

# Wichita Audubon

Volume 41 No. 4 November/December 2006



## NOVEMBER MEETING



Explore the exciting lives of some of the more than 500 species of spiders that live in Kansas. A myriad of colors and shapes enable spiders to live their lives almost unseen. Learn to identify the brown recluse and the three species of black widows found in Kansas.

Jumping spiders have 3-D vision and can see color. Ground spiders use polarized light from the sky

to find their way. Besides insects, some spiders regularly feed on nectar. Fishing spiders will catch and consume small fish and tadpoles. "Pirate" spiders invade spider webs and prey on the owners. Other spider enemies include a variety of flies, wasps, and the mantis fly, an unusual egg sac parasite.

So join us as Hank Guarisco takes us on a spider adventure. Hank is an Adjunct Curator at the Sternberg Museum of Natural History, and a spider fanatic. His program, "Interesting Lives of Kansas Spiders: Diversity, Courtship, Mating, Prey and Enemies," will be presented on Tuesday, November 21, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center, 6232 E. 29th.

You can also join Hank for dinner before the program at Jason's Deli in Bradley Fair, 21st and Rock Road at 5:45 p.m.

## CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### **October 28, Saturday, 7 - 8 p.m. Night Hike**

Hike through the woods without a flashlight and learn about your five senses. Listen to night sounds and learn about nocturnal animals. Dress for the outdoors and wear sturdy shoes.



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

### **November 11**

Cranes and geese at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. See page 3

### **November 21**

Regular meeting. Program "Interesting Lives of Kansas Spiders," by Hank Guarisco, 7:30 p.m. Great Plains Nature Center, 29th & Woodlawn

### **December 16**

Wichita Christmas Bird Count Meet at the Lawrence-Dumont Stadium parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Compilation at the Great Plains Nature Center at 5:30 p.m. Compiler: Pete Janzen, 832-0182, [pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net)

### **December 16**

Halstead/Newton Christmas Bird Count. Meet at the Kaufman Museum in N. Newton at 6:30 a.m. Compiler: Dwight Platt, 283-6708, [platword@southwind.net](mailto:platword@southwind.net)

### **December 17**

Winfield/Udall Christmas Bird Count. Meet at the Beech Science Center, Southwestern College in Winfield at 7:30 a.m. Compiler: Max Thompson, [maxt@cox.net](mailto:maxt@cox.net)

### **December 20**

Slate Creek Christmas Bird Count. Meet at the Slate Creek Baptist Church at 8 a.m. Compiler: Gene Young, 620-442-4165, [youngg6264@yahoo.com](mailto:youngg6264@yahoo.com)

*More events on page 2*

## Coming Events, continued

### December 23

Arkansas City Christmas Bird Count. Meet at 8 a.m. at Newman Park, on U.S. Highway 77 just north of the Arkansas River.

Compiler: Gene Young, 620-442-4165, youngg6264@yahoo.com

### December 30

El Dorado Christmas Bird Count. Meet at the McDonald's in El Dorado, 2004 W. Central, at 7:30 a.m.

Compiler: Bill Langley, 316-321-3495, blangley@butlercc.edu

### December 30

Red Hills Christmas Bird Count. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Indian Grill Restaurant on U.S. Highway 160 in Medicine Lodge. Groups will depart at 7:30 a.m. Compilation at Buster's in Sun City at 5:30 p.m. This count has a \$5 per person fee for National Audubon.

Compiler: Pete Janzen, 832-0182, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net



*The Wichita CBC includes chili*

### 2006-2007 WAS Officers

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### WWW.WICHITAAUDUBON.ORG

email any officer: was@wichitaaudubon.org

Send address changes to Sister Patricia Stanley, 6739 Perryton, Wichita, KS 67226

pstanley@csjwichita.org

## BIRD SEED SALE

Help support Wichita Audubon and Chaplin Nature Center by buying your bird seed from us. We offer high quality seed, delivered to your home (within Wichita City limits.)

Please submit your order by

**Friday, November 10.**

The seed will be delivered on Saturday, November 18.

**25 lbs Black Oil Sunflower Seed**

**- \$10**

**25 lbs Audubon Mix - \$8**

Order by phone, mail or email.

Call Carol Cumberland at 316-685-4867 or email

carol.cumberland@swbell.net

Mail: Wichita Audubon Society,  
PO Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201

A big thank you to Kevin Groeneweg, Mary Engleman, Carol Cumberland, and Patty & Jim Marlett for delivering the bird seed for us in October. We can always use more volunteers. It only takes three or four hours four times a year. Contact Carol if you can help.

## EXTENDED FIELD TRIP

This year's extended trip will be to Southwest Colorado June 11-13. It will be three intense days searching for Chukar, Gray Vireo, Virginia's Warbler, Black Swift, Flammulated Owl, and more.

Pete Janzen will be planning our itinerary. To get your name on the list contact Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com, or sign up at a meeting.

## **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FAQ**

The Christmas Bird Count is a long-standing program of the National Audubon Society. It is an early-winter bird census, where volunteers follow specified routes through a designated 15 mile diameter circle, counting every bird they see or hear all day. It's not just a species tally—all birds are counted all day, giving an indication of the total number of birds in the circle that day. All individual CBC's are conducted in the period from 14 December to 5 January (inclusive dates) each season, and each count is conducted in one calendar day.

Why was the Christmas Bird Count started?

The first CBC was done on Christmas Day of 1900 as an alternative activity to an event called the "side hunt" where people chose sides, then went out and shot as many birds as they could. The group that came in with the largest number of dead birds won the event. Frank Chapman, a famed ornithologist at the American Museum of Natural History, recognized that bird populations could not withstand wanton over-hunting, and proposed to count birds on rather than shoot them.

Will I be doing this alone, and do I have to be an experienced birder?

CBC participants are organized into groups—or field parties—by the compiler of each Count. Each field party covers a specific area of the 15 mile diameter circle. And anyone is welcome to participate, since compilers arrange field parties so that inexperienced observers are out with seasoned CBC veterans.

Do I have to join a field party, or can I count the birds at my feeder?

As long as you live within a designated CBC circle, you are welcome to count the birds at your feeder. All you'll need to do is contact your local compiler so that you may report your results on the Count Day.

Is the Christmas Bird Count useful?

Absolutely. The data collected by observers over the past century allow researchers, conservation biologists, and interested individuals to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. There is no other wildlife population study in the world with such a long history. Researchers have found that population trends reflected in CBC data tend to correlate well with those from censuses taken by more stringent means

Is there a cost?

Yes, there is a \$5.00 fee per participant per count for those counts reported to the National Audubon Society. Feeder watchers do not need to pay the fee, and all observers 18 and under may count for free. These fees help to cover the costs of materials for compilers, producing a CBC summary issue, and maintaining the CBC website and database.

## **CRANES & GEESE FIELD TRIP**

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge is a stopping point for thousands of birds on their journey south each fall. Sandhill Cranes and several species of geese (Snow Geese, White-fronted, Canada, Cackling, and Ross's) take a pit stop and refuel in Kansas. At night they roost in the Big Salt Marsh on the refuge. It is an amazing spectacle of sight and sound to be on the wildlife drive at dusk watching them come in to roost.

We will meet on Saturday, November 11, at 3 p.m. at the Quivira headquarters building. We'll take our time driving up to the wildlife drive and enjoy the other waterfowl and birds we find on the way. Dress warmly, bring binoculars and a camera, and your FRS radio if you have one.

Leader: Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com

## **NEW VP**

Jay Newton has graciously agreed to fill the position of vice president for the 2006-2007 year. The vice-president also serves as chair of the program committee.

We are now seeking a candidate to fill Jay's position on the board of directors. If you are interested, please contact any officer.

## **CLEANUP THANKS**

Thanks to the following people for helping with the Chisholm Creek Park cleanup on October 14: Concha Walker, Walker Butin, Kevin Groeneweg, Sandra Tholen, Patty Marlett..

  
Wichita Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 47607  
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