

# Wichita Audubon

Volume 41 No. 1 July 2006



## JULY PICNIC

Everyone is invited, including family and friends, for our annual picnic. This is an indoor, air conditioned picnic so everyone can stay comfortable. We'll meet on Tuesday, July 18, at 6:00 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. Bring a covered dish or dessert to share and your own service. We will provide iced tea, or you can bring your own beverage.

After dinner we will watch the movie "March of the Penguins" in the auditorium. This box office hit shows the amazing life story of the Emperor penguins of Antarctica. Bring the whole family for good food and a good time

## KEVIN GROENEWEG HONORED



Our Meritorious Service Award winner for 2006 is Kevin Groeneweg. The presentation was made at the May meeting by Award Committee chair Dan Kilby. Kevin's many contributions to our organization include serving as membership chair, vice-president and program chair, president from 2003 - 2005, and field trip leader extraordinaire. He currently serves as a board member and

chairman of the Chaplin Nature Center committee. His service certainly has been and continues to be meritorious

## CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### **July 15, Saturday, 8:30 a.m.**

Join us for our first ever Butterfly Count. The great variety of wild habitats in the Arkansas City area should provide us with lots of different species. See the article on page 2 for more information.

### **August 15, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - noon Dragonfly Walk & Talk**

Spend the morning learning about dragonflies and damselflies - neat and interesting insects that have been flying in Kansas since the Permian era.

*Continued on page 2*



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

### **June 27**

Butterfly ID workshop. 7 p.m.  
Great Plains Nature Center - see page 2 for more information

### **July 15**

Butterfly count at Chaplin Nature Center. See page 2.

### **July 18**

Annual picnic, 6 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

### **August 15**

Dragonfly Walk & Talk with Roy Beckemeyer, Chaplin Nature Center, 9:30 a.m. - noon.

### **August 19**

Star Program at Chaplin Nature Center, 8:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

## CNC Upcoming Events, continued

He has published both general and technical papers about dragonflies, and is the author of Kansas School Naturalist issues on dragonflies, damselflies and the fossil insects of Elmo, Kansas.

**August 19, Saturday, 8:30 - 10 p.m.**

### Star Program

Join the Kansas Astronomical Observers at Chaplin Nature Center for a night under the stars. Learn about the planets, constellations, and heavenly bodies. Participants are welcome to bring their own telescopes and binoculars or enjoy the instruments brought by the KAO members. Lawn chairs and blankets are useful tools, too.



*The Kansas Astronomical Observers at Chaplin Nature Center*

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## BUTTERFLY COUNT

July isn't a great month for watching birds, but it is great for watching butterflies. We're going to hold a Butterfly Count at Chaplin Nature Center on Saturday, July 15.

And to help us prepare for it, Jim Mason, a naturalist at the Great Plains Nature Center, is going to give us a workshop on butterfly identification. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, June 27, 7 p.m., at the Great Plains Nature Center. Bring close focus binoculars if you have them.

For more information about the workshop call Patty Marlett or Jim Mason at GPNC, 316-683-5499.

The count will be conducted just like a Christmas Bird Count, identifying species and counting the number of individuals seen in a circle fifteen miles across. We will use the same circle that we use for the Arkansas City Christmas Bird Count. Results will be reported to the North American Butterfly Association.

Meet on July 15, 8:30 a.m. at the Chaplin Nature Center Visitor's Center for the count. People living in Arkansas City can also help by counting the butterflies they see in their gardens. For instructions on garden counting, or more information about the butterfly count, call Shawn Silliman, 620-442-4133 or cnc@wichitaudubon.org.

You are welcome to participate even if you can only spend part of the day with us, so please join us and enjoy other kinds of flying creatures.

## **BIRDATHON**

Birdathon is a fund-raising activity that is also a lot of fun. A Birdathon team solicits pledges from friends, neighbors and coworkers for the number of bird species they can find in a 24 hour period. This year we had two teams that have earned The Painted Bunting team (Patty Marlett, Carol Cumberland, and Marsha Ebaugh) chose April 29 for their Birdathon.

Beginning at Chisholm Creek Park, they traveled around the city to a Yellow-crowned Night Heron rookery in southeast Wichita, Oak Park and Maple Grove Cemetery. There were good numbers of sparrows, including Harris', Clay-colored, Chipping, Lincoln and White-crowned. Paul Griffin provided some help in Oak Park, pointing out the friendly Screech Owl and the Cooper's Hawk nest. At Maple Grove there were Swainson's Thrushes, Nashville Warbler and Field Sparrows. Then they headed for Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, where there was lots of water, but not much shorebird habitat. The number of individuals was low, but they saw and heard Virginia Rails, King Rails and Soras, along with many ducks and shorebirds. There was a big flock of a hundred or more Avocets.

The day ended with a quick swing around Cheyenne Bottoms, which was very, very dry. But the Burrowing Owls were back at the prairie dog town, and a pair of Say's Phoebes put in an appearance. They ended the day with a total of 139 species.

The Chaplin Nature Center team consisted of Shawn Silliman, Kevin Groeneweg, Dwight Schoup, Gene Young, Norman Smith and Rex Herndon. They birded from 3 p.m. on Friday, May 12 until 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 13. Their timing was perfect - with excellent weather immediately following heavy rain so that there was quite a fallout of migrant birds.

Right away they found a field with hundreds of migrating Bobolinks. Slate Creek Marsh was brimming with birds, including Hudsonian Godwit, Tricolored Heron, and Red-necked Phalarope. They continued after dark to find Virginia Rail, King Rails and Soras. Then they went owling and got Screech, Great-horned and Barred Owls.

The next morning they found booming Prairie Chickens, then headed for the Kaw Wildlife area for warblers, including Northern Parula, Prothonotary and Black-and-White. They also located a pair of adult Bald Eagles at the confluence of the Arkansas River and Grouse Creek. They ended with an astounding 162 species.

A big THANK YOU to all our sponsors and supporters who helped us raise money for Chaplin Nature Center..

**162 Species is a new record for Birdathon, and will be a tough one to break in the future!**

## **NEW OFFICERS**

The following people were elected to offices at our annual meeting in May:

Secretary: Marsha Ebaugh

Treasurer: Sandra Tholen

Director (1 year term): Dan Kilby

Director (3 year term): Jay Newton

Director (3 year term): Duane

DeLong

The office of president has a two year term, so Patty Marlett has one more year of her term to serve.

Thanks to the nominating committee of Carol Cumberland, Sister Patricia Stanley, and Harry Gregory for their hard work. We are still searching for a candidate to fill the position of Vice-President. Please let us know if you have suggestions or are willing to serve.

## **OAK PARK UPDATE**

Wichita Audubon has been part of an Oak Park task force working to improve conditions in the park. Task force members include representatives from the three neighborhood associations that are close to the park, the Air Capital Frisbee Golf Association, the Oz Bicycle Club, the Wichita Park Department, and WAS. Concerns include erosion, individuals cutting brush and trees in the park, and litter. Bicycles have been banned from the unpaved paths. The group created a flyer explaining the laws and urging people to respect the wildlife habitat. It was distributed to people in the park on June 11. The park department is working to block eroded trails. We will continue to work to save the park for wildlife.

  
Wichita Audubon Society  
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