
WICHITA AUDUBON SOCIETY



ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 2024

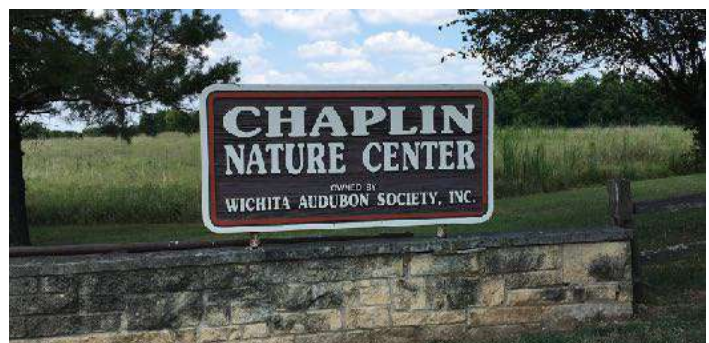


MEETINGS

Meetings began with a picnic (indoors and air-conditioned) in July. Our first program, in September, was about understanding bird calls and songs, presented by our own vice-president Mark Nolen. Destiny Flemons, with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, talked about the importance of birding to wildlife conservation in October. November brought Eric Eaton, teaching about the fun and importance of bug watching.

January had us dreaming of spring as our own Dennice Craig, a Master Gardener, talked about attracting wildlife by gardening with native plants. February had us on a trip to Chile with Bob Gress, as he shared photos from a recent adventure with several other WAS members. In March Curtis Wolf, director of the Cheyenne Bottoms Wetland Education Center, reintroduced to the awesome wetland that is Cheyenne Bottoms.

In April Chuck Otte told us about Kansas bird populations, using the county checklist program and ebird to give new and better understandings of bird distributions. The May presentation was by our Chaplin Nature Center director, Elizabeth Walker, telling us about Chaplin Nature Center and the importance of our continuing conservation efforts on our property.



This is the 47th annual report of the Wichita Audubon Society and Chaplin Nature Center which highlights the activities for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Chaplin Nature Center is owned and operated by the Wichita Audubon Society, with operations directed by the CNC committee of the board of directors.



FIELD TRIPS

We continued holding bird walks in Chisholm Creek Park on the second Saturday of each month. Always well attended, sometimes there were so many we had to split into two groups. In October and April we followed the walk with a trash pickup in the park. Each month was different with discoveries like a Brown Thrasher that lingered all winter.

Our regular field trip season began in September with a trip to Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and Cheyenne Bottoms. The amazing find of the day was a Limpkin at Cheyenne Bottoms.

Seven people went to Marion Reservoir in October and were treated to the sight of more than 40,000 Franklin's Gulls. Best birds were a distant loon and overhead Sandhill Cranes.

In November seven people made the trip to Sandhills State Park and Dillon Nature Center. No rarities, but a lovely day.

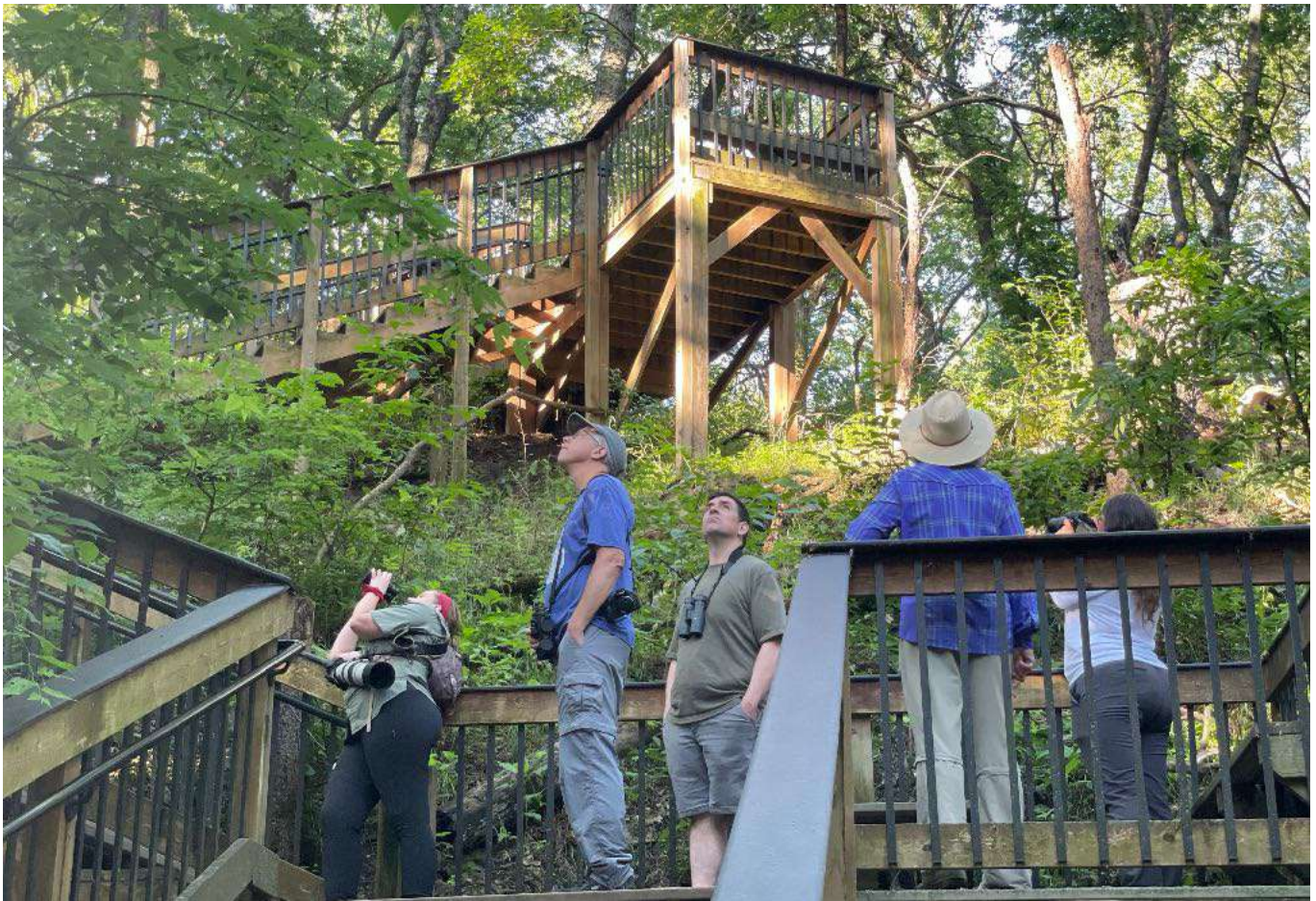
December saw us participating in the eight Christmas Bird counts that WAS supports, plus several more that our members join. Besides Wichita, we helped with Winfield-Udall, El Dorado, Arkansas City, Slate Creek, Sedan, Red Hills, and Marion.

Cheney Reservoir was our destination in January. The lake was completely frozen but there were still thousands of Snow Geese, plus a late Brown Thrasher and Pileated Woodpecker at Yoder Point.

In February we went to El Dorado State Lake hoping to find Short-eared Owls. In the afternoon we birded around the park and lake, then at dusk we headed north towards the Flint Hills prairies to look for owls. No Short-eared Owls, but we did manage to call up a pair of Barred Owls, who gave us a nice duet.

In March we held a Woodcock hunt in Chisholm Creek Park. Forty people came and heard at least six Woodcock and had good looks at one.





We traveled the backroads of Chautauqua County on a sunny but windy day in April, looking for early migrants. We found several species of warblers including Yellow-rumped, Northern Parula, Black-and-White, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Yellow-throated.

May found us visiting our own Chaplin Nature Center and nearby hotspots. Highlights were Summer Tanagers, Prothonotary Warblers and Kentucky Warblers A Yellow-billed Cuckoo posed for a good look.

The season ended with our extended field trip to Nebraska to Audubon of Kansas Hutton Niobrara Ranch Sanctuary in Bassett, Nebraska. Nine people stayed at the Hutton Ranch house and spent three days exploring the ranch, Valentine National Wildlife Refuge, Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge and the surrounding sand hills. We saw lots of Bobolinks and Wilson’s Snipe, and ended with a list of 107 species, with lifers for many of us.



CHAPLIN NATURE CENTER



7978 VISITORS FOR 2023-2024

Elizabeth Walker, our naturalist and director of CNC, presented programs for 84 groups: 68 programs at CNC and an additional 16 programs off site. These programs reached 3,244 people.

Public programs included a butterfly count in July that found 781 individuals of 44 species. Fall Nature Day had more than 50 people out on September 23. They joined in hikes, herp programs and tagging Monarch butterflies. The wind made netting butterflies hard, but they managed to tag six. The Motus tower was completed at Chaplin Nature Center on the weekend of October 14 -15 by the Kansas State research team of Alice Boyle and Robert Rosenberg. Our new director Liz began offering bird walks on the first Saturday of each month in January.. In April the annual spring cleanup was held. Volunteer Bill Gress built a new blind for bird watching at the Rutter memorial pond next to the visitor's center. In May there was an Intro to "Herping" educational program and field day for the public to learn about reptiles and amphibians.

Groups utilizing CNC included Winfield Boy Scouts, Winfield Girl Scouts, Winfield Rotary Club, Cowley County Community College, Arkansas City Rotary Club, Winfield Eagle Scouts, Golden Tigers, Arkansas City FFA, Jefferson Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary, Francis Willard Elementary, C-4 Elementary, Adams Elementary, Wellington Elementary, Arkansas City High School Cross Country team, Oxford Elementary, Dexter Elementary, Arkansas City Library, Winfield Library, Kansas Herpetological Society, ANEW Healthcare, Arkansas City Book Club, Pet Sense..



THANKS TO OUR DONORS

We could never do all we do without the generosity of all of you!

EAGLES

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MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of Walker Butin

Patricia Butin, Wichita, KS

In Memory of Hazel & Stedman Chaplin

Carol Milbourn, Brookline, MO

In Memory of Alice Marie & Charles W. Couchman

Susie Peak, Wichita, KS

In Memory of Duane DeLong

Maxine DeLong, Wichita, KS

In Memory of Kathryn M Helsel

Allan J Helsel, South Haven, KS

In Memory of Edna Mae Herron

Bleu Herron Designs, Shawnee, KS

In Memory of Carol Chaplin Milbourn

Thomas Clark, Tucson, AZ

Charlene Shaw, Rogers, AR

Karen Zeller, Arkansas City, KS

In Memory of James Max Milne

Charlotte Milne, Halstead, KS

In Memory of Bobbie Pendell

Mary Sloan, Bel Aire, KS

Debbie Bass, Lee's Summit, MO

In Memory of Reta Taylor

Anita Taylor, Winfield, KS

In Memory of Louise & John Wherry

Mary Engleman & Andy Kemmer, Eastborough, KS

Gifts in Kind

Don Bostwick, Augusta, KS

Bob Gress, Wichita, KS



Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2024

Profit & Loss Statement

Ordinary Income	
Membership Dues	3,294
Contributions	26,709
Sales/Rental/Misc	260
Birdathon	3,027
Interest	38
Gross Income	\$33,328
Expense	
Fund raising/Program/Misc	928
Office Supplies/Postage	1,043
Printing/Copying	1,212
Accounting	1,764
Board Insurance	750
Subtotal	\$5,697
CNC Expense	
CNC Programs	1,337
Animal care	3,604
CNC Insurance	9,400
Office Expense	3,395
Telephone	660
Utilities	7,548
Employee Compensation	45,399
Employment Tax	3,233
Repairs & Maintenance	27,310
Depreciation	18,706
Subtotal	\$120,591
Total Expense	\$126,288
Endowment Income/Expense	
Interest & Dividends	21,480
Capital Gain (realized)	17,667
Capital Gains (unrealized)	80,712
Fees	-2,752
Net Endowment Income	\$117,107
Net Income	\$24,147

Balance Sheet

Assets	
Current Assets	
Checking/savings	18,771
Petty Cash - CNC	100
Total Checking/Savings	\$18,851
Other Current Assets	
Inventory	69
Total Current Assets	\$18,920
Fixed Assets	
CNC Land	75,231
CNC Buildings	316,762
CNC Furniture/Equipment	6,443
Total Fixed Assets	\$398,436
Endowment Funds	
Endowment Funds Raymond James	
Total Endowment funds	\$1,045,670
Total Assets	\$1,463,026
Liabilities & Equity	
Total Current Liabilities	1,539
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	-82,790
Perm. Restricted Net Assets	583,375
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	462,294
Unrestricted Net Assets	474,461
Net Income	24,147
Total Equity	1,437,340
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$1,463,026

Officers:

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 Vice-President: Mark Nolen
 Secretary: Dan Housholder
 Treasurer: Kevin Groeneweg
 Directors:
 Jeremy Birket Jeremy Coleman
 Bob Gress Jennifer Bruey
 Nick Stroot Rod Wedel

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 Field Trips: Tom Ewert
 Hospitality: Laura Groeneweg
 Membership: Carol Cumberland
 Newsletter/Web: Patty Marlett
 Programs: Mark Nolen
 AOK Representative: Tom Ewert
 Naturalist: Elizabeth Walker

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 Bob Gress, Jill Hunter,
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