

Wichita Audubon



Volume 47 No. 5 January/February 2013

JANUARY MEETING



Kevin Groeneweg, Wichita Audubon leader and birder par excellence, will take a look back at the success of our annual extended field trips. Kevin will highlight the great birds and birding moments from some of our recent trips; an annual tradition that has taken us to many of the best birding hotspots in the country. From Arizona to Washington to Minnesota we have covered a lot of territory in just the last few years.

The program will be on Tuesday, January 15, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can join Kevin and other members for dinner at Doc Green's, 10096 E. 13th, in the Waterfront at 5:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Noppadol Paothong is staff photographer at the Missouri Department of Conservation. His program will be "Save the Last Dance - A Story of North American Grassland Grouse." He's spent over a decade documenting these highly endangered birds, making captivating images of the species' mating rituals and habitats. Books will be available for purchase and the author will be signing books after the program. The program will be on Tuesday, February 19, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can join Noppadol and other members for dinner at Doc Green's, 10096 E. 13th in the Waterfront, at 5:30 p.m.



NOTE: PROGRAMS THIS YEAR BEGIN AT 7:00 P.M.

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

January 26 and February 2, Saturday, 10 a.m. - noon.

Eagle Watch

Winter might bring colder temperatures, but it also brings more Bald Eagles to Kansas. Searching for open water and food, many eagles migrate down to Kansas. This is a perfect opportunity to get outdoors and search for our national symbol. We will take a 1.5 mile hike to the Arkansas River. Bring binoculars if you have them. We have a limited number to loan.



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

January 26

Wichita Area field trip. Trip departs at 8 a.m. from the Copper Oven Restaurant at 2409 W 13th in Wichita. Leader: Pete Janzen, 519-1970, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

January 15

Regular meeting, "Wichita Audubon Extended Field Trips - We Get Around!," by Kevin Groeneweg, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center

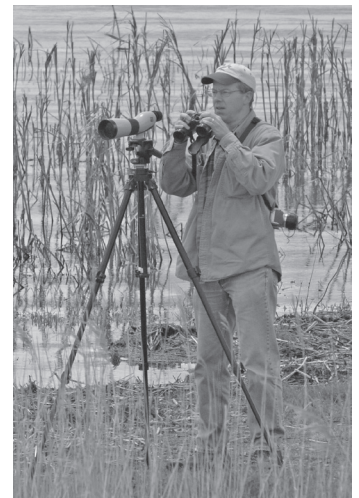
January 26 and

February 2

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Regular meeting, "Save the Last Dance - A Story of North American Grassland Grouse," by Noppadol Paothong, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

This year the nominating committee has a big job. We need to fill all the following positions:

President (2 year term)
Vice-president/Program chair (1 year term)
Treasurer (1 year term)
two Board members (3 year terms)

If you are interesting in serving, or have suggestions about good candidates, please contact Kevin Groeneweg, 706-9116, kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net, or Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com.

We need new blood and fresh ideas, so help us find some enthusiastic officers!

BIRD SEED SALE

Help support Wichita Audubon and Chaplin Nature Center by buying your bird seed from us. We offer high quality seed, delivered to your home (within Wichita City limits.)

Please submit your order by Friday, February 15. The seed will be delivered on Saturday, February 23.

25 lb Songbird Delight Mix - \$13
25 lb Black Oil Sunflower - \$16
25 lb Safflower - \$21

Order by phone, mail or E-mail. Call Carol Cumberland at 685-4867 or carol.cumberland@swbell.net Mail: Wichita Audubon Society, PO Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201.

A big thank you to our volunteers who helped deliver seed for our last sale: Margaret & Richard Wieland, Curt VanBoening, Tom Ewert and Kevin Groeneweg.

2012-2013 WAS Officers

President	Jay Newton	733-2486	jmnewtonus@yahoo.com
Vice-president	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Secretary	Dennice Craig	788-0320	mdcraigster@gmail.com
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	Curt VanBoening	776-0993	curtvb55@yahoo.com
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CNC	Kevin Groeneweg	706-9116	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Conservation	Curt VanBoening	776-0993	curtvb55@yahoo.com
Development	Mike Heaney	733-6458	jeager@southwind.net
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Membership	Sister Patricia Stanley	744-2192	pstanley@csjoseph.org
Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
Programs	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaaudubon.org

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E-mail any officer: was@wichitaaudubon.org

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



BACKYARD BIRD FAQ'S

Here are the answers to some common questions about birds and wildlife in the backyard.

I have a bird banging against my window. How do I make it stop?

This scenario is surprisingly common and is almost always perpetrated by male Northern Cardinals, American Robins, and Mockingbirds. The concentration of hormones in male birds increases dramatically during breeding season which can cause a ferocious defense of their territory. Certain species seem more prone to being “fooled” by their reflection in windows, thinking it is a rival in their territory.

The solution is to eliminate the reflective properties of glass by covering the window from the outside. Anything attached to the inside of the window may reduce reflectivity, but not eliminate it. You may have to cover the window for a period of time, perhaps a week or more. Attaching white paper to the entire outer surface of the window will allow for light to enter while eliminating reflection. Try stringing balloons, old CDs, or strips of shiny material to the outer window surface. If the bird is still persistent, you may have to attach fine netting across your windows to at least stop them from banging into the glass.

Don't birds freeze in the winter when they take baths?

While it would seem that winter bathing would put birds at risk, actually they can do it quite safely. This is because the feathers of a healthy bird shed most of the water, preventing it from leaking through to the insulating down and skin below. This is most obvious in ducks which paddle about in freezing water, but it also applies to land birds who can shed and shake water from their plumage. The water helps them clean their feathers of dirt that would otherwise interfere with the feather barbules that act like Velcro to lock out water from penetrating. In nature, wintering land birds typically bathe in shallow water along flowing streams. Of course no chemicals should be added to bird bath water to keep it from freezing.

When is it safe to remove nests around buildings?

Most songbirds only use a nest once, and are genetically programmed to build a new one before they lay eggs. Once young have fledged (or left the nest), you can remove a nest and clean the site. Some species of songbirds will nest two or three times from spring to early fall, so by cleaning the desired nesting sites or boxes you are enhancing the likelihood of nests around your property. Never remove an active nest that has eggs or young, as they are protected by federal law. The exception is nests of House (English) Sparrows, Starlings and Pigeons which are not native to North America.

Can feeders or bird baths make birds sick?

Bringing birds together like we do at feeders and bird baths is unnatural, and increases the chances for them to spread disease, or for waste to accumulate and breed diseases. By spreading out feeders and providing several sources of water in different parts of the yard, you not only decrease the concentration of disease and wastes, but the reduced competition is less stressful on the birds. It is also critically important to clean feeders and bird baths regularly to not only remove old seed and bird waste, but to also disinfect them with a weak bleach solution.

Is peanut butter or uncooked rice harmful to birds?

Peanut butter, by itself, is not harmful to birds. Some people dilute it with birdseed or cornmeal to reduce its stickiness, but that is not necessary. Uncooked rice is also not harmful. Uncooked grains are a staple for the diet of species of many birds, so throwing rice at weddings is not going to harm any birds.

Will birds' feet stick to metal perches in winter?

A bird's feet sticking to a perch is an extremely rare event. Birds do not have sweat glands on their feet, so they do not have the problem that people would have putting a wet finger or tongue on a freezing cold metal object. The only way a bird's feet would stick is if they were standing on a perch during freezing rain, and the rain froze around their feet. In the remote chance that happens, pouring cool or lukewarm water on their feet is the best way to thaw the ice.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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:

e-mail:

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