

Wichita Audubon



Volume 42 No. 7 April 2008

APRIL MEETING



Bob Gress, Director of the Great Plains Nature Center and member of Wichita Audubon, will share his photographs from a recent trip to Trinidad and the Asa Wright Sanctuary. It is every birder's dream to see the tropical birds at the Asa Wright Sanctuary, and Bob will take us there with his outstanding pictures. The meeting will be on April 15, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center, 29th and Woodlawn.

You can join Bob for dinner before the program at Jason's Deli in Bradford Fair at 21st and Rock Road at 5:45 p.m.

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

April 5, Saturday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Spring Cleanup

Volunteer to help get CNC in shape with building cleanup or trail maintenance. You can choose heavy or light duty, indoors or out. There is a place you can help out, no matter what your skill.

April 19, Saturday, 1 - 2 p.m.

Stream Ecology

Whether you like playing in the water or have a special place in your heart for things that crawl, wiggle and swim, this is the program for you. Children will enjoy digging through the mud of Spring Creek to get a close-up look at dragonfly nymphs, bloodworms, scuds, and more. The Nature Center will provide collecting gear and holding containers. Wear old clothes and shoes, and be prepared to get muddy!



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

March 29

Harvey County West field trip. Meet at 2 p.m. at the Dillon's store at 21st and Amidon for an expedition to find American Woodcock. Leader: Pete Janzen, 832-0182, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

April 5

Spring Cleanup Day at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

April 15

Regular meeting, "Birds of Trinidad," by Bob Gress, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center

April 18-20

Southwest Oklahoma field trip. For more info call or email Pete Janzen, 832-0182, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

April 19

Stream Ecology program at CNC, 1 - 2 p.m.

May 3

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

May 3

Prairie Wetlands field trip. Meet at the Oxychem parking lot on the east side of S. Ridge Road, south of 55th St. Leaders: Bill & Nancy Beard, 722-3081, w2bnn@cox.net

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. Send your nomination to Dan Kilby, 1220 N. Gow, Wichita 67203, or email ddkilby@prodigy.net

Previous recipients of this award:

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
2005 Sandra Tholen
2006 Kevin Groeneweg
2007 Laura Groeneweg

OAK PARK THANK YOU

Thanks to the people who helped clean up litter in Oak Park on March 9: Rosa and Rob McHenry, Patty Marlett, Kevin Groeneweg, Harry Gregory, and Bev Dugay . It was a very chilly morning - 19 degrees - so we made quick work of it. Fortunately the cold weather we've had all winter has reduced the number of litter bugs.

SLATE OF OFFICERS

The nominating committee for 2008-2009 is being chaired by Catherine Lewis, with help from Sandra Tholen and Rosa McHenry. The slate of officers is:
Vice-President - Jay Newton
Treasurer - Carol Cumberland
Secretary - Patty Marlett
Board of Directors - Mike Heaney

They are seeking one more candidate for the board of directors. The election will be held at the May meeting on May 20.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP

Don't forget to sign up for our extended field trip June 10-13. We'll begin in Duluth, Minnesota, with a visit to the Sax-Zim Bog and other hotspots, then bird our way across Wisconsin to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. If four days aren't enough, you can continue for an extra two days in Michigan observing Kirtland's Warbler, Leaders: Kevin Groeneweg, 687-4268, kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net & Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com

2007-2008 WAS Officers

President	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Vice-president	Jay Newton	733-2486	jmnewtonus@yahoo.com
Secretary	Marsha Ebaugh	683-4782	43042@prodigy.net
Treasurer	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Directors	Ben Rogers	630-0190	brogers7@cox.net
	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
	Dan Kilby	943-5136	ddkilby@prodigy.net
	Curt VanBoening	776-0993	curtvb@earthlink.net
	Duane DeLong	684-7456	dwdelong@earthlink.net
	Catherine Lewis	681-3362	thexchange@cox.net
Committee Chairs			
Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
CNC	TBA		
Programs	Jay Newton	733-2486	jmnewtonus@yahoo.com
Conservation	Ben Rogers	630-0190	brogers7@cox.net
Development	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
Membership	Sister Patricia Stanley	744-2192	pstanley@csjoseph.org
Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	687-4268	lgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Field Trips	Pete Janzen	832-0182	pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net
Finance	Duane DeLong	684-7456	dwdelong@earthlink.net
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, 6739 Perryton, Wichita, KS 67226
pstanley@csjoseph.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Wichita Audubon is going to provide a booth for two events: OK Kids on Saturday, May 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center and the Earth Day celebration at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita on Saturday, April 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Our booth will focus on birds and the International Migratory Bird Day, and will feature a quiz and activities for kids and families. We need help staffing the booth for both these events. If you would be willing to help contact Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com, or Marsha Ebaugh, 683-4782, 43042@prodigy.net.

SUPPORT NEEDED FOR THE CLEAN WATER RESTORATION ACT

The Clean Waters Act of 1972 established goals and regulations governing the streams and waters of the United States. Since then, great progress has been made in removing pollution from our streams and lakes, and increasing the flow of streams. But recent decisions by the Supreme Court and subsequent rulings by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency have put wetlands and intermittent streams at risk from development. These wetlands and streams are vitally important to wildlife. This is especially true in the prairie states like Kansas, where potholes which frequently dry up, provide nesting grounds and staging areas for shorebirds and waterfowl. In addition, here in the Wichita area, such wetlands and streams provide for the replenishment of the Equus beds which supply water to Wichita and the surrounding area.

The Clean Water Restoration Act (HR 2421 and S 1870), if enacted, would return the scope of the protection of the waters of the United States to that originally intended in the Clean Waters act of 1972, and would provide protection to wetlands and intermittent streams currently endangered the narrow Supreme Court decisions. Please contact your senators and representatives and ask them to support these bills. If you wish to read more about the effort to protect these fragile and important environments, you can read more at www.audubon.org/issuesandactions/cleanwater

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, Kevin Groeneweg or Shawn Silliman. If you can't join a team, consider soliciting pledges for one of the teams, or contribute yourself. Any and all assistance is appreciated.

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP



This photo of a Bald Eagle was taken by Chuck Streker near the spillway at John Redmond Reservoir during the Lyon County Lake field trip on February 9. Nine people made a valiant effort for Smith's Longspur but came up empty. There were flocks of Laplands in the area and some near the road provided good looks. Also, there were several large flocks of Snow Geese in the area with a few Ross's in the mix. Got a nice drive-by look at a Prairie Falcon on a gate along the road north of the dam at Melvern. There was a good mix of duck species on the ponds below the dam. There was a large number of gulls at the dam and in the spillway at John Redmond, but no zooties. Lots of Bald Eagles in the area of the spillway, with 12 seen in one location. Although it started out cool, it was a really nice day to be out birding. *by Kevin Groeneweg*



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NEW EXHIBITS AT CNC

Work is progressing on the new exhibits at the Visitor's Center at Chaplin Nature Center. The staff of the Kauffman Museum in North Newton has come up with an elegant and very functional design that is transforming the building into an educational showplace. Our original target for completion has been pushed back to Memorial Day. We are planning a grand opening celebration for this summer. Watch for the announcement.



Kevin Groeneweg and Lennie Silliman dismantle the old CNC displays



Bob Regier, WAS member and part of the Kauffman Museum design team, inspects the new construction.