

Wichita Audubon



Volume 39 No. 7 April 2005

CNC Upcoming Programs

April 2, Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Spring Cleanup

Volunteer to help get CNC in shape for the upcoming season. Help is needed in all areas, from building cleanup to trail maintenance. Light workloads or heavy, your choice. There is a place for you no matter what your skills.

June 11, Saturday 5 p.m. till dark Twilight Dinner

Join us at Chaplin Nature Center for a beach party, barbecue, scavenger hunt, birdwatching and lots of fun. After dinner we have a special program planned. Judy Nichols, storyteller, is going to weave her magic with some tales around the campfire. Judy has been a professional talespinner and puppeteer for nine years, and performs frequently at the Great Plains Nature Center.

Continued on page 3

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



April Meeting

In February 2004, Jim & Patty Marlett spent 10 days in the Galapagos Islands, visiting and photographing this unique land and its fascinating wildlife. Darwin's finches, flightless cormorants, giant tortoises, marine iguanas, sea lions and penguins are just a few of the creatures that make this place so special. Jim's excellent photographs will make the place come alive.

Please join Jim for dinner at Jason's Deli in Bradley Fair at 21st and Rock Road at 5:45 p.m. before the program.

April Meeting Date

Note that the April meeting is on April 12, the second Tuesday instead of the usual third Tuesday.

Birdathon

Birdathon is a fund-raising activity that is also a lot of fun. It is open to any member that likes to bird and wants to help. A Birdathon team solicits pledges from friends, neighbors and coworkers for the number of bird species they can find in a 24 hour period. We would really like to have your help. To join a team talk to Carol Cumberland, Patty Marlett, or Shawn Silliman. If you don't want to be on a team, consider soliciting pledges for one of the teams, or contribute yourself. Any and all assistance is appreciated.

Coming Events

April 2

Pawnee Prairie Park field trip. Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot on South Tyler Road. Leader: Bill Beard, 722-3081, wbeard@cox.net

April 2

Chaplin Nature Center spring cleanup, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

April 9

Big Brothers Big Sisters program at Chaplin Nature Center
Kevin Groeneweg, 687-4268, kgroeneweg@cox.net

April 12

Regular meeting, "Images of the Galapagos Islands," by Jim Marlett, 7:30 p.m. Great Plains Nature Center

April 18 -21

Extended Field trip to High Island, Texas. Leader: Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com

May 7

Warbler Walk Field Trip.
See page 2.

May 7

Prairie Wetlands Conservation Project Field Trip - see 'Warbler Walk' on page 2.

May 14

North American Migration Bird Count

North American Migration Count

May 14 is the annual North American Migration Count. Similar to the Christmas Bird Count, this count covers all of Sedgwick County. Harry Gregory and Rosa McHenry are the organizers. If you can help contact Harry at 943-5904, birdfan@mac.com, or Rosa at 263-4042, rmchenryphoto@sbcglobal.net.

Warbler Walk

On May 7 we will meet at 7 a.m. by the lily pond in Oak Park to hunt for spring migrants. At 1 p.m. we will reassemble at the Vulcan Chemicals parking lot on the east side of S Ridge Rd (south of 55th St S) for a tour of the Prairie Wetlands Conservation Project. Leader for the warbler walk is Kevin Groeneweg, 687-4268, kgroeneweg@cox.net; leader for the afternoon is Bill Beard, 722-3081, wbeard@cox.net.

Hodges Estate Sale

The family of Ruth Hodges very generously allowed WAS to conduct an estate sale of Ruth's remaining household items. It was a lot of work, but on February 25 & 26 we raised \$4000 for WAS and Chaplin Nature Center. A big thank you to all the people who helped: Sharon Bolin, Walker & Pat Butin, Kevin & Laura Groeneweg, Duane & Maxine DeLong, Julia Hoppes, Mary Kemmer, Merle & Mary Manlove, Patty Marlett, Rosa McHenry, Sister Patricia Stanley, Steve Starch, Sandra Tholen, Denise Townsley, Fran Vannoy, Hal Cumberland, and especially Carol Cumberland, who organized the whole thing.

Meritorious Service Award

The award committee is accepting nominations for the annual Meritorious Service Award. The criteria for selection include outstanding or sustained leadership as a member, officer, committee chair, or special project leader.

Please include a brief description of the nominee's accomplishments and why you think they should receive this award. Mail your nomination to Walker Butin, 2951 N Gouverneur #308, Wichita 67226, patandwalk@aol.com. Julia Hoppes and Sharon Bolin are also on the committee.

The previous recipients of this award are:

- 1994 John Wherry
- 1995 Ralph Wiley & Geula McDonald
- 1996 Nathan McDonald
- 1997 Louise Wherry
- 1998 Don Vannoy
- 1999 Bob Gress
- 2000 Dan Kilby
- 2001 Rex Herndon
- 2002 Wallace Champeny
- 2003 Patty Marlett
- 2004 Carol Cumberland

Big Brother Big Sisters Program

Help give a deserving child a great nature experience on Saturday, April 9 as we host Big Brother Big Sister kids. We're planning a trip to Chaplin Nature Center for lunch and a hike. We need to have one adult to match with each child, preferably of the same gender. Contact Kevin Groeneweg, 687-4268, kgroeneweg@cox.net if you can help. The two programs we did last year were really fun, so plan to join us.

2004-2005 WAS Officers

President	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@cox.net
Vice-president	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Secretary	Nancy Beard	722-3081	wbeard@cox.net
Treasurer	Sandra Tholen	634-0049	stholen@cox.net

Directors

Bill Beard	722-3081	wbeard@cox.net
Mary Kemmer	688-5322	rockchalk123@aol.com
Rosa McHenry	263-4042	rmchenryphoto@sbcglobal.net
Gary Straley	620-221-3664	garrob@hit.net
Don DeWitt	722-0742	ddewitt@omnibizcenter.com
Anne Tarver		anne.tarver@wichita.edu

Committee Chairs

Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
CNC	Gary Straley	620-221-3664	garrob@hit.net
Programs	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Conservation	Bill Beard	722-3081	wbeard@cox.net
Development	Rosa McHenry	263-4042	rmchenryphoto@sbcglobal.net
Membership	Sister Patricia Stanley		pstanley@csjwichita.org
Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	687-4268	laurann@cox.net
Field Trips	Cheryl Miller	978-6659 (wk)	avian67226@hotmail.com
Finance	Don DeWitt	722-0742	ddewitt@omnibizcenter.com
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaudubon.org

www.wichitaudubon.org

email any officer: was@wichitaudubon.org

Send address changes to Sister Patricia Stanley, 6739 Perryton, Wichita, KS 67226

pstanley@csjwichita.org

Twilight Dinner, continued

As always, donors who gave more than \$100 last year will be invited to attend free. Everyone else is welcome with the meal costing \$6.50 for adults, \$3.25 for children for children 12 and under. You can make reservations by calling Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, cnc@wichitaaudubon.org. There will be a mail in form in next month's newsletter.



Judy Nichols, storyteller

CWCP Summit

The Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan (CWCP) summit was held at Kansas State University on February 22 - 23. I attended on behalf of Wichita Audubon. The purpose of this workshop was to gather input for the CWCP, which is required to be in place by October 1, 2005 as part of the State Wildlife Grants program. The goal of this federal program is to "keep common species common." The funding is intended for species that receive no other direct money, i.e. non-game species. Kansas is eligible for over \$900,000 this year. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has contracted with Dynamic Solutions to produce the plan.

There were over 50 people in attendance representing many non-game interests. Breakout sessions were

Become a Citizen Scientist and Help House Finches!

Coast to coast, House Finches have become afflicted with a debilitating form of conjunctivitis. Two projects through Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology, Audubon's partner in the Great Backyard Bird Count, offer budding Citizen Scientists the opportunity to take part in tracking and understanding this disease. Neither requires any experience and both are offered free of charge.

Citizen Scientists participating in the "House Finch Disease Survey" help monitor the spread and prevalence of the disease. Participants observe their feeders and submit data on the presence or absence of healthy and/or diseased birds in their particular location. Data can be submitted either on paper or online. The only equipment you need to participate is a feeder and the ability

to observe your feeder visitors. Sign up at <http://birds.cornell.edu/hofisignup/signup.html> and you'll receive a kit with instructions and information in the mail.

Citizen Scientists participating in the "House Finch Nest Survey" are helping to determine if differences in breeding biology are the cause of seasonal and geographic variation in disease prevalence. Participants locate and monitor House Finch nests around their homes and neighborhoods and keep detailed nest records (nest cards provided). Sign up at www.birds.cornell.edu/hofisignup/nestsignup.html and you will be sent an information packet to teach you how to safely observe House Finch nests.

Questions are welcomed at housefinch@cornell.edu or visit the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology at <http://birds.cornell.edu/>.

held for various species groups (birds, mammals, herps, invertebrates and fish) as well as conservation regions (tall grass, mixed grass and short grass). There was also a group for generalists. I attended the "birds" breakout group as well as portions of several other sessions. For the species group sessions, the distribution and abundance of Kansas' species of greatest conservation need was agreed upon. Within the conservation regions sessions, habitats were prioritized, issues within those habitats were identified, conservation strategies for each issue was identified and potential conservation partners were identified.

All in all this was a very productive meeting. Funding of this kind has been hard to come by, especially

at the federal level. Up until now non-game funding has primarily come from the Chickadee Check off program at the state level. For more information about the plan, see www.kdwp.state.ks.us/other_services/wildlife_conservation_plan. A draft of the plan is expected to be available for public comment in 6 to 8 weeks and should be available on the website. Otherwise let me know and I'll see that you get a copy. Also, to make sure that the funding promises are kept, I would suggest that everyone encourage their legislators to ensure passage of the State Wildlife Grant funding.

Kevin Groeneweg President

**P.O. Box 47607
Wichita, KS 67201**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Wichita, Kansas Permit No. 921

Printed on recycled paper

Check the Mailing Label to see if your membership is about to lapse

The upper left portion of your address printed above is the date your membership expires.

Month/Year of expiration

Name

Address

City, State ZIP

There are two ways of being a member of Wichita Audubon: by joining the National Audubon Society, or by joining or making a donation to the Wichita Audubon Society. IF YOU ARE A MEMBER of the NATIONAL Audubon Society, you receive Audubon magazine in the mail, as well as this newsletter. National will send you renewal notices when your membership is about to expire.

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER of the WICHITA Audubon Society ONLY, you do not receive Audubon Magazine. You should check the expiration date above. Use the form below to renew your membership, or go to www.wichitaaudubon.org and click on Membership. If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, check the appropriate box below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone: _____

email: _____

Yes, renew my membership in the Wichita Audubon Society at the following level:

Individual - \$20 Family - \$25 Student (18 & under) - \$10

Remove my name from your mailing list

Mail to: Wichita Audubon Society, P.O. Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201