

Wichita Audubon



Volume 44 No. 8 May 2010

MAY MEETING



Our presenter for May is Shawn Silliman, naturalist and director of Chaplin Nature Center. Wichita Audubon Society has owned and operated the Chaplin Nature Center for more than 35 years. Our 230 acre nature preserve is located on the sandy banks of the Arkansas River near Arkansas City, and is an oasis for nature enthusiasts to enjoy the diversity of Kansas wildlife. This program will focus on the flora and fauna that visitors can encounter, as well as some of the many

changes that have occurred over the years. Join us on Tuesday, May 18, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can also join Shawn and other members for dinner at Doc Green's, 10096 E. 13th, in the Waterfront at 5:45 p.m.

PEPSI GRANT UPDATE

In the last newsletter WAS requested you help us win \$25,000 by voting for our "Help Kids Understand Nature Through Birds" project. We still want you to vote, but not yet, and not in the month of May. We were unable to get the grant accepted by Pepsi, but will try again in the up-coming months. The grant must be uploaded onto a website, and the servers were overloaded. We're going to try again with a higher speed internet connection. Grants are accepted once a month on the first of the month. Once the grant is accepted we will let you know and once again ask for your vote at <http://www.refresheverything.com/>

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

May 15, Saturday, 8:30 - 10 p.m.

Astronomy

Join the Kansas Astronomical Observers for a night under the stars. Several amateur astronomers will be on hand with their telescopes to share their interest in the night sky. Bring your own telescope if you have one.

Lawn chairs and blankets for sitting on the ground are also useful.

June 19, Saturday, 8:30 a.m.

Bird, Butterflies and Breakfast

After breakfast on the visitor's center porch, we'll look for resident birds and butterflies and wildflowers, too. Please RSVP to Shawn at least 2 days in advance so we'll have enough food. Call 620-442-4133 or email cnc@wichitaudubon.org



For more information about any Chaplin Nature Center programs call Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, or e-mail cnc@wichitaudubon.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

May 7 - 9

America's Birdiest County competition. Birders are encouraged to get out and find as many species as possible in Sedgwick County. Coordinators: Jeff Calhoun, 737-1307, jecalhoun@wichita.edu, & Nathan Ofsthun, 617-7171, anseriformes@gmail.com.

May 8

Warbler Walk at Oak Park. Meet by the pond at the north end at 8 a.m. Leader: Paul Griffin, 263-1251, pgriffin1@cox.net

May 15

Astronomy program at Chaplin Nature Center, 8:30 - 10 p.m.

May 18

Regular meeting, "Chaplin Nature Center" by Shawn Silliman. 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

May 22

Great Salt Plains NWR, Oklahoma, field trip. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Kings-X, 21st & Amidon and we'll carpool down. Leader: Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com

May 29

Derby area &/or Butler County Lake field trip. Depart from the Village Inn, 1200 N Rock Rd in Derby at 7 a.m.. Leader: Jeff Calhoun, 737-1307, jecalhoun@wichita.edu

June 19

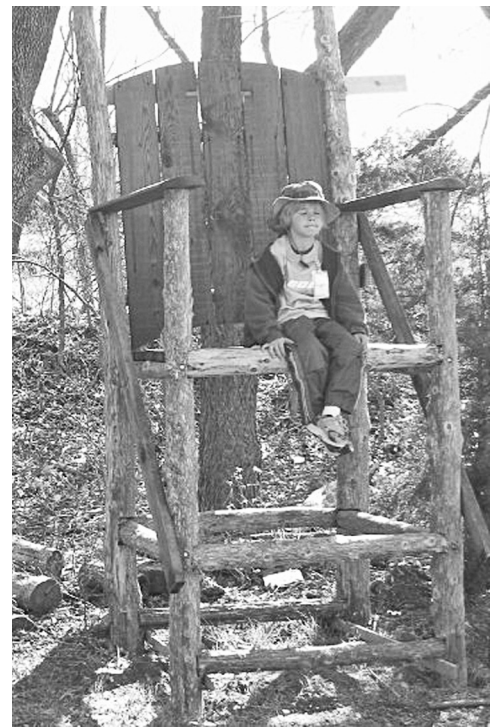
Birds, Butterflies and Breakfast at Chaplin Nature Center. See this page for more info.

SPRING CLEAN-UP SUCCESS

A record number of volunteers showed up for the Chaplin Nature Center's Spring Clean-up in April. With over 60 volunteers in attendance, the center got many needed maintenance projects completed. All the trails got a good trimming, the area around the visitor center was raked and cleaned, bridges were repaired, the sandbar was cleared of flood trash, an old out-building was removed, the parking lot and front entrance trees were trimmed, and many other tasks were completed. The trails, building, and grounds are in excellent shape for this year's visitors. A big thank you goes out to Boeing of Wichita (who had 35 volunteers), Cowley County Community College, Arkansas City Boy Scouts, and Wichita Audubon members.

SPRING APPEAL

You should have recently received a letter asking you to support Wichita Audubon and Chaplin Nature Center. If you have already responded - thank you! If you haven't, please consider a gift to support our work. We are very proud of CNC - the beautiful land we are preserving, the excellent facilities we have built, and the programs we provide for thousands of children and adults. We accomplish a great deal on a shoe-string budget, but we still have to raise the money to support that budget! You can also help by supporting the Birdathon teams that will be raising funds this month. For more information contact Mike Heaney, 733-6458, jeager@southwind.net.



The Big Chair was built by Shawn and installed at CNC on April 3 by volunteers. It is located in the pecan grove at the foot of the bluff, just east of Kingfisher wetlands.

2009-2010 WAS Officers

President	Sandra Tholen	634-0049	stholen@cox.net
Vice-president	Nathan Ofsthun	617-7171	anseriformes@gmail.com
Secretary	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
Treasurer	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Directors	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
	Curt VanBoening	644-1986	curtvb@earthlink.net
	Jeff Calhoun	737-1307	jecalhoun@wichita.edu
	Catherine Lewis	681-3362	thexchange@cox.net
	Mike Heaney	733-6458	jeager@southwind.net
	Bob Gress	838-4130	bobgress@cox.net

Committee Chairs

CNC	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Conservation	Curt VanBoening	644-1986	curtvb@earthlink.net
Development	Mike Heaney	733-6458	jeager@southwind.net
Field Trips	Pete Janzen	832-0182	pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net
Finance	Duane DeLong	684-7456	duane.delong669@gmail.com
Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	687-4268	lgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Membership	Sister Patricia Stanley	744-2192	pstanley@csjoseph.org
Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
Programs	Nathan Ofsthun	617-7171	anseriformes@gmail.com
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaudubon.org

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E-mail any officer: was@wichitaudubon.org

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

SLATE OF OFFICERS

The nominating committee for 2010-2011 is comprised of Kevin Groeneweg, Nathan Ofsthun and Cheryl Miller. They have presented the following slate of officers:

Secretary: Patty Marlett

Treasurer: Sharon Dilks

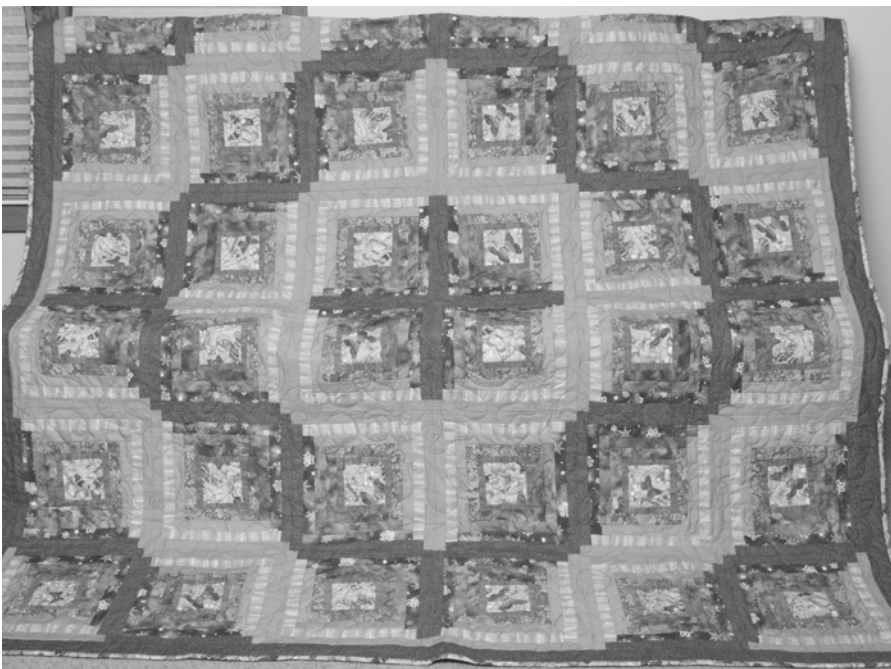
Directors: Curt VanBoening & Larry Londagin

There is still an opening for the position of vice-president. Sandra Tholen will remain president as this is the second year of her two year term of office.

The election will take place at the May meeting.

CNC FUND-RAISER

A lovely quilt has been donated for a fund-raiser for Chaplin Nature Center. Atcha Nolan, a WAS member from El Dorado, gave us a butterfly quilt made by her mother-in-law. We will hold a raffle at the May meeting. There is no charge for the raffle tickets, but we are asking for a donation of \$2 per ticket, or 3 for \$5. All contributions are strictly voluntary. The colors are lavender and blue, with a few yellow highlights. The reverse is done in the butterfly print used in the middle of the squares. It measures 76 by 78 inches, which is twin bed size. It could also be used as a coverlet for a larger bed or as a throw. Raffle tickets will be available at meetings, or from Sandra Tholen, stholen@cox.net, 634-0049. The more tickets you have, the better your chance of winning this lovely quilt!



The butterfly quilt to be raffled at the May 18 meeting.

FIELD TRIP REPORT - LOCAL MYSTERY TRIP

10 birders went on the local field trip on March 27. Despite the threat of rain, the weather turned out to be quite nice. Our first stop was La-Farge sandpit at West and 29th. Best birds there were Red-breasted Mergansers, Horned Grebes (several in breeding plumage) and one Eared Grebe in breeding plumage. We then went over to Pawnee Prairie Park. The numerous Fox Sparrows were in full song upon our arrival and we were greeted by three Phoebes (among the many in the park) vying for territory at the nature center. We had a nice look at a perched and very vocal adult Cooper's Hawk, and a Spotted Towhee put on quite a show for the group. It was a great morning to be out.

by Kevin Groeneweg

THE STATE OF THE BIRDS: 2010

Report on Climate Change

Climate change threatens to further imperil hundreds of species of migratory birds, already under stress from habitat loss, invasive species and other environmental threats, a new report released by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar concludes. The report follows a comprehensive report released a year ago showing that nearly a third of the nation's 800 bird species are endangered, threatened or in significant decline.

"For well over a century, migratory birds have faced stresses such as commercial hunting, loss of forests, the use of DDT and other pesticides, a loss of wetlands and other key habitat, the introduction of invasive species, and other impacts of human development," Salazar said. "Now they are facing a new threat--climate change--that could dramatically alter their habitat and food supply and push many species towards extinction." The report, a collaboration of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and experts from the nation's leading conservation organizations, including Audubon, shows that climate changes will have an increasingly disruptive effect on bird species in all habitats, with oceanic and Hawaiian birds in greatest peril.

Key findings from the "State of the Birds" climate change report include:

- Oceanic birds are among the most vulnerable species because they don't raise many young each year; they face challenges from a rapidly changing marine ecosystem; and they nest on islands that may be flooded as sea levels rise.

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THE STATE OF THE BIRDS: 2010 REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE, CONTINUED

All 67 oceanic bird species, such as petrels and albatrosses, are among the most vulnerable birds on Earth to climate change.

- Hawaiian birds already face multiple threats and are increasingly challenged by mosquito-borne diseases and invasive species as climate change alters their native habitats.
- Birds in coastal, arctic/alpine, and grassland habitats, as well as those on Caribbean and other Pacific islands show intermediate levels of vulnerability; most birds in aridlands, wetlands, and forests show relatively low vulnerability to climate change.
- For bird species that are already of conservation concern such as the golden-cheeked warbler, whooping crane, and spectacled eider, the added vulnerability to climate change may hasten declines or prevent recovery.
- The report identified common bird species such as the American oystercatcher, common nighthawk, and northern pintail that are likely to become species of conservation concern as a result of climate change.

“Birds are excellent indicators of the health of our environment, and right now they are telling us an important story about climate change,” said Dr. Kenneth Rosenberg, director of Conservation Science at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. “Many species of conservation concern will face heightened threats, giving us an increased sense of urgency to protect and conserve vital bird habitat.”

The report offers solutions that illustrate how, by working together, organizations and individuals can have a demonstrable positive impact on birds in the U.S. Specifically, the report indicates that the way lands are managed can mitigate climate change and help birds adapt to changing conditions. For example, conserving carbon-rich forests and wetlands, and creating incentives to avoid deforestation can reduce emissions and provide invaluable wildlife habitat.