

# Audubon

Vol. 54 No. 8

July/August 2015

**July 11**

*Butterfly Count at Chaplin Nature Center,  
8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. See page 4.*



**July 21**

*Picnic at the Great Plains Nature Center,  
6 p.m.*



**Come visit Chaplin Nature Center  
this summer. It belongs to you!**



## July Picnic

Join us on Tuesday, July 21, 6 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center for an air-conditioned picnic. Bring a dish to share and your own service. Drinks will be provided. After the meal we'll have a short program in the auditorium. It's always fun to have extra time to visit and share a meal, so come and enjoy an evening with friends.



## CNC Receives Grant

Chaplin Nature Center has received a grant for \$2,350 from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation of New York. The money will be applied to the purchase of a John Deere tractor for the center.



## Thanks For Your Service!

Thanks to outgoing board members Carol Cumberland, President; Em Capoun, director, for their service and commitment to the Wichita Audubon Society Board. We appreciate their guidance in making Wichita Audubon a leader in nature education and conservation, as well as a lot of fun. This marks Carol's third term as president - a big thank you for her exceptional commitment.

# Renewal Reminder

Check the mailing label on this newsletter for your membership expiration date, and don't forget to renew! There are two way you can become a member - if you join the National Audubon Society, you automatically become a member of the Wichita Audubon Society, or you can join as a member of Wichita Audubon only.

## TO JOIN THE WICHITA AUDUBON SOCIETY ONLY

Individual membership - \$20

Family membership - \$25

Student membership (18 & under) - \$10

You will receive 8 issues of the Wichita Audubon newsletter, but not Audubon Magazine. All your dues support your local chapter. Make your check payable to the Wichita Audubon Society and mail to PO Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201. Don't forget that you can now pay online - just go to <http://www.wichitaudubon.org/Membership.html>

Let us know if you want to continue to receive a newsletter in the mail, or if you would prefer an electronic version by email.

### 2015-2016 WAS Officers

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### Committee Chairs

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[www.wichitaudubon.org](http://www.wichitaudubon.org)

Send address changes to Tom Ewert, 1021 N. Lakewind, Wichita, KS 67212, [trewert@yahoo.com](mailto:trewert@yahoo.com)

# Auction Thanks!

The silent auction held at the May meeting brought in \$614! Thanks to our generous donors who made it all possible:

Nancy Beard

Pat & Walker Butin

Carol & Hal Cumberland

Patricia Gateley

Case De Groot

Marlene Hayes

Julia Hoppes

Jane Icke

Dan Kilby

Dale Roark

Sandra Tholen

Steve Ukena

Louise Wherry

We couldn't do it without you!

# Dillon's Community Rewards

The Dillon's Community Rewards program will donate 5% of everything you spend on groceries to the charity of your choice. Please make it Wichita Audubon!

If you haven't signed up yet, it is very easy and costs you nothing.

Go to <https://www.dillons.com/communityrewards>

Sign in or create an account to enroll  
Click on "Enroll Now"

Enter the 5-digit NPO 76181

Select Wichita Audubon and click on "Enroll"

If you have questions about the process, you can call 1-866-221-4141

# Helping Bluebirds at Chaplin Nature Center

Kohl's Department Stores volunteers were at the Chaplin Nature Center Saturday May 30th to install bluebird houses in the prairie. The Eastern Bluebird population fell in the early twentieth century because introduced species such as starlings and house sparrows out-competed them for nesting cavities. The establishment of Bluebird Trails and Nest Box Campaigns alleviates much of the competitions, and bluebird numbers have been on the increase. "Despite the ankle deep water and mud, a team of Kohl's Associates from Derby managed to get all of the houses installed," stated Shawn Silliman, Manager of the Center.

A grant from the Family Campers and RVer's Wildlife Refuge Program paid for the materials to build the houses which were assembled by volunteers from their organization. The Kohl's Cares Associates in Action Program and the Corporate Go Green Program also allows the Center to receive a \$1,500.00 grant. Silliman states that "this has been a win-win project. We get to help the bluebird population and the Center receives a grant that helps support our youth-education programs."



*Family Campers and RVer's volunteers assembling the Bluebird nest boxes*



*Kohl's volunteers braving the swamp-like conditions to install the boxes*

## 2015 Birdathon By the Numbers

\$4,109.80 in donations

61 Sponsors

3 corporate sponsors-Quetzel Tours, Fort Collins, CO, Galaxy Business Equipment, Winfield, and Taylor Drugs, Arkansas City.

14 participants including two elementary students

3 Bird-a-thon Teams

One new team this year

Teams Painted Buntings, Western Grebes and The Ark City Birders wish to thank all our supporters. The Ark City birders team consisted of Rex Herndon, Dwight Shoup, Gene Young, Kevin Groeneweg and two 5th graders: Maddux Gonzales & Mayson Broce from Roosevelt Elementary School. Despite the rain and dodging storms, the team had a great year with 148 species, five more than the previous year. They covered ground from Slate Creek Marsh to Camp Horizon and down into Oklahoma to the Kaw Dam, with species ranging from Common Loon to Acadian Flycatcher.

The Painted Buntings, Carol Cumberland, Susan Hammer, Patty Marlett, Dennice Craig, and Ann Woods, had a challenging day due to serious wind, but ended with 127 species. They began the day at the Derby boat launch for the obligatory Painted Bunting, visited various sites in Wichita including Oak Park, and then traveled to Quivira NWR and Cheyenne Bottoms.

The Western Grebes were Jeff Calhoun and Tom Ewert. They birded Ford County (around Dodge City) on a cold and blustery day for a total of 112 species. They managed to find a new Ford County record (Whimbrel) and other rather unusual western birds like Blackpoll Warbler and Forster's Tern.

Wichita Audubon has raised more than \$41,400 in the last 10 years with Birdathon. If you would like to support, participate or be a corporate sponsor for next year, please contact Carol Cumberland 316-685-4867.

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# Chaplin Nature Center Programs

*Saturday, July 11, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Butterfly Count*

Help count and identify butterflies as part of a North American Butterfly Association official count. This one-day survey will count all the butterflies seen in a 15 mile diameter area. Anyone interested in butterflies is welcome to participate. More experienced counters will be teamed up with novices, so everyone is welcome to help. For more information call the center at 620-442-4133.

Meet at the visitor's center at 8:30 a.m.



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.

