

Wichita Audubon



Volume 34 No. 6 March 2000

CNC Upcoming Programs

Saturday, March 4, 1 - 2 pm

Where Does Maple Syrup Come From?

Learn the steps involved in making maple syrup.

April 15, 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Eye Shine

Take a hike through the woods and search for the eyes of critters that may be watching us.

May 6

Members Twilight Dinner

Join us for a beach party, barbeque, and lots of fun. See **page 3** for details.

March Meeting

Randy Rodgers, Wildlife Research Biologist with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, is going to give us an update on the status of Lesser Prairie Chickens. Populations of these birds have been dropping for some time across their range, and many are expressing concern about the dwindling numbers. Randy will tell us about the problem and steps being taken to help.

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 6:00 pm.

Gifts of Stock

Please remember Wichita Audubon in this year's tax planning!

Last year, one Wichita Audubon member's gift of appreciated stock demonstrated her commitment to provide substantial support for Chaplin Nature Center and saved her substantial capital gains taxes. Rather than giving WAS a gift of cash, Ethelyn Lonnberg gave WAS shares of appreciated stock. This allowed WAS to purchase a John Deere Gator tractor for Chaplin Nature Center. Gifting of appreciated securities has a two fold benefit. It reduces capital gains taxes and provides considerable support to charitable nonprofit organizations like WAS. If you would like more information on gifting appreciated securities to Wichita Audubon for the benefit of Chaplin Nature Center, please call Jay Newton at 316-322-9090 or Carol Cumberland 685-4867.

Meritorious Service Award

The award committee of Mike Lesan, Rex Herndon, and Bob Gress is seeking nominations for the annual meritorious Service Award. The criteria for selection include: outstanding or sustained leadership as a member, officer, committee chairperson, or special project leader. Please put your nomination in writing and send to Mike Lesan, 225 Ballard, Haysville, KS 67060.

Coming Events

March 21

Regular meeting, "Lesser Prairie Chickens: What's Happening in Kansas?," by Randy Rodgers, 7:30 pm; Great Plains Nature Center.

March 4

Backyard Birding - Open house and field trip. See page 2 for more information.

April 1 & 2

Greater Prairie Chicken Booming, at a blind near Cassoday, KS. Reservations required! See page 4 for more information.

April 15

Clean up Chisholm Creek Park. Meet at 10:00 am at the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot.

April 22-May 21

Birdathon! Start forming those teams and rounding up sponsors now. You can pick any 24 hour period in this range of dates to find those birds.

May 6

Members Twilight Dinner at Chaplin Nature Center, 5 pm till ? See page 3 for more information.

Greater Prairie Chicken Booming

We have reserved the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks blind in Cassoday, KS, to see Greater Prairie Chickens booming on April 1 and 2. Space in the blind is very limited, so reservations are necessary. Call Patty Marlett, 942-2164. Patty will send you a map and instructions. Be prepared to get up early, because you have to be in the blind before dawn.

Nominations

The nominating committee of Jay Newton, Carl Holmes, and Carol Fiore is seeking nominees for officers next year. The election will be held at the May meeting, and new officers will take office July 1. If you have suggestions or are interested in serving, please call one of the committee.

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

Backyard Birding Field Trip

The March 4 Backyard Birding field trip will be a departure from the norm. It will be more of an open house hosted by five generous families throughout the area. From 8:00 am till noon you will be welcome to stop by any or all of the following addresses to view the birds, learn what feeders work for various birds and other tips on how to attract birds to your own yard.

The directions below start at the north end of town; however, feel free to start at any of the following addresses. As a general courtesy, please do not arrive until 8:00 am and be sure to complete your visits by 12:00.

Starting northwest of town, visit **John and Martha Jane Bissell at 11717 N Ridge Rd.** This site is actually more than a back yard. Stroll through 20 acres. There are feeders near the house, but you will benefit more by browsing along the paths and their natural surroundings. This may be the best area to see those shy birds who may not come in to the feeders.

Next stop by the home of **Nick and Cathy Clausen at 6561 Rico Rd.** Get there by going 1 mile north of 53rd on Meridian. Turn east on RioVista, following to Evanston, then south on Rico Rd. Pull in the large circle drive. The Clausens have a one acre yard with a yard list of 110 species. Twenty eight feeders are placed strategically around the yard. You should see most resident woodpeckers including red-shafted flickers, spotted towhees, most winter sparrows, Carolina wrens, along with blue jays, cardinals and chickadees.

Moving south and east visit the home of **Joe and Helen Brewer at 2531 N Roosevelt.** This is an established neighborhood with many bird attracting shrubs and trees. The Brewers report 14 to 18 species per day in early February. On the 14th, 22 cardinals were seen at one time. This address is north of the WSU campus. Go north on Roosevelt off 21st street.

The next yard is the home of **John and Louise Wherry at 2114 George Washington Blvd.** This site is half way between Mt. Vernon and Pawnee. A variety of feeders attract most of the usual back yard birds. This may be the best place to find red-breasted nuthatches and mourning doves.

Moving due east on Pawnee, cross Rock Road to Capri. Turn south to the home of **Kevin and Laura Groeneweg and 2603 S Capri.** The Groenewegs have landscaped for birds in a fairly open neighborhood. The judicious use of a variety of feeders and a heated birdbath make this a virtual birding island. Kevin reports that goldfinches have been common this winter.

This idea of backyard birding is an experiment based on garden tours and pond tours that are staged during the summer. We are interested in feedback from everyone participating for future planning. Give us your recommendations and or criticisms.

Harry Gregory, Field Trip Chair

Twilight Dinner at Chaplin Nature Center

This is a special event on **Saturday, May 6** to honor our members and donors who make Chaplin Nature Center possible. Activities include:

- ⇒ barbeque dinner on the beach
- ⇒ bird watching
- ⇒ sandcastle building contest
- ⇒ night hike
- ⇒ frog and toad study at Kingfisher pond
- ⇒ owl calling
- ⇒ storytelling and music around the campfire
- ⇒ star program

Festivities will begin with a social hour at 5:00 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm, and activities continuing until after dark. We advise bringing a flashlight and lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. We'll have some picnic tables and benches on the beach, but a few more seats would be helpful.



There will be transportation to the river - so don't worry if you can't walk that far. We want this to be accessible to everyone.

Donors who have given one hundred dollars or more will be honored with a free dinner (you'll be receiving a personal invitation in the mail.) For those attending the Camp Horizon Weekend, this will be the Saturday night dinner included in your fees. All others are invited to join the festivities for only \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children 12 and under - and this is all you can eat! Please let us know you are coming by returning the coupon below with payment by April 22.

Name: _____
Street: _____
City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____
Fee enclosed for:
of adults: _____ #of children under 12: _____
Mail to Wichita Audubon Society, PO Box 47607,
Wichita, KS 67201

Cookies

Several people asked for the recipes for two of the cookies served at the February meeting, so here they are:

EASY CHERRY CHIP COOKIES

- 1 package white cake mix
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 2 large eggs
- 1 2/3 cups (11 oz package) cherry flavored morsels
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans (optional)

Combine cake mix, oil and eggs in large bowl. Stir in morsels and pecans. Drop by rounded tablespoon onto ungreased baking sheets. Bake in preheated 350* F. oven for 10 to 15

minutes or until center are just set. Let stand for 2 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool completely. Make about 3 1/2 -cookies

BLUEBERRY OAT COOKIES

- 1/2 cup butter or margarine ,soft-ened
- 1 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cup quick cooking oats
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries

In a large mixing bowl, cream butter and brown sugar. Beat in egg and vanilla. Combine oats, flour, cinnamon, salt, baking soda and baking powder; gradually add to the creamed mixture. Stir in the blueberry. Drop by heaping teaspoonsful 2 inches apart onto lightly greased baking sheets. Bake at 350* F. degrees for 12-14 minutes or until golden brown. Remove to wire rack to cool. Yield: 3 dozen

Laura Groeneweg, Hospitality

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The Natural History Series

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

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:
 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.