

Audubon

Vol. 56 No. 8

May/June 2017

May 6

Warbler Walk in Oak Park
Search for migrants at one of Wichita's finest migrant traps. Meet by the pond at the north end of the park at 9 a.m.

Leader: Paul Griffin, 263-1251,
pgriffin1@cox.net

**May 13**

Second Saturday Bird Walk in Chisholm Creek Park. Meet in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 8 a.m. Questions?:

Pete Janzen, 519-1970,
pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

May 16

Monthly program, "Ongoing Avian Conservation Efforts in the Marianas Islands," by Scott Newland, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. Join us for dinner with Scott before the program at Panera Bread, 1605 N. Rock Road, at 5:30 p.m.

Page 1**June 2, repeated on June 3**

Twilight Kayak Float at Chaplin Nature Center

Page 4

May Meeting

Our May program will be presented by Scott Newland, Curator of Birds at the Sedgwick County Zoo. He will tell us about ongoing bird conservation efforts in the Marianas Islands in the South Pacific. Scott has been an active member of Pacific Bird Conservations (PBC) Marianas Avifauna Conservation (MAC) project since 2006. He travels to the Marianas Islands annually for translocation and population surveys. Named Field Chief of PBC's efforts in 2014, Scott is responsible for a team of 15+ zoo professionals that capture birds for translocation. In addition, Scott is the Species Survival Plan Coordinator for both Guam Kingfisher and Guam Rail, and works closely with USFWS on the re-introduction programs for both species in the Marianas.



Scott Newland

Scott has worked at the Sedgwick County Zoo since 2000. He graduated from Fort Hays State University in 1998 with a Bachelors in Animal Management and again in 2002 with a Masters in Biology. In 2000, Scott began an internship at Sedgwick County Zoo that turned into a zookeeper job with the Bird Department. He was promoted to Bird Supervisor in 2002, and again to Curator of Birds in 2012.

The presentation will be on Tuesday, May 16, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can also join us for dinner at Panera Bread, 1605 N Rock Rd, at 5:30 p.m.

Slate of Officers

Our May meeting is also the annual meeting for our corporation and includes the election of officers for the next year. The nominating committee of Anne Woods, Carol Cumberland and Bob Gress have presented the following slate of officers:

- President: Tom Ewert
- Vice-president: Jim Marlett
- Treasurer: Kevin Groeneweg
- Secretary: Rachel Roth
- Board of directors (3 year term): Dan Householder and Travis Ross (1 year term): Gregg Friesen

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. The new officers will begin their term of office in July.

A big thank you to our outgoing officers for their service: Anne Woods, secretary, and Susan Hammer, director.

Thank You

Despite the cool wet weather thirty volunteers showed up for the Chaplin Nature Center Spring Cleanup on April 1. Thank you to Patty Marlett, Karl Herold, Harry Gregory, Kevin Groeneweg, Miranda Veasart, Michael Veasart, Bill Gress, Rex Herndon, the Case family, and twenty students from Cowley County Community College.



Thanks also to the dedicated workers who helped remove invasive Asian Honeysuckle from Oak Park on March 25: Ernie Misek, Tom Ewert, Kevin Groeneweg, Pete Janzen, and Bill Langley.

2016-2017 WAS Officers

President	Gregg Friesen		friesen_fenton@yahoo.com
Vice-president	Jim Marlett	942-2164	jmarlett@cox.net
Secretary	Anne Woods	688-1889	amwoods624@aol.com
Treasurer	Kevin Groeneweg	706-9116	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Directors	Bill Langley	889-5434	1943blangley@gmail.com
	Atcha Nolan	323-4921	qanolan@cox.net
	Susan Hammer	788-1472	susan.e.hammer@gmail.com
	Travis Ross	706-7813	rosstravis@yahoo.com
	Tom Ewert	670-3140	trewert@yahoo.com
	Karl Herold	655-2389	kjherold2@gmail.com
Committee Chairs			
AOK Rep	Tom Ewert	670-3140	trewert@yahoo.com
Conservation	Anne Woods	688-1889	amwoods624@aol.com
CNC	Travis Ross	706-7813	rosstravis@yahoo.com
Field trips	Cheryl Miller		avian67226@gmail.com
Hospitality	Sarah Blackmon	264-4408	
Membership	Tom Ewert	670-3140	trewert@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
Programs	Jim Marlett	942-2164	jmarlett@cox.net
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaudubon.org

www.wichitaudubon.org

Send address changes to Tom Ewert, 5829 N Legion St, Wichita, KS 67204, trewert@yahoo.com

In Memoriam

We recently lost two long-time members – Nancy Beard and Duane DeLong. Nancy and her husband Bill were active in all our activities and faithfully attended field trips, including several extended trips. Duane DeLong was also along for many field trips. He was our treasurer and finance chair for many years. He kept our Endowment Fund healthy through the years of recession and kept all our financial records until the last couple of years. He was the recipient of the 2008 Meritorious Service Award. Nancy and Duane will both be missed.

Feral Cats

While clearing invasive bush honeysuckle from Oak Park on March 25, members of Wichita Audubon uncovered a feral cat shelter and feeding station within the park. The feeding station was fairly obvious, consisting of patio blocks upon which a bowl was placed. However, the shelter was well camouflaged within the dense honeysuckle. It consisted of two Rubbermaid totes connected together with a tube to form two chambers which were insulated with Styrofoam. The whole thing was covered with camo netting to conceal it from the general public and from the city, which has not authorized this activity. The shelter was removed and taken away by a city employee.



Feral cat feeding station



Feral cat shelter

As an owner of three indoor cats (if one can say they truly own cats), the plight of feral cats is concerning. However, as an avid birder I am also aware of the plight of birds and other native wildlife. In a recent, well-documented study it was shown that domestic cats kill between 1.4 and 3.7 billion birds and 6.9 to 20.7 billion mammals annually, with feral (unowned) cats causing the majority of this mortality. Another study shows that 96% of the visits to feeding stations were by other wildlife, such as skunks and raccoons. Competition among wildlife and among feral cats promotes the spread of disease and parasites. Further, additional studies have shown that efforts to reduce feral cat populations through trap, neuter and release (TNR) are largely ineffective. Feral cats, including those neutered via TNR, do not receive proper vaccinations or veterinary care.

Well-intentioned people who support supplemental feeding, shelter and TNR programs may think that they are improving the lives of feral cats, but at best are prolonging their suffering by these ineffective means. They also ignore the huge toll that feral cats take on native wildlife. We must deal with the issue of feral cats in a more humane manner. Oak Park is well known as a birding hotspot, particularly during spring migration, as are our other wildlife parks in the city. With all of the threats that native birds and other wildlife face in our modern society, the needless mortality caused by feral cats is unacceptable. We must not allow shelter and feeding in city parks.

The Animal Services Advisory Board is seeking input from the community on the issue of feral cats. Please take their survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NWFPDN8>.

Kevin Groeneweg

Meritorious Service Award

Sarah Blackmon was honored with the 2017 Meritorious Service Award at our April Meeting. Sarah has served as our Hospitality Chair since 2012. Every month we are dazzled by the array of treats she provides. Her refreshment tables have become legendary. The award recognized all her hard work. Congratulations Sarah, and thank you!



Gregg Friesen presents the Meritorious Service Award to Sarah Blackmon

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Chaplin Nature Center Programs

*June 2, Friday, & repeated on June 3, Saturday, 7 - 9:30 p.m.
Twilight Kayak Float*

Enjoy a relaxing float down the Arkansas River as the sun sets on the water. The center will provide life jackets, kayaks and paddles. Participants should bring a complete change of clothes, including shoes, small flashlight and be prepared to get wet and muddy. To make a reservation, call the center. Cost is \$20.00 per person. All proceeds help support the Chaplin Nature Center.



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.