

Wichita Audubon



Volume 37 No. 5 January/February 2003

CNC Upcoming Programs

**January 25, Saturday,
10 am - noon
and
February 2, Sunday,
1:30 - 3:30 pm**

Eagle Watch

Take a hike down to the river to search for Bald Eagles and enjoy Chaplin Nature Center in the winter. Bring binoculars and we'll provide spotting scopes.

**March 15, Saturday
1 pm - 2 pm
Signs of Spring Hike**

Join us for a hike around the nature center as we search for signs of spring's arrival.

For more information about any Chaplin Nature Center programs call Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, or e-mail cnc@wichitaaudubon.org.



January Program

Explore Alaska's Inside Passage, Kenai Peninsula, and Denali National Park with John Ellert as he presents a photo essay covering the feeding habits of humpback whales as well as work with Black, Coastal Brown, and Grizzly Bears. We'll also see spectacular pictures of glaciers, seabirds and other flora and fauna.

The program will be on Tuesday, January 21, 7:30 pm at the Great Plains Nature Center, 29th and Woodlawn.

You can also join John and other members for dinner at 5:45 pm at Jason's Deli in Bradley Fair, 21st and Rock Road. .

February Program

Dr. Orley "Chip" Taylor, Director of Project Monarch Watch will tell us about Monarch butterflies. The citizen scientists who participate in the Monarch Watch tagging program have helped create a magnificent database that can be mined to answer numerous questions concerning monarchs. In this presentation, Chip will show how the data from the tag recoveries can be used to test a new theory concerning the timing and pace of the migration during both the fall and spring migrations. The program will be on Tuesday, February 18, 7:30 pm at the Great Plains Nature Center.

Be sure to join Dr. Taylor and members for dinner at 5:45 pm at Jason's Deli, 21st and Rock Road.

Coming Events

January 4

Barber County Christmas Bird Count. Call Pete Janzen, 832-0182, prarybrd@southwind.net

January 21

Regular meeting, "Alaskan Odyssey," by John Ellert, 7:30 pm, Great Plains Nature Center.

January 25

Eagle Watch at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 am to noon.

February 2

Eagle Watch at Chaplin Nature Center, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm. Missed the first one? Then join us for the second.

February 2

Lyon County Lake/Melvern Lake field trip. Meet at the KDWP office, 1830 Merchant, Emporia, at 9 am. Leader: Chet Gresham, cogresha@yahoo.com

February 18

Regular meeting, "Monarchs: A New Theory to Explain the Timing and Pace of the Migration," by Dr. Orley Taylor, 7:30 pm, Great Plains Nature Center.

March 1

Great Salt Plains NWR field trip. Meet at the refuge headquarters at 9 am. Leader: Dan Kilby, 943-5136, ddkilby@prodigy.net

Butler County Community College Bird ID Class

Butler CCC of Andover will be offering a Bird Identification Seminar, a beginning birding class, during the spring semester. This course is an introduction to the identification, ecology and behavior of birds species found in south-central Kansas. The course consists of lectures, study exercises and several local field trips. The Course Number is BI230. This is a two credit hour class. This class will meet on Saturdays, from 9:00 until noon.

Butler of Andover will also be offering a Bird Identification Lab-Seminar for one hour credit. The prerequisite is concurrent enrollment in BI230 or instructor's permission. This course will cover the identification, ecology, and behavior of common waterfowl and shorebirds found along the Texas coast. Most course work will occur during a field trip to the Corpus Christi, Texas, area over spring break. The Course Number is BI235.

Persons interested in these courses should contact Bob Broyles at (316) 323-6974, or at bbroyles@butlercc.edu

Audubon WatchList

Despite the exciting recovery of Endangered birds like the Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon, more than one-quarter of America's birds are in trouble or decline. Released in October, the Audubon WatchList identifies 201 species of birds in need of conservation. These birds show either significantly decreasing numbers or restricted range, or are

News from Chaplin Nature Center

Chaplin Nature Center has settled down for a long winter's nap and has been covered with about six inches of snow which is rapidly melting. The trails are muddy so its somewhat difficult to move about. When snowing and just afterward, it is very quiet and very beautiful to behold. The winter birds are active and keep the feeders cleaned out. A number of turkeys have been coming to the Visitors' Center and sitting on the porch rails and the

walkways. A few flew up on the roof of the building and started running around. It made quite a noise inside and they are not exactly ballet-dancers. Winter is a good time to visit because the trees are bare and the birds are quite visible. No eagles have been observed in recent weeks but some will appear as it gets further along into the winter.

Shawn Silliman and Gary Straley
CNC

A frost flower that appeared after the early December snow.



The Pecan grove in the snow

under other threats.

The Audubon WatchList serves to underscore some disturbing trends; since 1970, many songbird species have declined by as much as 50 percent or more. The California Thrasher and the southeast's Painted Bunting both show declines in excess of 50 percent, while the Cerulean Warbler of the eastern

U.S. has declined by more than 70 percent and the Henslow's Sparrow from the Midwest has dangerously dropped by 80 percent. The Hawaiian 'Akikiki from Kauai has dropped from about 6,800 birds in the early 70's to only 1,000 individuals today.

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Audubon's WatchList 2002 aims to highlight U.S. birds of concern to the general public in order to increase support of and public involvement in bird conservation efforts of Audubon and other organizations that are part of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI). The constituent groups of NABCI are working together to develop and implement bird conservation plans across the continent.

The Audubon WatchList 2002 uses species assessments carried out by some of the NABCI partners including Partners In Flight, BirdLife International, and the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan to place species in one of three categories.

RED - Species in this category of global conservation concern are

declining rapidly, have very small populations or limited ranges, and face major conservation threats.

YELLOW: Category includes the majority of species identified. Yellow-list birds are declining, but at slower rates than those in the red category. These typically are birds of national conservation concern, and those that can be saved most cost-effectively.

GREEN: species in this category are not declining, have unknown trends, or have very large population sizes. These species are not included on the Audubon WatchList.

To view the WatchList and species account for all 201 red and yellow-listed species visit www.audubon.org/bird/watchlist. A sampling of listed birds from our area include:

RED:

Greater & Lesser Prairie Chickens
Black Rail
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Long-billed Curlew
Mountain Plover
Piping Plover
Snowy Plover
Bell's Vireo
Henslow's Sparrow
McCown's Longspur
Sprague's Pipit

YELLOW:

Ferruginous Hawk
Swainson's Hawk
Short-eared Owl
Lewis's Woodpecker
Harris's Sparrow
Painted Bunting
Willow Flycatcher.