

Wichita Audubon

Volume 45 No. 3 October 2010



OCTOBER MEETING



Our October meeting will feature a presentation by Suzanne Fellows, Assistant Nongame Migratory Bird Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Many of you may remember Suzanne for her service at the Great Plains Nature Center several years ago. Her talk is titled “Searching

for Wisdom during the Winter Solstice,” and is an account of her visit to Midway Atoll. Albatrosses, petrels, boobies, and several other seabirds, the Laysan Duck, and four wintering shore-bird species are among the avian species found on Midway Atoll. The annual albatross census is conducted by volunteers between mid-December and the first week of January. During the 2009-2010 count nearly half a million nests were found on the three islands which are part of this tiny atoll. Come learn about the wildlife, the count, and some of the history of these 1500 acres in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Join us on Tuesday, October 19, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can also join us for dinner with Suzanne before the meeting at 5:45 p.m. at Doc Green’s, 10096 E. 13th, in the Waterfront.

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

November 6, Saturday, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Astronomy Program

Join the Kansas Astronomical Observers for a night under the stars. Learn about the planets, constellations and other heavenly bodies. You are welcome to bring your own telescopes, or share the many that are there. You may want to bring a blanket and lawn chairs to sit on.



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.

COMING EVENTS

October 2

Chisholm Creek Park cleanup. Help clean up our adopted park. Meet at the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot. Bring gloves. Leader: Dennice Craig, 788-0320, mdcraigster@gmail.com

October 16

Slate Creek Wetlands field trip. Expect a variety of sparrows and other fall migrants. This trip involves a lot of walking, and it may be muddy. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Slate Creek Baptist Church, 7 miles S. of Oxford on S. Oxford Rd. Leader: Gene Young, 620-660-0547, youngg6264@yahoo.com

October 19

Regular meeting, “Searching for Wisdom during the Winter Solstice,” by Suzanne Fellows, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center

November 6

Astronomy Program at Chaplin Nature Center, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

November 7

Cranes and Geese field trip to Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at Quivira headquarters at 3 p.m. for a drive through the refuge followed by the spectacle of thousands of Sandhill Cranes and geese coming in to roost. Leader: Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com

NEW LISTSERV

Wichita Audubon has established a listserv to provide members with reminders about upcoming events like meetings and field trips. It can also be used to get people together for carpooling, and maybe occasionally to recruit volunteers. If you're thinking you can't stand anymore email, rest assured that this will not be more than a couple of emails a week at most, so we won't overwhelm your inbox!

You subscribe by sending a blank email (no subject, no content) to WASevents-subscribe@wichitaudubon.org. You will receive an automated response asking you to confirm. After you confirm you will get a welcome email. To post to the list you send email to WASevents@wichitaudubon.org.

We hope to see you online! If you have any problems or questions, ask Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com.

THANK YOU

Thanks to Jeff Calhoun, Dennice Craig, Pete Janzen and Karen Klein for manning a booth to promote Wichita Audubon at Derby Summerfest on August 28. Many youngsters stopped by the booth and were challenged to test their bird IQ. They discovered about a dozen families with elementary and middle school aged students with keen outdoor interests and ended up discussing and promoting the Chaplin Nature Center quite a bit to them and many others, including one very anxious Monarch tagger for this September. There were a half dozen or so adults that were genuinely interested in birding. Many had no idea that the Audubon existed and were happy to get the schedule of trips and programs. And to cover all the bases, there was one individual that thought that the Audubon was the German highway with no speed limits.



CALENDARS

The 2011 Chaplin Nature Center calendars are ready, featuring a beautiful bird photograph for each month. They are still just \$5 each. They make excellent gifts, and help support the work of Wichita Audubon at the same time. They will be available at all meetings, or you can contact Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY

Wichita's Initiative to Renew the Environment (WIRE) is seeking input from Wichita community members. Led by the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita, WIRE is a community-based initiative focused on identifying and addressing environmental concerns in Wichita.

It is a grassroots initiative in collaboration with citizens, neighborhood groups, community leaders, businesses, and government to identify environmental health concerns and work toward improving our local community.

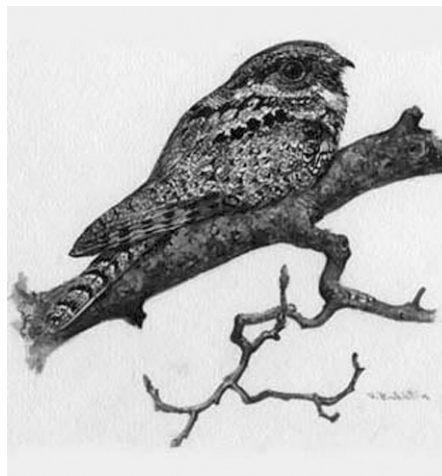
WIRE is currently partnering with a doctoral student from Wichita State University to collect information about environmental attitudes, behaviors and barriers facing the people of Wichita. This information will help them learn more about the Wichita community and will help inform WIRE and the City of Wichita when working with the community on environmental issues in the future. WIRE would like to hear from as many people in Wichita as possible.

Participation is easy and will only take about 15 minutes and all responses are anonymous. To take the survey, go to <http://wichita.kumc.edu/care/>

NEW SPECIES

The 51st Supplement to the AOU checklist was issued in July, and they have split Winter Wren and Whip-poor-will into two species each. The Eastern Winter Wren winters in the eastern United States and breeds from Canada south into the Appalachians. It is the species we are most likely to see in Kansas. The Western Winter Wren breeds along the west coast from California to Alaska.

It may turn up in Western Kansas. The two species are almost identical in appearance. Songs differ slightly but consistently, and call notes (year round) are the most different. Voice, especially call, will be the best way to distinguish them.



EXTENDED FIELD TRIP

This year the extended field trip is going to be closer to home, with visits to eastern Kansas hotspots during spring migration. We plan to visit Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge, the Overland Park Arboretum, Ft. Leavenworth and other places that you hear about on the listserv, but may never have visited. Join us May 13 - 15 (Friday through Sunday) on a hunt for those gorgeous spring warblers. The trip leader is Kevin Groeneweg. Please let him know if you are interested by signing up at a meeting, or by e-mail or phone: kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net, 687-4268.



The Whip-poor-will has been split into Eastern and Mexican species. Again, the Eastern is the species that occurs in Kansas. The two are indistinguishable by sight, and can only be separated by call. The Mexican species is of course capable of wandering, so pay attention to those songs.


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

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A NEW PLAN FOR AMERICA S ARCTIC TREASURES

Found on Alaska's North Slope, the 23.5 million-acre National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (Reserve) is the largest single tract of public land in the United States. True to its name, approximately three million acres of the Reserve have been leased for oil and gas development. This vast expanse of land, however, can also claim wilderness and wildlife values that rank among the highest on the continent.

The Reserve is home to two of Alaska's largest caribou herds; world-class densities of raptors; millions of migratory birds; tens of thousands of molting geese; large concentrations of beluga whales; polar bears and other marine mammals; vast wilderness landscapes; wild rivers; and rich geological, scientific, and archaeological sites. There are four designated Special Areas in the Reserve including Teshekpuk Lake, the Colville River, Kasegaluk Lagoon and the Utukok River Uplands. In 1976, Congress recognized the extraordinary wildlife, scenic, cultural, and historical values of the Reserve when it required the Department of the Interior to provide "maximum protection" for fish, wildlife, and landscapes in Special Areas.

In July 2010, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced the first-ever comprehensive planning process for the entire Reserve. The new plan will incorporate the most current information and lay out management goals, objectives, and actions that would be consistent across the entire Reserve. The planning process provides a unique opportunity to ensure that BLM properly balances future oil and gas development with protection of the world-class wild areas that support abundant wildlife, vital subsistence resources, outstanding wilderness values, and extraordinary recreation opportunities.

The Obama Administration is accepting initial comments on the new plan through October 1, 2010. The designation of No Lease Areas, together with recommendations that Congress permanently protect key parts of the Reserve, is essential to ensure a proper balance between oil and gas development to address energy needs and the conservation of extraordinary ecological areas in America's Arctic. Audubon is taking a lead role in preparing comments and ensuring that the best protections possible are balanced with energy extraction.