

Wichita Audubon



Volume 45 No. 1 July/August 2010

SHAWN SILLIMAN HONORED



Dan Kilby presents the Meritorious Service Award to Shawn Silliman.

Shawn Silliman is the recipient of the 2010 Meritorious Service Award, presented at the May meeting. Shawn had been our naturalist and manager of Chaplin Nature Center since 1997. He has presented hundreds of nature education programs to thousands of children and adults. At the same time he has very ably maintained the property and dealt with floods, ice storms, hail and power outages. He is a member of the board of directors of the Arkansas City Chamber of Commerce and has worked hard to make Chaplin Nature Center a part of

the community. His leadership and dedication have done much to advance our mission. He represents us well. Congratulations, Shawn!

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 20, 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 "White Flacon, White Wolf," a PBS Nature video, plus we'll have a musical surprise from one of our members. Bring the whole family for good food and a good time.

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

July 10, Saturday, 8:30 a.m.

Fourth Annual Butterfly Count - see page 2



COMING EVENTS

July 10

4th annual Butterfly Count at the Chaplin Nature Center. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the CNC Visitor's Center. See page 2.

July 20

Annual picnic, 6:00 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

September 25

Fall Nature Day at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., featuring hikes, Monarch butterfly tagging, food, crafts and more.



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.

NEW OFFICERS

The following people were elected to serve as officers of Wichita Audubon for 2010-2011:

Vice-President - Carol Cumberland
Treasurer - Sharon Dilks
Secretary - Patty Marlett

Board of Directors -
Curt VanBoening
Larry Londagin

Sandra Tholen will continue as president for the remainder of her two year term. Please thank all of these people for their willingness to give their time and talents to our organization, and to Nathan Ofsthun and Catherine Lewis, who are leaving the board.

EARTH DAY

Wichita Audubon had a booth at the Boeing Earth Day event at the Sedgwick County Zoo on April 22. Kids were invited to compare their size with the wingspan of birds, and we had a quiz about threatened and endangered birds. We had to scramble a little to deal with the rain, but everything went



smoothly and we talked to hundreds of kids. Thanks to the volunteers who helped: Sandra Tholen, Sharon Dilks, Sharon Scheffler, Patty Marlett and Kevin Groeneweg.

2010-2011 WAS Officers

President	Sandra Tholen	634-0049	stholen@cox.net
Vice-president	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Secretary	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
Treasurer	Sharon Dilks	722-6927	johndilks@aol.com
Directors	Jeff Calhoun	737-1307	jecalhoun@wichita.edu
	Bob Gress	838-4130	bobgress@cox.net
	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
	Mike Heaney	733-6458	jeager@southwind.net
	Larry Londagin	729-9984	llondagin@cox.net
	Curt VanBoening	776-0993	curtvb@earthlink.net

Committee Chairs

Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
CNC	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Programs	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Development	Mike Heaney	733-6458	jeager@southwind.net
Membership	Sister Patricia Stanley	744-2192	pstanley@csjoseph.org
Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	687-4268	lgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Field Trips	Jeff Calhoun	737-1307	jecalhoun@wichita.edu
Finance	Duane DeLong	684-7456	duane.delong669@gmail.com
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaudubon.org

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E-mail any officer: was@wichitaudubon.org

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

BUTTERFLY COUNT

We're going to hold a Butterfly Count at Chaplin Nature Center that will be conducted just like a Christmas Bird Count, identifying species and counting the number of individuals seen in a circle fifteen miles across. Results will be reported to the North American Butterfly Association. Meet on July 10, 8:30 a.m. at the Chaplin Nature Center Visitor's Center. 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, 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.

FLORIDA FIELD TRIP

The extended field trip this year was our most ambitious yet – South Florida and the Dry Tortugas. 23 people made the journey the last week of April for some fun in the sun. Everyone made it into Fort Lauderdale okay and we gathered on Sunday evening to go over the itinerary.



Swallow-tailed Kite
photo by Mike Heaney

The trip started on Monday morning with a Gray Kingbird in the parking lot and the threat of thunderstorms. As we arrived at Wakodahatchee

Wetlands the rain began in earnest. We waited until it began to let up a little, then the eager birders among us decided to venture out onto the boardwalk. Soon everyone was huddled under a shelter while the storms raged around us. Despite the rain, there was plenty to see – two Wood Storks standing vigil, Least Terns engaged in courtship, a Purple Gallinule, and Anhingas on the nest keeping a watchful eye on the grunting alligator below. We then headed over to Green Cay, another created wetland that serves as a water treatment facility. The rain let up some at this point as we hiked the boardwalks. A number of Marsh Rabbits were on the dikes and a Limpkin flew in to give everyone a great look. Next on the itinerary was Loxahatchee NWR. We walked the boardwalk trail and picked up several songbirds, including a Cape May Warbler – the first of many we would see over the week. Walking around the impoundments, we were entertained by a nest containing young Anhingas. The weather had improved greatly by this time and the sun was out to stay. After striking out on Purple Swamphen at Pembroke, we headed down the Tamiami Trail in search of Kites. A Snail Kite was spotted foraging over the sawgrass and we got scope views of one perched. A Swallow-tailed Kite appeared on the scene and thrilled everyone as it flew overhead. We finished the day at a barbeque joint that catered to bikers and birders before heading to Kendall for the night.

Tuesday was spent in Everglades National Park. We began at Royal Hammock, getting great looks at the Swallow-tailed Kites that nest there. The Anhinga Trail was true to its name with Anhingas sunning on the railing. The cooperative Smooth-billed Ani hanging out there did not disappoint. The Seaside Sparrows near Mahogany Hammock were a no-show, but the heronry at Paurotis pond contained a number of nesting waders, including Roseate Spoonbills. The trees nearby gave our first look at a Black-whiskered Vireo. A Prairie Warbler at West Lake presented a good photo-op and Shiny Cowbirds were among the Brown-headed variety at the Flamingo visitor center. We hiked to an area with some shorebirds but were unable to turn any of the Marbled Godwits into a Bar-tailed that was seen there a couple of weeks before. Eco Pond rounded out the shorebird list and also provided us our first look at a Great White Heron. The finale was a hike down Snake Bight Trail. We didn't see any Flamingos, but the mosquitoes were few and a Reddish Egret danced for us in the bay.

We spent a good part of the morning on Wednesday fighting the traffic of Miami. Our first stop was Matheson Hammock Park, where we found some good pockets of warblers. We then went over to Bill Baggs State Park where the warbler watching was superb. Black-throated Blues were common, and many other species were seen.



Anhinga feeding its chicks
photo by Jim Marlett

After lunch, we stopped at the Pelican Harbor Seabird Station to check on the Red-footed Booby hanging out there, but it wasn't around. We then began the long drive to Key West. Our only stop in the keys was on Sugarloaf Key and a shot at Mangrove Cuckoo. A few people in the group actually got a brief look at one. On the way back out we came upon a tree with several White-crowned Pigeons that gave everyone a great look.

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Florida Extended Field Trip, con't

We ended the day at the Key West Airport listening in vain for Antillean Nighthawk.,

Thursday was dedicated to the Dry Tortugas. There were many other birders on the ferry besides our group, so the naturalist and the captain gave us special treatment. Roseate Terns were seen as we left the harbor and Brown Boobies turned out to be more numerous than expected. We arrived on Garden Key and the site of Fort Jefferson. Nearby Bush Key was alive with Sooty Terns and Brown Noddies, and Long Key was home to a colony of Magnificent Frigatebirds. Birding in and around the fort was certainly the best birding per square foot we had all week. Our group tallied 17 species of warblers and 92 species overall for the day. Many of the migrants, such as Worm-eating Warbler, were very conspicuous as they foraged. We had to tear ourselves away when it was time to get back on the boat. As we left, the captain took a small detour up to Hospital

Key for a look at the Masked Boobies nesting there. At the end of the day some went back to the airport where the nighthawks were much more cooperative.

On Friday we had no particular itinerary other than to end up where we began in Fort Lauderdale. We started the day at Fort Zachary Taylor. Warbler watching was again great that day and we added more species to our trip list. We got a tip on a La Sagra's Flycatcher on No Name Key. We didn't find the flycatcher but had a good look at Key Deer. As we left the keys we paid another visit to the Red-footed Booby. This time the bird was



*The Dry Tortugas ferry
photo by Kevin Groeneweg*

there. We ended the trip with 164 species as well as a few exotics. Everyone was satisfied with the success of our trip, made better by enjoying great birding in the company of friends. See the whole trip at www.wichitaudubon.org/Florida_2010 by Kevin Groeneweg