail [lpbrewer@earthlink.net](mailto:lpbrewer@earthlink.net)

## What is Project FeederWatch?

It is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders in North America. "FeederWatchers" periodically count the highest numbers of each species they see from November through April. It is the longest running of the Cornell Lab Ornithology citizen-science projects, and is cosponsored by the National Audubon Society. FeederWatch helps scientists track broad-scale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance.

Findings from Project FeederWatch help researchers understand changes in North American feeder bird populations not only during a particular winter but also over many years. FeederWatch was the first study to document cyclical changes in Varied Thrush abundance. It also was the first to clearly document the irruptive patterns and movements of the Common Redpoll. Most recently, FeederWatchers are helping track the spread of mycoplasmal conjunctivitis, often referred to as House Finch eye disease because it primarily affects House Finches.

Each fall, there is a "FeederWatch Top-10 List" of the 10 most frequently reported species in North America. Last year's list: 10) Black-capped Chickadee, 9) House Sparrow, 8) European Starling, 7) Northern Cardinal, 6) Blue Jay, 5) American Goldfinch, 4) House Finch, 3) Downy Woodpecker, 2) Mourning Dove, and the number one species most frequently reported was the Dark-eyed Junco - seen at 85% of FeederWatch feeders.

Participants receive a Research Kit that includes a full-color feeder bird

poster and calendar, and the FeederWatchers's Handbook. They also receive summaries of FeederWatch data and other findings published in the Lab's quarterly newsletter, *Birdscope*. A \$15 fee helps cover the cost of materials and data analysis.

For more information or to sign up call Cornell Lab of Ornithology -800-843-2473 or visit the FeederWatch web site at <http://birds.cornell.edu/pfw>.

## Report on Wichita Christmas Bird Count

About 20 observers in 6 parties conducted the Wichita CBC. The wind was a bit stiff, but sure a far cry from last year's arctic marathon.

88 species were identified. Good numbers of waterfowl, sparrows were still low but a lot better than last year, and several open-country species are continuing to recede from this ever-more urbanized count circle. There are probably less than 15 miles of non-paved roads in the whole circle. On the other hand there are about 2 gazillion acres of new lakes, none of which were frozen today.

Several good rarities were found as well. Various highlights, high or low counts, and misses are listed here.

Pied-billed Grebe-17

Horned Grebe-2

Snow Goose-8

Ross's Goose-1

19 species of waterfowl-most in very good numbers: Widgeon-209

Shoveler-148

Canvasback-97

Greater Scaup-1

Hooded Merganser-57

Blue-winged Teal-1 at Buffalo Park  
Bald Eagle-1

Ring-billed Gull-167

Herring Gull-2

## Great Backyard Bird Count

If you don't want to count birds all winter, consider participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count, February 15-18. Another project of Audubon and Cornell, this event is designed to take a "snapshot" of our North American bird populations. You can count birds that come to your feeder, or birds at a park or any natural area that you visit during the count period. To participate visit the website [www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org).

California Gull-1 adult at Oldsquaw Pond (Can ya notice the dump is closed?????)

Mourning Dove-140

RedBreasted Nuthatch-15

House Wren-1 at Woodland Park

Golden Crowned Kinglet-5

Ruby Crowned Kinglet-17

Townsend's Solitaire-1 first in several years on this count

Cedar Waxwing-a whopping 3

Tree Sparrow-52

Song Sparrow-75

Fox Sparrow-2

Savannah Sparrow-4

Harris Sparrow-204

Great-tailed Grackle-332

Eur. Collared-Dove-1 First for count

Orange-crowned Warbler-2 seen by separate parties

Misses included WF Goose, Common Merganser, Rough-legged Hawk, Bobwhite, Common Snipe (was seen count week), Barred Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, Eastern Bluebird, Swamp Sparrow, Marsh Wren, W. Meadowlark (only 21 meadowlarks in entire circle), and Pine Siskin.

*reported by Pete Janzen*

**Return Service Requested**

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## **COCONUT PECAN BAR COOKIES**

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Baking Time: 12 minutes + 18 to 20 minutes

Makes 36 to 48 bars

- 1 1/4 cups unsifted flour
- 1 1/3 cups flaked coconut
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1/4 cup cocoa powder
- 1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 Teaspoon baking powder
- 2/3 cup butter
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 can eagle brand sweetened condensed milk  
( Not evaporated milk)

1. Preheat oven to 350\*. For crust, in large bowl, combine flour, sugar, cocoa powder and baking powder. Cut in butter until crumbly. Press mixture on bottom of

ungreased 13x9 inch baking pan. Bake for 12 minutes. Remove from oven; let cool slightly.

2. For filling, in medium sized bowl, combine eggs, eagle brand milk, coconut, chocolate chips, and pecans. Pour over partially baked crust. Bake 18 to 20 minutes or until set in center.

3. Optional ( frosting)  
1/2 cup semi sweet chocolate chips  
1 teaspoon solid shortening

4. In small saucepan, melt chips with shortening. Drizzle over bars.

5. Cool. Cut into bars. Store loosely covered at room temperature.

*from Laura Groeneweg, Hospitality Chair*