

Wichita Audubon



Volume 42 No. 4 November/December 2007

NOVEMBER MEETING

At our November meeting, Ken Brunson will talk about non-game projects created by Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and 38 supporting organizations to list 81 bird species, 43 mussels, many fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and crustaceans in need of conservation before they are on the verge of extinction. Ken is the Wildlife Diversity Coordinator for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, and lives in Pratt. Join us for the program on Tuesday, November 20, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can join Ken for dinner before the program at Jason's Deli, in Bradley Fair at 21st and Rock Road, at 5:45 p.m.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

This year will be the 53rd Wichita Christmas Bird Count. All are welcome regardless of experience. See page 3 for more information about Christmas Counts.

December 15

Wichita Christmas Bird Count. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Lawrence-Dumont stadium parking lot. Compiler: Pete Janzen, 832-0182, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

December 15

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

December 16

Winfield-Udall Christmas Bird Count. Meet at the Beech Science Center, Southwestern College at 7:30 a.m. Compiler: Max Thompson, maxt@cox.net

December 19

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

December 22

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 22

El Dorado Christmas Bird Count. Meet at the McDonald's in El Dorado, 2004 W. Central, 7:30 a.m. Compiler: Bill Langley, 316-321-3495, blangley@butlercc.edu

December 29

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

COMING EVENTS

October 27

Slate Creek Wetlands field trip. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Slate Creek Baptist Church, 7 miles south of Oxford on the main road. Leader: Gene Young, 620-442-4165, youngg6264@yahoo.com

November 10

Cranes and Geese at Quivira NWR field trip. Meet at Quivira headquarters at 3 p.m. Leader: Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com

November 20

Regular meeting, "Protecting and Conserving Birds, Animals and Plants in Kansas," by Ken Brunson. 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center

NO Meeting in December

January 26

Wichita Area Mystery Trip. Meet at the Redstone Grill, 5355 N. Broadway at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast, departure at 8 a.m. Leader: Kevin Groeneweg, 687-4268, kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net



For more information about any Chaplin Nature Center programs call Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, or e-mail 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.

CRANES & GEESE AT QUIVIRA

Every fall Quivira National Wildlife Refuge is host to tens of thousands of Sandhill Cranes and hundreds of thousands of geese as they migrate south for the winter. On Saturday, November 10, we will meet at 3 p.m. at the Quivira Headquarters building, then proceed to the Big Salt Marsh to see the spectacle of all those birds coming in to roost. We'll stay until dark, so dress for the weather - it can be windy and chilly out there. If you've never seen this sight, you owe it to yourself to experience it! Leader: Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com

THANKS

Thanks to the following people for their help with the Chisholm Creek Park cleanup on October 13: Sandra Tholen, Kevin Groeneweg, Jeff Calhoun, Hoai Pham, Keli Tinius, Emily Kuckelman, Tony Rodriguez and Jessica Redden. They braved rain, thunder, and hoards of visitors to help make the park a cleaner place.

This crew conducted the 50th Wichita Christmas Bird Count in 2004. Do your part to help citizen science and join us this December 15 for our 53rd CBC.



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

Thursday, November 1.

The seed will be delivered on

Saturday, November 10

25 lbs Black Oil Sunflower - \$12

25 lbs Audubon Mix - \$10

Order by phone, mail or E-mail. Call

Carol Cumberland at 685-4867 or carol.cumberland@swbell.net Mail:

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

Thanks to our bird seed delivery team of Rosa & Rob McHenry,

Kevin Groeneweg, Patty Marlett and Hal Cumberland for their help

delivering 90 bags of seed during our September bird seed sale.

2007-2008 WAS Officers

President	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
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E-mail any officer: was@wichitaaudubon.org

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

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.

2008 EXTENDED FIELD TRIPS

Don't forget to sign up for this year's extended field trips: Texas in April and the Boreal Forest in June.

April 18-20 Pete Janzen will lead an excursion to the Lawton, Oklahoma area to the Wichita Mountains, Hackberry Flat wetlands, and areas along the Red River in southern Jackson County. Watch future issues of the newsletter for more information. Leader: Pete Janzen, 832-0182, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net
Our second extended trip will be June 10-13. We'll begin in Duluth, Minnesota, with a visit to the Sax-Zim Bog and other hotspots, then bird our way across Wisconsin to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. 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

There will be signup sheets for both trips at meetings, so let us know if you are interested and we'll keep you up to date on plans.

CALENDARS

The 2008 bird calendars are here, and they feature gorgeous pictures of some of your favorite birds. They will sell for \$5 apiece, the profits benefiting your Audubon chapter and Chaplin Nature Center. Consider giving them as Christmas gifts for neighbors, teachers, or the mailman. You can purchase them at meetings, or contact Patty Marlett, pmarlett@mac.com, 942-2164.


Wichita Audubon Society
P.O. Box 47607
Wichita, KS 67201

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Wichita, Kansas Permit No. 921

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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STOP JUNK MAIL AND FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING

The average American receives 11 pieces of unsolicited junk mail each week, according to the Center for a New American Dream, a nonprofit dedicated to promoting responsible consumerism. Tallied up, that bulk accounts for 100 million trees lost each year. By reducing the amount of junk mail you receive each year, you personally will save two trees and prevent some 92 pounds of carbon dioxide from being released into the air.

Most senders of unsolicited junk mail get your name and address from one of three sources: Abacus Catalog Alliance (catalogs), Direct Marketing Association (fliers, brochures, etc.), or the credit bureaus (credit card and insurance offers), says Paul Stephens, a policy analyst with Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, a consumer advocacy group. If you do nothing else, take the time to wipe your name from these lists. "That'll get rid of most of your junk mail," he says.

Here's how to do so: Abacus Catalog Alliance: Signing up permanently halts the catalog mailings from association members. Email optout@abacus-direct.com with your full name and current address.

If you would like to reduce the number of pre-screened credit and insurance offers you are receiving, visit www.optoutprescreen.com or call 1-888-5OptOut (1-888-567-8688) to opt-out of these offers. This is a free service to consumers offered by the major credit bureaus.

Direct Marketing Association's Mail Preference Service will help to remove your name and address from prospect mailing lists. Go to <https://www.dmachoice.org/MPS/>. There is a \$1 fee for registering. Members of the DMA are required to use this name-removal service, and other marketers are encouraged to use it. Because some mailings are prepared far in advance, allow 30-90 days for your registration to become fully effective. Although the typical consumer sees a great reduction in the unsolicited mail he or she receives not all commercial mail will stop.

Save some trees and declutter your mailbox!