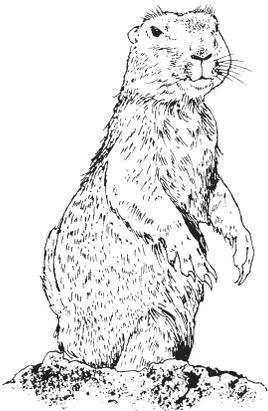


Wichita Audubon

Volume 42 No. 3 October 2007



OCTOBER MEETING



Join us on Tuesday, October 16, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center as Ron Klataske tells us about the opportunities and challenges facing the partnership request made by several western Kansas ranch landowners and Audubon of Kansas in the fall of 2005. The request was to encourage the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to consider an experimental reintroduction of Black-footed Ferrets in a complex of prairie dog colonies estimated at 6,000 acres within 26,000 acres owned by the ranch families involved. The colonies provide the largest and best complex of prairie dogs suitable for this purpose in the central and southern Great Plains.

These prairie dog colonies also support one of the largest concentrations of nesting Burrowing Owls in the state, Swift Foxes, and Ferruginous Hawks and other raptors. Large prairie dog complexes are magnets for many forms of wildlife. The extraordinary landowners involved in this project deserve the support of everyone who recognizes the importance of protecting rare and declining wildlife as a component of good land stewardship.

Continued on page 2

CNC Receives Walmart Grant

Chaplin Nature Center has received \$1000 from the Walmart Foundation for the new education exhibits in the Visitor's Center. A big thank you to the Walmart Supercenter in Arkansas City for their continued support of the nature center.

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Eye Shine Hike

October 6, Saturday, 7 - 8 p.m.

What goes bump in the night? Bring your flashlight and search the woods for the gleaming eyes of spiders, moths, and possibly something even bigger. Dress for the outdoors and bring a powerful, narrow-beamed flashlight for every family member.

COMING EVENTS

October 6

Wichita Area Mystery trip.
Meet at the Redstone Grill, 5355 N. Broadway, 7:30 a.m.
Leader: Pete Janzen, 838-0182,
pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

October 6

Eye Shine Hike at Chaplin Nature Center, 7 - 8 p.m.

October 13

Chisholm Creek Park cleanup.
Meet at the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 9 a.m.
Leader: Sandra Tholen, 634-0049, stholen@cox.net

October 16

Regular meeting, "Prairie Dogs, Burrowing Owls, and Black-footed Ferrets in Kansas," by Ron Klataske. 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center

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



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.

October Meeting, continued

Meanwhile, the Kansas Farm Bureau has been rallying opposition and calling for eradication of prairie dogs on private land. Logan County Commissioners have been striving to accomplish that goal. Those two entities have gone to court to try to impose poisoning campaigns on the properties. In addition, Ron will provide an overview of governmental programs and practices that degrade prairie ecosystems and result in the destruction of habitat for other species including Greater and Lesser Prairie-chickens.

Ron Klataske of Manhattan serves as Executive Director of Audubon of Kansas. In that capacity he represents Audubon interests on a wide spectrum of wildlife and prairie conservation issues. Prior to establishment of Audubon of Kansas in 1999, Ron served as the West Central Regional Vice President of the National Audubon Society for 28 years. He developed the proposal that led to the establishment of the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in Chase County, designation of the Niobrara River in northern Nebraska as a national scenic river, and devoted 25 years to protection of the Platte River that provides spring staging for a quarter million Sandhill Cranes. He grew up in Kansas, received a Bachelor's Degree in wildlife biology from KSU and a Master's in wildlife management at the University of Maine. You can join Ron for dinner before the program at Jason's Deli, in Bradley Fair at 21st and Rock Road, at 5:45 p.m.

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

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Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaaudubon.org

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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

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.

QUIVIRA FIELD TRIP REPORT

Flashes of lightning in the morning sky didn't deter seven birders on the way to Quivira, although the cool, breezy weather made birding from the car preferable. We were greeted by hundreds of pelicans on the little salt marsh. On the wildlife loop drive we found a Common Moorhen among the many coots. We also saw two Least Bitterns and one American Bittern and had a flyover by a Merlin. Shorebird numbers were down, but we did find one Piping Plover and several Snowy and Semipalmated Plovers and a couple of Sanderlings. A Peregrine Falcon was seen having lunch in the tern nesting area. Barn Swallows and Franklin's Gulls were on the move in big numbers, but passerines were scarce. On our way into Cheyenne Bottoms we pulled into the camping area and flushed hundreds of Monarchs roosting in the trees. It was a surreal scene at the bottoms with all of the water. The Nature Conservancy property was passable, and four Black-bellied Plovers rounded out a decent shorebird list. We managed to find one Burrowing Owl at the Redwing dog town to end the day. We avoided the rain and finished with a list of 80 species.

by Kevin Groeneweg

CHISHOLM CREEK PARK CLEANUP

Chisholm Creek is one of two parks we have adopted. Each fall we pick up trash to make the park a better environment for birds and birders. Meet in the parking lot of the Great Plains Nature Center, 29th and Woodlawn, on Saturday, October 13, 9 a.m. Bring gloves - trash bags and tools will be provided. If you can't come on Saturday morning, feel free to clean up on your own schedule. Just let Sandra know so we can record the volunteer hours. For more info call Sandra Tholen, 684-0049, stholen@cox.net

HELP A CHILD - BE A MENTOR

Brooks and Coleman Middle Schools are looking for tutors, mentors and small group leaders to help students who need positive role models and exposure to new and interesting things, including birds and other nature-related interests. A book club could be assembled, for instance, to practice reading comprehension using materials that are related to subjects you're interested in and would like to share with one or two students, or a small group (up to five). Or a couple of like-minded friends could get together and do an "Audubon Club" for six weeks or longer.

Volunteers can come once a week over the lunch hour or after school (2:20 at Brooks; 3:15 at Coleman) or any of several other times during the school day. The minimum commitment is six weeks and then you can decide whether or not you'd like to continue.

For more information, please e-mail Judith Wencel at jwencel@usd259.net or call her at 973-6735. Judith is the Tutoring and Mentoring Coordinator for Coleman and Brooks Middle Schools.

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
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There are two ways of being a member of Wichita Audubon: by joining the National Audubon Society, or by joining or making a donation to the Wichita Audubon Society. IF YOU ARE A MEMBER of the NATIONAL Audubon Society, you receive Audubon magazine in the mail, as well as this newsletter. National will send you renewal notices when your membership is about to expire.

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER of the WICHITA Audubon Society ONLY, you do not receive Audubon Magazine. You should check the expiration date above. Use the form below to renew your membership, or go to www.wichitaaudubon.org and click on Membership. If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, check the appropriate box below.

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Individual - \$20 Family - \$25 Student (18 & under) - \$10

Remove my name from your mailing list

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