

the WICHITA AUDUBON Society

A N N U A L R E P O R T

✕ 2019-2020 ✕

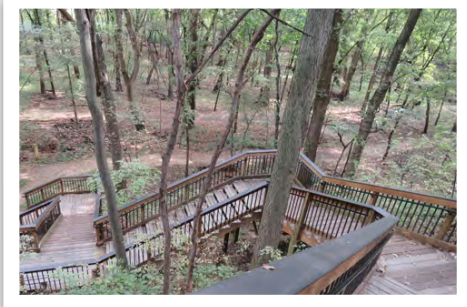
This is the 44th annual report of the Wichita Audubon Society and Chaplin Nature Center. This report highlights the activities for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. Chaplin Nature Center is owned and operated by the Wichita Audubon Society, with operations directed by the CNC committee of the board of directors.



Field Trips

This year we continued our 2nd Saturday bird walks in Chisholm Creek Park with great success. We are always happy to see lots of new birders along with the experienced troopers. We did have to stop during the stay-at-home order, but masks and social distancing made it safe later.

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MEETINGS

Thanks to Covid, we only had five meetings instead of our usual eight.

Roth telling us about the latest fossil discoveries that show how modern birds are the descendants of the dinosaurs.

September started us off with our own vice-president Rachel

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Citizen Science & Service Projects

We began with the annual butterfly count at Chaplin Nature Center. An official project of the North American Butterfly Association, we locate and count butterflies in a 15-mile diameter circle.

Despite the heat, we found 354 individuals of 36 species. In September we tagged Monarch butterflies as part of Monarch-Watch. It was a rainy day, but seventy



people managed to tag 25 monarchs on their way to Mexico. In October we held a trash pickup in Chisholm Creek Park.

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Citizen Science, continued

Lots of people gathered lots of trash, including 28 from the Boy Scouts Order of the Arrow and 15 - 20 others.

In the winter we contributed to Christmas bird counts. Wichita Audubon supports and promotes numerous counts in Wichita, Winfield-Udall, El Dorado, Slate Creek, Sedan, Arkansas City, Marion, and the Red Hills. Plus out members participate in

several other counts throughout Kansas. All the data is reported to the National Audubon Society, and is part of a database more than 100 years



old documenting bird locations and abundance.

We are also participating in Cast-It-In-Kansas, a project to collect used fishing line and prevent it from entangling wildlife. Rex Herndon has installed and is monitoring 6 bins for us at Veteran's Lake, Arkansas City, Cowley County State Fishing Lake, Sedan Old City Lake and Sedan New City Lake. This year he collected 1.62 lbs of line, which were sent to be recycled.



MEETINGS, CONTINUED

In October Dr. Ryan Klataske shared his

experiences with wildlife management and conservation in Namibia. November was a look at road kill. Dr. Bill Langley shared his two-year study of road mortality on K254 and his conclusions from his gruesome work.

In January we watched a delightful film, "Wetlands

Food Chain," filmed in Cheyenne Bottoms by Mike Blair. Our last program, in February, was a trip to Australia with Jim and Patty Marlett.

After the stay at home order and the risk of infection further meetings were cancelled. But we have been able to reschedule all our missed programs for the coming year.



Field Trips, continued

We began our fall trips with an old favorite: Quivira and Cheyenne Bottoms. Led by Tom Ewert, we saw both Wilson's and Red-necked



Phalarope, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and a half-dozen Western Grebes. In October we were treated to a ramble through the Cross Timbers region with Pete Janzen. It was a lovely fall day with many thousands of Franklin's Gulls on the lakes. November was our annual trip to Quivira to see cranes. We missed the

Whooping Crane by one day, but did get good looks at four Tundra Swans. We had several beginner bird watchers

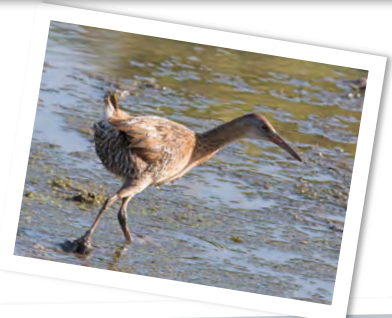
along, so everything was new. In

January we had our extended field trip to the Rio Grande Valley. Twenty - two people were along for visits to places such as Laguna Atacosa NWR, South Padre Island, Santa Ana NWR, Fontera Audubon Sanctuary, Estero Llano Grande State Park, and many more. Our rental vans made it all go

ended with a total of 167 species

In February we did some local tropical birding at the Tropics building at the Sedgwick County Zoo. About 25 people came

to find all the rarities in the warm building. Little did we know that would be the end of our trips for the year. Even though everyone had to bird on their own, it did provide welcome relief from the cabin fever of the spring!



smoothly. A big highlight was the Fork-tailed Flycatcher. As we rolled to a stop it was sitting on the wire right next to us. Another highlight was the Zapata High School Mariachi Band that performed just for us as we had dinner. The trip





6,234 visitors for 2019-20

Shawn Silliman, our naturalist, presented programs for 63 groups, reaching 1,485 people. This number is down somewhat do to the early closing of schools. We were

extra busy all spring with families seeking outdoor adventures. There were eight public programs, beginning with the Butterfly Count in July, and the Friday the 13th Full Moon Walk/

Run. There was Fall Nature Day in September, star gazing in October, Bald Eagle hikes in January and February, viewing a Bald Eagle nest in March and kayaking on the Arkansas river

in June. Volunteers donated 394 hours of their time. Seven groups totaling 327 people used the nature center for weddings, business meetings and reunions.

Chaplin Nature Center

New Bridge

The big project for this year was replacing the bridge over Spring Creek. Thanks to the V.J. Wilkins Foundation we were able to make it sturdier and put in a larger culvert so

that water flow was not restricted and fish could move up and downstream unimpeded.



The Gator

The V.J. Wilkins Foundation also helped us replace our 20 year old Gator with a challenge grant. Our donors rose to the occasion and we were able to match the funds.



Groups utilizing CNC included Oxford schools, Conway Springs High School, USD 470 Ark City, Udall Schools, Ark City Christian Academy, Winfield Public Library, Cowley County Community College, Home School COOP, Andover E Academy, Dexter



Elementary, Derby Home School, Trinity Lutheran School, Arkansas City Scouts, Lowell Elementary

Thank you to our Donors

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

EAGLES

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Betty Young, Wichita, KS

Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2020

Profit & Loss Statement

Ordinary Income	
Membership Dues 4,443	
Contributions 25,688	
Sales/Rental/Misc 1,330	
Birdathon 7,770	
Grants 17,000	
Bequests 27,787	
<u>Gross Income</u>	<u>\$84,018</u>
Expense	
Fund raising/Program/Misc 203	
Office Supplies/Postage 1,278	
Printing/Copying 3,654	
Accounting 1,345	
<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>\$6,480</u>
CNC Expense	
CNC Programs 1,440	
CNC Insurance 5,129	
Office Expense 722	
Telephone 233	
Utilities 4,767	
Employee Compensation 45,292	
Employment Tax 3,419	
Repairs & Maintenance 5,283	
Depreciation 14,562	
<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>\$80,847</u>
<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>\$87,326</u>
Other Income/Expense	
Interest & Dividends 11,087	
Capital Gain (realized) 14,989	
Fees -1,767	
<u>Net Other Income</u>	<u>\$24,309</u>
<u>Net Income</u>	<u>\$21,001</u>

Balance Sheet

Assets	
Current Assets	
Checking 22,847	
Petty Cash - CNC 100	
<u>Total Checking/Savings</u>	<u>\$33,947</u>
Other Current Assets	
Inventory 69	
Prepaid Insurance 3,073	
<u>Total Other Assets</u>	<u>3,142</u>
<u>Total Current Assets</u>	<u>\$26,089</u>
Fixed Assets	
CNC Land 75,231	
CNC Buildings 84,769	
CNC Furniture/Equipment 32,202	
<u>Total Fixed Assets</u>	<u>\$192,202</u>
Endowment Funds	
Endowment Funds Raymond James 652,696	
<u>Total Endowment funds</u>	<u>\$652,696</u>
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>\$870,987</u>
Liabilities & Equity	
Total Current Liabilities 1,177	
Equity	
Perm. Restricted Net Assets 500,585	
Temp. Restricted Net Assets 152,222	
Unrestricted Net Assets 196,001	
Net Income 21,001	
<u>Total Equity</u>	<u>869,810</u>
<u>Total Liabilities & Equity</u>	<u>\$870,987</u>

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 Naturalist: Shawn Silliman

CNC Committee:

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 Steve Johnson, Shawn Silliman.

Thank you to our Donors

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Jane Breen, Chandler, AZ

James Pitts, Gainsville, FL

Bertha Potter, Harper, KS

Johnny & Elizabeth Roths, Wichita, KS

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Elizabeth Willis, Denver, CO

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Sandra Tholen, Wichita, KS

Scott & Donna Van Allen, Clearwater, KS

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In Memory of Wallace Champeny

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In Memory of CS and Hazel Chaplin

Carol Milbourn, Battlefield, MO

In Memory of Julie Edwards

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In Memory of Larry J. Gray

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Margaret Hughes, Winfield, KS

George & Susan Lowe, Winfield, KS

Everett & Judy Ross, Arkansas City, KS

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In Memory of Barbara Silliman

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