

Wichita Audubon



Volume 36 No. 2 September 2001

CNC Upcoming Programs

Saturday, September 22
Butterfly Tagging
10:00 am to 12 noon

The migration season is upon us. The Monarch butterflies pass through Kansas on the way to their winter grounds in Mexico. Participants will learn about the tagging program and methods of tagging Monarchs, and then help capture and tag them.

Saturday, October 13
Fall Nature Day
9:30 am to 2:30 pm

Celebrate the wonders of nature at this action packed family event. Bird walks, reptile hikes, and other nature walks along with crafts for the children will be part of the celebration. Lunch will also be available to purchase.

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



September Meeting

Our season begins with a very distinguished speaker. Paul A. Johnsgard is the University of Nebraska Foundation Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences and author of the newly published book *Prairie Birds: Fragile Splendor in the Great Plains*.

Of all the North American eco systems the grasslands are the most endangered, and of the approximately 30 species of grassland endemics, nearly all are now declining, many quite seriously. Dr. Johnsgard's talk will deal with each of the major grassland types (sandsage, shortgrass, mixed-grass and tallgrass), and their associated ecologies and breeding birds. Special emphasis will be placed on the grassland grouse.

The meeting will be September 18, 7:30 pm at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can also join the speaker for dinner before the meeting at Jason's Deli, N. Rock Road, at 5:45 pm.

Dr. Johnsgard's book is on sale at the Owl's Nest gift shop at Great Plains Nature Center. Don't miss your chance for an autographed copy.

Lattner Grant

The Wichita Audubon Society has received a \$1000 grant from the Forrest C. Lattner Foundation in memory of Forrest C. and Frances H. Lattner. Thank you!

Coming Events

September 8
Field Trip to Quivira NWR and Cheyenne Bottoms. Meet at 9 am Quivira Headquarters.
Leader: Kevin Groeneweg, 687-4268, kgroeneweg@kscable.com

September 18
Regular meeting, 7:30 pm Great Plains Nature Center. Dr. Paul Johnsgard, "The Great Plains Grasslands and Their Birds."

September 22
Butterfly tagging at Chaplin Nature Center 10 am to noon.

September 22 - 23
Field trip to Morton County. Meet at 7 am at the El Rancho Motel in Elkhart.
Leader: Don Vannoy, 838-4062, dvannoy@kscable.com

September 29
Chisholm Creek Park field trip. Meet at the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 8 am.
Leader: Sandra Tholen, 634-0049, stholen@kscable.com

October 5, 6, 7
KOS Fall meeting at the Great Plains Nature Center.

October 13
Fall Nature Day at Chaplin Nature Center, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Oak Park

As many of you are aware, the City of Wichita is planning a \$4.5 million renovation of Riverside, North Riverside, and Oak Parks. Oak Park is considered by birders to be an important stopover for migrant woodland birds, and certainly the best place in the metropolitan area for seeing them.

The original plans included some very good items like repairing the stream and pond, and restoring the wetland area that originally existed on the west side of the park. But it also included some items that many felt would be detrimental to the birds, like a bicycle path along the east side, "opening up" the undergrowth in the wooded area, and adding a lot of artwork to the wooded area.

The latest word is that the City Parks department has decided that the water features in Oak Park are not important enough to repair any time

soon. They plan to wait for the park improvement plans to go into effect before fixing the pump that feeds the little stream at the north end of the park that is so attractive to birds. This puts repairs two years away at the minimum.

The architects and City Park department will be presenting the final plans at a meeting for the Riverside, Midtown, and Delano Neighborhood Associations. It will be held September 11, 7:00 pm at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1101 N River Boulevard (right across the river from Oak Park).

If you are concerned about the fate of Oak Park, come and find out what is being planned. If you can't make the meeting, you can still express your views to the Park Board. Visit their website at www.wichitagov.org/parks/park-board.asp for names and e-mail addresses, or write to them at city hall.

Extended Field Trip to Big Bend Texas

After a two year absence, the extended field trip is back with an adventure to Big Bend National Park in Texas. It will be April 22-25, 2002, so mark your calendars now.

Big Bend NP is a preserve of 1100 square miles of Chihuahuan Desert and mountains. It has a diversity of plant zones from woodlands to desert scrub, and a list of more than 400 birds. Target species will include Varied Bunting, Crissal Thrasher, Lucifer Hummingbird, Painted Redstart, Zone-Tailed Hawk, Elf Owl, Gray Hawk, Black-capped Vireo, and the Colima Warbler, found nowhere else in the U.S. We probably won't find them all, but the hunt should be a great adventure.

Big Bend is a rough and demanding environment. It may be hot, even as early as April, and finding some of these birds will require long hikes. We will provide less vigorous alternatives for those who don't care for too much exertion, but be warned that this is bound to be a strenuous trip.

If you are interested, sign up at the September meeting or contact Patty Marlett at 942-2164, jmarlett@kscable.com for more information.

We will be staying at the Chisos Mountains Lodge in the park, and reservations go fast for that time of year, so don't procrastinate!



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

House Votes To Open Arctic Refuge To Oil Drilling

On August 1, 2001, the U.S. House of Representatives - backed by the Bush Administration and the politically potent combination of labor and oil business interests -- passed its sweeping energy policy bill, which included a provision to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling. Anti-drilling lawmakers, led by Reps. Edward Markey (D-Massachusetts) and Nancy Johnson (R-Connecticut), fought hard to remove the provision from the bill, sponsoring an amendment that sought to protect

KOS Memories

Many of us received in late May a reminder from Pete Janzen that Wichita was to host the annual fall meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society in October. This brought to memory the first KOS meeting in our fair city of that recently established organization. (KOS was founded in 1948.) The year was 1956, when the Wichita Audubon Society was barely two years old. The actual date was April, for in that era the formal presentation of papers was held in the spring, with the fall meeting confined to birding and field trips. The program that year was held on the Wichita University campus, as was the banquet. The most memorable feature of that Saturday night occasion for me, as well as others (ask Dan Kilby), was the unique tongue whistling of Dr. James Butin of Chanute, who not only rendered his well known series of easily recognized bird imitations, but, with the piano accompaniment of his pianist wife, performed Liszt's rousing Hungarian rhapsody of gypsy

this environmentally sensitive area. Unfortunately, the amendment failed on a vote of 206-222.

Now that the House has completed its work, it's up to the Senate to save the Arctic! It's likely the Senate will begin discussing its energy policy bill when the Senators return to Washington, D.C. in early September. Here's what you can do to help ensure your lawmakers oppose any measure to open the Arctic to oil drilling:

1. CONTACT YOUR SENATORS IMMEDIATELY TO LET THEM KNOW YOU'RE COUNTING ON THEM TO SAVE THE ARCTIC. Use www.protectthearctic.com to instantly identify and send a letter,

melodies. This was the same Dr. Butin who later contributed the century old collection of bird eggs to our Society, now displayed at the Chaplin Nature Center. I write to urge any serious birder in our midst to join KOS and meet with us at the Great Plains Nature Center on October 6.

by Walker Butin

Editor's note: Dr. Walker Butin is a founding member of the Wichita Audubon Society, and served as the first president.

The KOS Meeting will begin with an informal reception on Friday night, October 5, 7:00 pm at the Great Plains Nature Center, sponsored by the Wichita Audubon Society. Saturday will begin with bird walks at Chisholm Creek Park at 6:30 am. Registration begins at 8:00 am, and the presentation of papers starts at 9:00 am. For a complete schedule visit the KOS website at www.ksbirds.org, or call Pete Janzen at 838-0182.

fax or e-mail to your two U.S. Senators free of charge.

2. WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR of your local paper, letting them know how you feel about this issue, and encouraging Senators Roberts and Brownback to oppose drilling in the Arctic, and NOT follow the House lead!

4. ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO GET INVOLVED. The more constituents Senators Roberts and Brownback hear from, the better chance there is they will oppose drilling in the Arctic - so encourage your family and friends to contact them as well!

Fall Nature Day

Shawn and the Chaplin Nature Center committee are busy getting ready for Fall Nature Day, October 13. Your help is needed in the following areas:

⇒ Donated items to sell in the Country Store: baked goods, homegrown produce, homemade foods like jellies, craft items of all sorts, especially if nature or bird related.

⇒ Donated items for the Silent Auction - nature or bird related.

⇒ Donated cakes or pies for lunch.

⇒ Help prepare and/or serve lunch.

⇒ Act as greeter and register visitors.

⇒ Assist with children's crafts.

⇒ Lead nature walks.

If you can help with any of these things please call Shawn at 620-442-4133, e-mail silliman@kcisp.com.

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SUGAR FREE FUDGY BROWNIES

INGREDIENTS

6 Tablespoon margarine
4 ounces unsweetened chocolate
1/3 cup skim milk
1/3 cup apricot preserves with
NutraSweet brand sweetener
or apricot spreadable fruit *
1 egg yolk
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
10 3/4 teaspoon Equal Measure or
36 packages Equal sweetener
or 1 1/2 cups Equal Spoonful
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/8 teaspoon salt
3 egg whites
1/8 teaspoon cream of tartar
1/3 cup coarsely chopped walnuts
(optional)

* Find apricot preserves in the cereal aisle. (If you can't find the apricot use peach preserves.)

DIRECTIONS

Heat margarine, chocolate, milk and preserves in small saucepan, whisking frequently, until chocolate is almost melted.

Remove from heat; whisk in egg yolk and vanilla; mix in combined flour, Equal, baking powder, and salt until smooth.

Beat egg white and cream of tartar to stiff peaks in large bowl. Fold chocolate mixture into egg whites; fold in nuts if desired.

Pour batter into greased 8 inch square baking pan.

Bake in preheated 350* degree F oven until brownies are firm to touch and toothpick comes out clean, 18 to 20 minutes (do not overbake).

Cool on wire rack. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Makes 16 brownies.

Serving size: one brownie

Yield: 16

Exchanges: 1/2 bread, 1 fat

For more sugar free recipes go to www.childrenwithdiabetes.com - click on recipes top left hand column and www.sweetnlow.com.

Thank you for the volunteers who help with making cookies and help serve coffee and punch to our guests. See you in September.

Hospitality Chair Laura Groeneweg