

Wichita Audubon



Volume 47 No. 3 October 2012

OCTOBER MEETING



Our October program will be “Tanzania and the Serengeti Ecosystem,” presented by Jim Griggs. Jim brings a sense of humor and a love of photography to each and every photo assignment, program and workshop. From his first published image in 1970 (an award winning photo selected by Kodak) his work has been published in magazines, newspapers, websites, museums, books and calendars both in the

US and internationally. For almost a decade he was an instructor at Wilderness Photography Workshops in Colorado and Wyoming. Jim has gone on to lead his own workshops and seminars on photography and is currently leading photo safaris to Tanzania.

He is the President of the Great Plains Nature Photographers and a member of NANPA, the North American Nature Photographers Association. Jim recently retired as Sales and Technical Specialist with Wear Technology in McPherson, although he continues on a part time basis. By far, his favorite location is the Serengeti Ecosystem in Tanzania. Jim’s program will show a trip through the timeless Serengeti including the incomparable Ngorongoro Crater. His program will encompass several trips to Tanzania in a mix of still photos, video clips and stories from the bush. Jim says, “If you can only visit two continents in your lifetime, visit Africa twice!”

The program will be on Tuesday, October 16, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can join Jim and other members for dinner at Doc Green’s, 10096 E. 13th, in the Waterfront at 5:30 p.m.

NOTE: PROGRAMS THIS YEAR BEGIN AT 7:00 P.M.

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

October 6, Saturday, 7:30 - 9 p.m.

Astronomy Program

Join us at the Chaplin Nature Center for a night of star gazing. Volunteers from CNC and the Kansas Astronomical Observers will set up telescopes to study the heavens. Bring your own lawnchair or blanket.



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 6

Astronomy program at Chaplin Nature Center, 7:30 - 9 p.m.

October 13

Chisholm Creek Park cleanup - see page 2.

October 16

Regular meeting, “Tanzania and the Serengeti Ecosystem,” by Jim Griggs, 7:00 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center

October 20

Marion Reservoir field trip. Meet at the Marion Reservoir dam, 4 miles west of Marion on Hwy 56 at 8 a.m. Leader: Cheryl Miller, avian67226@gmail.com

November 3

Cheney Reservoir field trip. This trip departs at 7 a.m. from the Kings-X Restaurant at 21st and Amidon in Wichita. Leader: Pete Janzen, 519-1970, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net



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, October 5. The seed will be delivered on Saturday, October 13.

25 lb Songbird Delight Mix - \$13
25 lb Black Oil Sunflower - \$16
25 lb Safflower - \$20
2013 Bird Calendars - \$8

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.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Wichita Audubon and Chaplin Nature Center both have Facebook pages. We would like Wichita Audubon's Facebook page be your go to place for stunning images, field trips, programs and more. We welcome your images and comments of birding and nature related ideas. Keep up with Chaplin and let us know about your experiences there.

CALENDARS

The 2013 bird calendars are in. Get yours for only \$8 at meetings or by contacting Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com. You can also order them along with bird seed and they will be delivered with your seed.

CHISHOLM CREEK PARK

CLEANUP

Every fall we do a trash pick up in our adopted park, Chisholm Creek. We get to use the Great Plains Nature Center for our programs and board meetings at no cost, so this is one way we can give something back. We will meet on Saturday, October 13 at 8 a.m. in the nature center parking lot. Bring gloves - we provide sticks and bags. With the water low this is a good year to get trash around the waterways and wetlands. The edges of the park along Woodlawn and 29th are always in need of cleanup. If you can't come on that Saturday, you can still help. Bring a bag and pick up trash anytime - just let Sandra know so we can credit your volunteer hours. Leader: Sandra Tholen, stholen@cox.net, 634-0049.

2012-2013 WAS Officers

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E-mail any officer: was@wichitaaudubon.org

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

2013 EXTENDED FIELD TRIP

The extended field trip for the upcoming year takes us to the east coast and pelagic birding out of Cape Hatteras with Seabirding Pelagic Trips. Owner Brian Patteson will post his 2013 schedule around Nov. 1, and we need to get reservations as soon as he is ready to take them. We are planning two pelagic trips, along with visits to several other great birding destinations nearby. Contact the trip leaders to get the latest information. Leaders: Kevin Groeneweg, 706-9116, kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net, Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com

MORTON COUNTY FIELD TRIP REPORT

Ten members of Wichita Audubon made the journey to Morton County over Labor Day weekend. On Saturday we started at the Elkhart lagoons, where among several ducks we had 8 American Avocets and an Eared Grebe. The Cemetery and Shelterbelt were fairly lively. Warblers included Black-throated Green, Black-and-white, American Redstart, and Ovenbird, along with a Western Wood-Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Lazuli Buntings. The highlight there was 5 Red Crossbills. Also, Dan Kilby reported a Blackpoll Warbler in the Cemetery.

At Point of Rocks we had a calling Western Scrub-Jay in the river channel. Jeff and I gave chase but did not get a visual. We then headed up Road 2 near the Colorado border and had over 130 Mountain Plovers just north of the gas plant. At the south end of the gas plant there were two non-vocal ravens that were sitting on tanks at quite a distance. At a house just south of the Richfield Cemetery we had a Curve-billed Thrasher. We returned to town and visited with the Smiths and learned of Calliope Hummingbirds at the Giddens. The Giddens invited us in and we had great looks at a male (adult) and female Calliope, as well as a Broad-tailed and a Black-chinned Hummingbird.

On Sunday we went to the Recreation Area and things were pretty lively near one of the ponds, with a Yellow-rumped and Townsend's Warbler as well as a Great-crested, Dusky and Trail's Flycatcher. The group said our farewells and we headed our separate ways after collecting well over 100 species in the county.

by Kevin Groeneweg



L to R: Dennice Craig, Jeff Calhoun, Karl & Mary Herold, Janet Krack, Tom Ewert, Sharon Dilks, Sandra Tholen.

CONSERVATION NEWS

National Wildlife Refuge System Under Attack

The National Wildlife Refuge System, a cornerstone of bird conservation in America, is facing an unprecedented attack. Since 1903, National Wildlife Refuges have been created both by the President and by Congress, but a new bill would change all that. HR 3009 would make it impossible for the President to establish new refuges. That's a huge problem, because the Executive branch—including every President since Theodore Roosevelt—has established 90 percent of all refuges.

The creation of new wildlife refuges has always been bipartisan, with nearly the same number created by Republican and Democratic administrations, including the recent addition of the 50 million acre Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument added by President George W. Bush in 2009. HR 3009 is a blatant attempt to halt any growth of the Refuge System and is retroactive from September 30, 2011, meaning the newly established Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area would cease to be a refuge should this bill pass.

Victory on the Horizon for Teshekpuk Lake

On August 13, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced the “preferred alternative” for management of one of Audubon's long-standing priority landscapes, the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (Reserve). The first-ever

continued on page 4

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Conservation News, continued

comprehensive management plan for the nearly 23-million acre Reserve on Alaska’s North Slope would help safeguard key areas that Audubon has been working to protect for more than twenty years.

Under the preferred alternative, commonly referred to as “B2,” nearly half of the Reserve would be designated as unavailable for oil and gas leasing to protect key habitats for migratory birds, caribou, grizzly bear, wolves, wolverine, polar bear, walrus, and other wildlife. The preferred alternative protects 11 million acres, an area roughly the size of Massachusetts and Connecticut combined. Lands surrounding Teshekpuk Lake—a globally significant Important Bird Area (IBA) that has been a special focus of Audubon for many years—would be protected and off-limits to oil leasing, drilling, and industry infrastructure development. Teshekpuk

Lake provides a unique and internationally-important molting area where geese retreat annually to lose and regrow their feathers, leaving them temporarily flightless and extremely vulnerable to disturbance.

Secretary Salazar’s announcement is a major milestone in Audubon’s decades-long effort to protect the migratory birds and other iconic Arctic wildlife in the Reserve. The B-2 alternative alternative would protect 96% of the priority areas Audubon has identified in our recommendations to the BLM. However, there is still important work ahead, especially in the next several months. The final plan for the Reserve will not be released until mid-November. Now is a critical time to tell the Obama Administration you support B2 as a balanced way to protect critical wildlife habitat while allowing responsible energy development in the Reserve.