

Wichita Audubon



Volume 42 No. 1 July /August 2007

JULY PICNIC

Everyone is invited, including family and friends, for our annual picnic. This is an indoor, air conditioned picnic so everyone can stay comfortable. We'll meet on Tuesday, July 17, at 6:00 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. Bring a covered dish or dessert to share and your own service. We will provide iced tea, or you can bring your own beverage.

After dinner we will watch the one episode of the "Planet Earth" series in the auditorium. This groundbreaking series has some spectacular nature photography. Bring the whole family for good food and a good time.

LAURA GROENEWEG HONORED

Our Meritorious Service Award for 2007 was presented to Laura Groeneweg at the May meeting. Laura has been our Hospitality Chair since 1997, making sure we have refreshments at each meeting (often making cookies herself), and planning the summer picnic. She provides the desserts for the Chaplin Nature Center Fall Nature Day, and has prepared food for the Twilight Dinner for the last three years. She is an excellent cook and brings treats to many field trips. Her skills and attention to detail make each event a success. Congratulations, Laura! And thanks!

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Butterfly Count

Saturday, July 14, 8 a.m.



July isn't a great month for watching birds, but it is great for watching butterflies. We're going to hold a Butterfly Count at Chaplin Nature Center that will be conducted just like a Christmas Bird Count, identifying species and counting the number of individuals seen in a circle fifteen miles across. We will use the same circle that we use for the Arkansas City Christmas Bird Count. Results will be reported to the North American Butterfly Association.

Meet on July 14, 8 a.m. at the Chaplin Nature Center Visitor's Center. People living in Arkansas City can also help by counting the butterflies they see in their gardens. For instructions on garden counting, or more information about the butterfly count, call Shawn Silliman, 620-442-4133 or cnc@wichitaudubon.org. You are welcome to participate even if you can only spend part of the day with us, so please join us and enjoy other kinds of flying creatures.

COMING EVENTS

July 14

2nd Annual Butterfly Count at Chaplin Nature Center. Meet at 8 a.m. at the CNC Visitor's Center.

July 17

Annual picnic, 6 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

September 22

Fall Nature Day and Butterfly Tagging at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Watch for more details in the next newsletter.

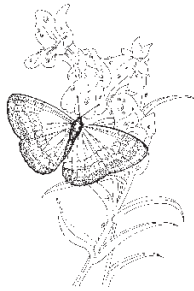


For more information about any Chaplin Nature Center programs call Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, or e-mail cnc@wichitaudubon.org. CNC is located 3 miles west of Arkansas City on Hwy 166, north 2 miles on 21st Rd, east 0.6 miles on 272nd Rd.

THANKS!

The silent auction held at the May meeting raised \$610. A big thank you to all who participated. Donors included Walker Butin, Rosa McHenry, Meg Mathewson, Carol Cumberland, John and Louise Wherry, Don and Fran Vannoy, Eddie Stegall, Patty Marlett, Laura Groeneweg, Marsha Ebaugh, Sandra Tholen, Dale Roark, and Dan Kilby. And also thanks to all those who bought items.

All the money raised goes to support the chapter and Chaplin Nature Center.



BIRDATHON

Both Birdathon teams - the Painted Buntings and the Chaplin Nature Center team - experienced some difficulties due to high water and rain, but still managed respectable lists. The Painted Buntings (Patty Marlett and Marsha Ebaugh) ended up with 108 species, which was not too bad considering that Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira were closed due to high water. The CNC team (Shawn Silliman, Kevin Groeneweg, Rex Herndon, Dwight Schoup and Gene Young) found 133 species. They also had to battle mud and too much water. The two teams raised over \$3,200. Thanks to all who contributed!

COLORADO FIELD TRIP

The Wichita Audubon Society extended field trip to southwestern Colorado from June 11-13 was a rewarding experience. Those attending were Sharon Bolin, Sandra Tholen, Carol and Hal Cumberland, Kevin and Laura Groeneweg, Deb and Pete Janzen, Billie and Tom McDavitt, Sam and Terry Mannell, Jim and Patty Marlett, Cliff and Nadine Miller, Dale Randall, Eddie and Savilla Stegall.



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The first day of the trip we visited desert areas west of Cortez, Colorado. We followed McElmo Creek west to Hovenweep National Monument, stopping along the way at the Ismay Trading Post near the Utah border. Along McElmo Creek we found singing Yellow-breasted Chats and a variety of other riparian species. At Ismay we found a flock of Black-throated Sparrows, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Gambel's Quail, and other interesting species. We took two long hikes at Hovenweep, which protects some of the most intriguing Ancestral Puebloan archaeological sites. Highlights at this site were several singing Gray Vireos, Juniper Titmouse, Sage Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow and Gray Flycatcher.

In the afternoon we wandered into Utah, with some good birding at the Devil's Creek Campground located near Blanding. Good birds there included Juniper Titmouse, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Grace's and Black-throated Gray Warblers, Cassin's Finch, and a Black-chinned Hummingbird on the nest. A brief stop at the Blanding water treatment



Cold and wet at 10,00 feet

lagoons added some waterbirds to our list, including Redheads and Ruddy Ducks with broods of downy young.

On Day Two we began at McPhee Reservoir north of Cortez, visiting excellent ponderosa pine forests as well as sagebrush meadows. Grace's and Virginia's Warblers were a highlight for many. An especially cooperative Virginia's Warbler allowed all to see it through a spotting scope as it sang from an exposed perch. Other birds seen included Plumbeous Vireo, Western Tanager, Green-tailed Towhee, Red Crossbill, and a number of other species. From here we began working our way northward into higher elevation habitats. After lunch it began to rain and the temperature dropped as we climbed in altitude. At about 10,500' we took advantage of a break in the

rain and hiked through spruce-fir habitat along the Calico Trail. Good finds on this hike included Hammond's Flycatcher, Gray Jay, Red-breasted Nuthatch, "Rocky Mountain" White-crowned Sparrow and Pine Grosbeak.

On the final day of the trip we began at Escalante Canyon northwest of Delta. This beautiful canyon produced numerous Chukars, including several with broods of chicks. A Black Phoebe was found along the creek. Other birds seen or heard in this impressive canyon were Golden Eagle, Canyon Wren, Western Scrub-Jay, and several Lazuli Buntings. The remainder of the day was spent traversing the huge Uncompaghre Plateau from north



Escalante Canyon

to south. Highlights of this portion of the trip were Black-throated Gray, Virginia's and MacGillivray's Warblers (although the MacGillivrays was frustratingly uncooperative in coming into view), Northern Goshawk, Williamson's Sapsucker, Steller's Jay, Western Bluebird and Mountain Bluebird.

After this daunting three-day trip, only one carload of birders ended up returning to the plateau near Columbine Pass to try for owls after

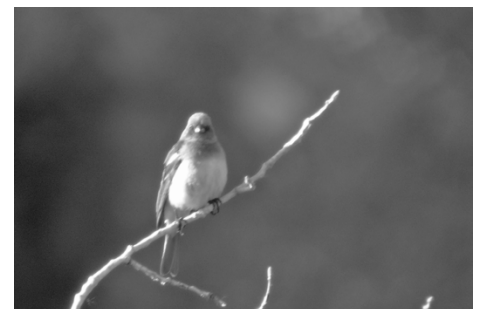


The mountains still had snow

dark on the last day of the trip. A Northern Pygmy-Owl responded once to a taped call. We tried for them at several other stops, with Common Nighthawks swooping past the car in between stops. When we got into mixed aspen/spruce habitat, we played Flammulated Owl calls. At the third stop, a Flammulated answered from nearby. Once it got started, it didn't stop, flying all around us in the darkness. It always stayed in thick cover, and we never got more than a glimpse as it flew between perches. A pack of coyotes nearby started to bay as the owl hooted at us. It was an exciting end to a great trip.

Thanks to all who attended. I think everyone on the trip got at least one addition to their life-list of birds, and at least two people got over thirty lifers!

by Pete Janzen, trip leader



Lazuli Bunting

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Printed on recycled paper

COMPLETE LIST OF SPECIES, Wichita Audubon Field Trip, June 11-13, 2007

Eared Grebe	Common Poorwill	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	American Crow	Lincoln's Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	White-throated Swift	American Dipper	Common Raven	White-crowned Sparrow
Gadwall	Black-chinned	Rock Wren	European Starling	Dark-eyed Junco
Mallard	Hummingbird	Canyon Wren	Gray Vireo	Black-headed Grosbeak
Redhead	Broad-tailed	Bewick's Wren	Plumbeous Vireo	Blue Grosbeak
Ruddy Duck	Hummingbird	House Wren	Warbling Vireo	Lazuli Bunting
Turkey Vulture	Williamson's Sapsucker	Gray Catbird	Orange-crowned	Red-winged Blackbird
Cooper's Hawk	Red-naped Sapsucker	Northern Mockingbird	Warbler	Western Meadowlark
Northern Goshawk	Downy Woodpecker	Western Bluebird	Virginia's Warbler	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Swainson's Hawk	Hairy Woodpecker	Mountain Bluebird	Yellow Warbler	Brewer's Blackbird
Red-tailed Hawk	Northern Flicker	Townsend's Solitaire	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Common Grackle
Golden Eagle	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Hermit Thrush	Black-throated Gray	Great-tailed Grackle
American Kestrel	Western Wood-Pewee	American Robin	Warbler	Brown-headed Cowbird
Wild Turkey	Hammond's Flycatcher	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Grace's Warbler	Bullock's Oriole
Gambel's Quail	Gray Flycatcher	Bushtit	MacGillivray's Warbler	Pine Grosbeak
Chukar	Dusky Flycatcher	Black-capped Chickadee	Wilson's Warbler	Cassin's Finch
Ring-necked Pheasant	Black Phoebe	Mountain Chickadee	Yellow-breasted Chat	House Finch
American Coot	Say's Phoebe	Juniper Titmouse	Western Tanager	Red Crossbill
Killdeer	Ash-throated Flycatcher	Pygmy Nuthatch	Green-tailed Towhee	Pine Siskin
Spotted Sandpiper	Cassin's Kingbird	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Spotted Towhee	Lesser Goldfinch
Ring-billed Gull	Western Kingbird	White-breasted Nuthatch	Chipping Sparrow	American Goldfinch
Rock Pigeon	Horned Lark	Loggerhead Shrike	Brewer's Sparrow	House Sparrow
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Violet-green Swallow	Gray Jay	Vesper Sparrow	
Mourning Dove	Northern Rough-winged	Steller's Jay	Lark Sparrow	
Flammulated Owl	Swallow	Western Scrub-Jay	Black-throated Sparrow	
Northern Pygmy-Owl	Cliff Swallow	Black-billed Magpie	Sage Sparrow	
Common Nighthawk	Barn Swallow	Clark's Nutcracker	Song Sparrow	