

# Wichita Audubon



Volume 42 No. 8 May 2008

## MAY MEETING



Our May program will be presented by Ron Day. Ron will show us the birds of Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in southern New Mexico. He will share his images of Sandhill Cranes, geese, ducks, and other birds of this beautiful region. Ron Day is a wildlife photographer who began photographing the natural world over twenty years ago. His photographs have been

published nationwide in magazines such as Nature Photographer, Nature's Best, Wild Bird, Equus, Boating Life, Peterson's PhotoGraphic, and Birder's World Online. Over the past decade, Outdoor Oklahoma has selected more than 25 of Ron's images for publication in the magazine's annual 'Photography Showcase'. Ron was a finalist in National Wildlife's 2005 Photography Competition, and two of his photographs have been featured on National Wildlife's website. To view a sample of Ron's work visit his website at [www.rondayphotography.com](http://www.rondayphotography.com). The meeting will be on May 20, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center, 29th and Woodlawn. You can join Ron 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

**June 28, Saturday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

### **Chaplin Nature Center Open House & Exhibit Grand Opening**

After more than two years of planning, design and construction the new exhibits in the visitor's center at Chaplin Nature Center are complete and we are ready to show them off. It has been a labor of love for Shawn, the Chaplin Nature Center committee, and the Kauffman Museum design team. There will be a short dedication ceremony at 10 a.m., followed by an open house. There will be refreshments and some live animals to add to the fun. We want everyone to come see this stunning new addition to our nature center.



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

### **May 3**

Warbler Walk at Oak Park. Meet by the north pond at 8 a.m. Leader: Paul Griffin, 263-1251, [pgriffin1@cox.net](mailto: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 S. Leaders: Bill & Nancy Beard, 722-3081, [w2bnn@cox.net](mailto:w2bnn@cox.net)

### **May 10**

Mystery Tour field trip. Meet at the Village Inn on Rock Rd in Derby 7:30 a.m. Leader: Leon Hicks, 777-0404, [chicks12@cox.net](mailto:chicks12@cox.net)

### **May 18**

Quivira/Cheyenne Bottoms field trip. Meet at Quivira headquarters at 8 a.m. Leader: Patty Marlett, 942-2164, [pmarlett@cox.net](mailto:pmarlett@cox.net)

### **May 20**

Regular meeting, "Birds of Bosque del Apache," by Ron Day, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center

### **June 10-13**

Extended Field trip to the north woods. Leaders: Patty Marlett & Kevin Groeneweg.

### **June 28**

Exhibit dedication & Open House at CNC, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

## **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, Bob Gress.

The election will be held at the May meeting, and their term of office begins July 1.

## **EXTENDED FIELD TRIP**

Plans are almost complete for our extended field trip June 10-13. We'll begin with 2 days in Duluth, Minnesota, with a visit to the Sax-Zim Bog looking for Great Gray Owl, Black-backed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Golden-winged Warbler, Connecticut Warbler and Mourning Warbler, Rabey tree farm for Cape May Warbler and Rice Lake NWR for Black-throated Blue Warbler and Gray Jay. We will bird the northern tier of counties in Wisconsin trying to round out our warbler list. We will overnight in L'Anse, MI.

Our first stop in Michigan will be the Baraga Plains, which contains a variety of habitats including extensive boreal coniferous forests, Jack Pine, many lakes and streams. Here we will search for boreal species such as Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee.

We will then travel east to the Michigamme Area, with stops at Van Riper State Park and a drive along Peshekee Grade in Michigan's prime boreal habitat containing a variety of resident warblers and others. We will spend the night in Munising, touring the Kingston Plains and Pictured Rocks National Seashore. Then we will head to Seney National Wildlife Refuge, with extensive bogs, swamps, marshes, grasslands, pine savannah and mixed forests. Here we will find waterfowl, including Trumpeter Swans and Common Loons, as well as other birds of the marsh.

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
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Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	687-4268	lgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
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Finance	Duane DeLong	684-7456	dwdelong@earthlink.net
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaudubon.org

### **WWW.WICHITAAUDUBON.ORG**

E-mail any officer: was@wichitaudubon.org

Send address changes to Sister Patricia Stanley, 6739 Perryton, Wichita, KS 67226  
pstanley@csjoseph.org

## **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.

## **CONSERVATION NEWS FROM AUDUBON**

### **U.S. Waives Environmental Laws On Border Fence; Audubon's Own Sabal Palm Sanctuary Threatened**

On April 1, the Department of Homeland Security announced it was by passing dozens of environmental and land-management laws in order to build hundreds of miles of border fence between the United States and Mexico.

Audubon and other conservation groups have said the current design amounts to an impenetrable concrete wall that would prevent wildlife from migrating and fragment habitat. Among the 30-some laws being waived are the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. Audubon President John Flicker called the action “unprecedented and extreme.”

Unfortunately, in addition to the implications of the border fence for wildlife and environmental law, Audubon's own Sabal Palm Audubon Center and Sanctuary in Brownsville, Texas may find itself entirely on the Mexico side of the fence. The Department of Homeland Security is currently considering plans to erect the border fence just north of the sanctuary, effectively trimming it from the rest of the country and probably forcing its closure. The situation inspired the New York Times on April 7 to call Audubon's sanctuary “a natural treasure that may end up without a country.”

National Audubon Society and Audubon Texas are working tirelessly to try to stop the border fence and save Sabal Palm Sanctuary. Stay tuned to learn what you can do to help.

### **Climate Change Legislation on the Horizon**

Last December, the Senate Environment & Public Works (EPW) Committee passed the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act (S 2191), a bill that seeks to reduce U.S. global warming pollution by regulating major polluters such as coal burning power plants and oil refineries. The bill establishes a national cap and trade system that places a limit on pollution emissions that steadily decrease over time. As written, the bill would reduce emissions by roughly 62-66% by 2050.

In creating a cap-and-trade system, the bill establishes a market for carbon emissions that

will spur innovation and increase the use of clean technologies that reduce global warming pollution. Emission allowances, or permits to pollute, are either auctioned or distributed directly to various entities on an annual basis. The proceeds from these allowances, estimated to be as much as \$100 billion per year, will be used to cut costs through energy efficiency, promote new low-carbon technologies, provide assistance to consumers and impacted people around the world, and provide funding to protect wildlife and natural resources threatened by global warming.

Since passing out of the EPW Committee, Senate leaders have been laying the groundwork to bring the bill to the floor for a full debate. Recently, Senate leadership indicated that the bill will likely come up for a vote in early June.

The Lieberman-Warner bill is a significant step forward, and presents the first real opportunity for Congress to take strong and bold action aimed at solving global warming. However, the bill could be stronger. In the coming months, Audubon will be working to build support in the Senate for not only moving forward with a debate on the Lieberman-Warner bill, but also for strengthening the bill. Specifically, Audubon will be working to tighten up the long-term 2050 target for emissions reduction, increasing assistance for consumers, reducing assistance for polluting companies, and ensuring that the cleanest, cheapest, and safest technologies receive the greatest amount of financial investments.

### **Hearings on Clean Water Restoration Act**

On April 9, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works held a hearing on the Clean Water Restoration Act (CWRA) (S 1870), a legislative fix to the jurisdictional confusion caused by several Supreme Court cases in recent years over what waters are covered by the Clean Water Act. Carol Browner, former Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Chair of Audubon's Board of Directors, was the star witness. The House will hold a hearing next week on the Clean Water Restoration Act (HR 2421), which is expected to last all day and into the night. Climate change and associated impacts to aquatic ecosystems and water resources make future protection of our nation's waters vital.

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## **UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS**

May is an excellent month to join us on a field trip, and there are many to choose from.

On Saturday, May 3, there is a double offering. First is the Warbler Walk in Oak Park, at 8 a.m. We will meet by the north pond. The park is full of migrants at this time of year - and frequently there are species that are only rarely seen in our area. The leader is Paul Griffin, who spends almost every spare minute in Oak Park video taping and observing birds, and who will know just where to find those rarities.

The second offering on May 3 is to the Prairie Wetlands Conservation Area. Originally a project of Vulcan Chemical Company, it is now being continued by Oxychem. With a good amount of moisture this winter and spring conditions should be really good for both waterfowl and shorebirds. The leader is Bill Beard, who is retired from Vulcan and observes this wetland regularly. Meet at 1 p.m. in the Oxychem parking lot on the east side of Ridge Road, south of 55th Street South, between the two buildings.

On Saturday, May 10, we are going to explore the area around Mulvane and Belle Plaine. This trip includes breakfast, so we are meeting at the Village Inn on Rock Road in Derby, with a planned departure at 8 a.m. (if you plan to eat come earlier.) The leader is Leon Hicks, a longtime resident of Mulvane who has explored these areas thoroughly.

And finally we have our annual spring pilgrimage to Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and Cheyenne Bottoms on **Sunday**, May 18. We will meet at the Quivira NWR Headquarters at 8 a.m. for an all day exploration of these two internationally recognized wetlands. From Bobolinks to Black-necked stilts there is always an amazing variety of birds, and many that you won't see anywhere else. We almost always find something unusual, too. Bring lunch and snacks. The leader is Patty Marlett.