

Audubon

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Picnic

Join us for our annual picnic on July 18, 6 pm, at the Great Plains Nature Center. This year we are taking no chances with the weather and will have our potluck dinner indoors. Bring your own service and a dish to share. We'll provide drinks. And Jim Marlett will be bringing barbecued ribs again.



High Island Extended Field Trip

Thirteen members of Wichita Audubon participated in the extended field trip to High Island, Texas, April 17 - 21. We met up with some other familiar faces: Bob Gress, David Butel, Curt VanBoening, Art Weigand, Harry Gregory and his friend Jan. Our home base was the La Quinta Motel in Winnie. We didn't experience any significant fall-out conditions, but we had a couple of days with good migrant diversity. The trip list for the group tallied 31 warbler species, with 187 species seen overall.

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COMING EVENTS

July 10, 8 am Second Saturday bird walk in Chisholm Creek Park.

No birding experience needed. Expect 1-2 miles of walking on paved paths for about 90 minutes. Meet in the parking lot at 8 a.m. Questions? Cheryl Miller, avian67226@gmail.com

July 10, 9 am – 3 pm Butterfly Count at Chaplin Nature Center

This is a citizen-scientist survey of the Arkansas City area and all data collected is sent to the North American Butterfly Association. No butterfly experience is required so this is an opportunity to learn a few common butterflies. During the survey, we hike the trails of the Nature Center identifying and counting all butterflies we encounter. Close focus binoculars are used to aid in identification. You can join us for the full day or just a half day. Please let us know if planning to attend. For more information, call the Center at 620-442-4133 or email cnc@wichitaudubon.org



Boardwalk at Smith Oaks

Blackburnian Warbler



Chaplin Nature Center Update

The committee is still working to find the right candidate to replace Shawn, but we don't have anyone yet. Shawn will be staying until July 15. If we don't have a new naturalist then we would like to keep the visitor's center open at least on weekends (9 – 5 Saturday and 1 – 5 Sunday). This volunteer job would just be unlocking the building and greeting people who come in. If you would be willing to help with that call or email Patty Marlett, pmarlett@cox.net, 316-200-3419.



Day 1: With a change to cooler weather from the day before, we headed straight to the sanctuaries of High Island, starting off a Smith Oaks. We ended up spending most of the day there, having a great day of birding and seeing over 20 species of warblers, including Golden-winged and Cerulean. The elevated boardwalk made birding easy, and the rookery was teeming with nesting herons, spoonbills and cormorants. Curt let us know about a Swainson's Warbler seen at Hooks Woods earlier in the day, so we went there in the late afternoon. After a short wait, the bird appeared on the ground, giving great looks for everyone.



OK Kids

On June 3 WAS had a booth at the OK Kids event at GPNC and helped lead bird walks. At least 435 people came by, and it would of been more but a sudden thunderstorm brought the whole show to a stop. Thanks to Dan Housholder, Barbara Gobbert and Herb Parsons for their help.



Swainson's Warbler



Watching Sparrows

Bachman's Sparrow



walked out to Bolivar Flats, where we had close looks at Wilson's Plovers along the beach and scope views of Red Knots among the numerous shorebird species. Along the entrance road we had great looks at a pair of White-tailed Kites. After dinner at the Stingaree restaurant, we easily found Seaside Sparrows along Stingaree road.

Day 4: We started out again at Smith Woods, but things were pretty slow, so we again headed out onto Bolivar peninsula. Our first stop was Tuna Road, where we had better looks at Seaside Sparrow. Our next stop was Bob's Road with similar species. We had lunch at Ft. Travis Park, with Whimbrels and a Ruddy Turnstone on the lawn. We then hit the Horseshoe Marsh Trail, a newly opened Houston Audubon sanctuary. We had several species at the marsh and heard several Clapper Rails, but were finally rewarded with great views of one. It was back to Smith Oaks, where the afternoon warbler show had commenced. We added Blackpoll and Black-throated Green Warblers among the many migrants.

Day 2: We were up early, heading north into the piney woods region for our target birds Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Bachman's Sparrow. It was a two-hour drive from Winnie to Boykin Springs Recreation Area in the Angelina National Forest, so we didn't get there as early as we should've for seeing the woodpecker at the known nesting locations. We birded the area for a while, seeing Pine Warblers and Brown-headed Nuthatches. After a wait, three Red-cockaded woodpeckers made an appearance, flying around to different trees to the delight of everyone (including the leader) before disappearing. Shortly after, a Bachman's Sparrow began to sing nearby, and was perched in the open as we walked up for close looks. We then drove a nearby road and got good views of a Prairie Warbler and Hooded Warbler, then made a visit to the Pitcher Plant Trail in Big Thicket National Park. The number of pitcher plants was amazing, and the birding was pretty good too. We finished the afternoon at Sabine Woods along the coast.

Day 3: We decided not to return to High Island due to southerly breezes, so we started the day at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge. The highlights there are shorebirds and waterfowl. The number of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks was amazing. We also had great fly-bys of Gull-billed Tern. We spent most of the day there, then it was on to the Bolivar peninsula. Rollover Pass had 5 tern species and lots of Black Skimmers. We

Day 5 We headed east toward the Louisiana border to a road just south of the town of Sabine Pass. It turns out that Clapper Rails are pretty easy to see there, and we even saw one with chicks. There were lots of Seaside Sparrows, but we dipped on the Nelson's Sparrow. After a brief stop at Texas Point National Wildlife Refuge and a cooperative Painted Bunting, we were once again at Sabine Woods. Severe thunderstorms had rolled through the night before, and it was hard to get around with all of the water. However, we quickly got on a Bay-breasted Warbler found by others. Later, most got on a Western Tanager. After more good birding and lunch, we moved on to Sea Rim State Park. The Gambusia Nature Trail boardwalk provided easy birding, where we saw a pair of Mottled Ducks among many other species. We made a brief stop at McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge, and on the way out noticed migrants coming through. We knew we needed to get back to Sabine Woods. Upon entering we saw a Cerulean Warbler, and among the many warblers was a stunning Cape May, which capped-off a great trip.

By Kevin Groeneweg



Cape May Warbler

Roseate Spoonbill



Sea Rim State Park

Seaside Sparrow

