CNC Upcoming Programs

April 5
Back roads of Chautauqua County field trip. Meet at the convenience store at the west edge of Cedarvale on US 166. Leader: Pete Janzen, 832-0182, prarybrd@southwind.net

April 12
Bird walk at Chaplin Nature Center, 9 am - 11 am.

April 15

April 19

April 22
Earth Day at the Sedgwick County Zoo. Volunteers needed - see page 2.

April 19 - May 25 Birdathon
May 3
Twilight Dinner at Chaplin Nature Center - see page 3

June 9, 10, 11
Extended Field Trip to Roaring River State Park, Missouri. see page 3

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

April Program
Our April speaker will be Bob Broyles, Biology Instructor at Butler County Community College, who will talk about the nesting ecology of Cooper’s Hawks in south-central Kansas. Recently, the population of Cooper’s hawks has been on the increase, with not only a recovery in the range where they had originally bred in eastern Kansas, but also a range expansion onto the prairie. Bob has researched the nesting requirements for these dense-woodland accipiters when nesting in riparian habitat in south-central Kansas.

You can join other members and our speaker for dinner before the program at 5:45 pm at Jason’s Deli, 21st and Rock Road.

Afghan Donated
Louise Wherry has donated a hand-crocheted afghan that will be raffled off at the Chaplin Nature Center Fall Nature Day next October. It is in ripple pattern, in shades of green, brown, and tan. Don't miss your chance to win this lovely throw. Tickets are $1 each, or 6 for $5 and may be purchased at all meetings and at Chaplin Nature Center. For more information contact Carol Cumberland, 685-4867, ccumb@swbell.net.
Meritorious Service Award

The award committee of Barbara Millar, Mary Manlove, and Rick Goodrick is accepting nominations for the annual Meritorious Service Award. The criteria for selection include outstanding or sustained leadership as a member, officer, committee chair, or special project leader. This will be the tenth year this award has been presented.

Because there were so many worthy candidates from the many years predating the award, many people have gotten the impression that only “retired” members are eligible. But any member can be nominated, including currently active officers and committee members. Some people have made nominations in the past, and when their candidate was not chosen they gave up. But only one award is given each year, and many worthy candidates may have to wait.

So if you made a nomination in the past consider resubmitting it. Nominations can be made by email or snail mail to Barbara Millar, 3850 Woodrow, Wichita, KS 67204, bmi3931874@aol.com Please include a brief description of the nominees accomplishments and why you think they should receive this award.

Previous recipients of this award are:
1994 John Wherry
1995 Ralph Wiley & Geula McDonald
1996 Nathan McDonald
1997 Louise Wherry
1998 Don Vannoy
1999 Bob Gress
2000 Dan Kelby
2001 Rex Herndon
2002 Wallace Champeny

Birdathon

Birdathon is a fun-raising activity that is also a lot of fun, and open to any member that likes to bird and wants to help. A Birdathon team solicits pledges from friends, neighbors, coworkers, and even total strangers, for the number of bird species they can find in a 24 hour period. The team picks a date between April 20 and May 27 and goes birding. Then the pledges roll in to help support WAS and Chaplin Nature Center.

We really would like to have your help this year. To join a team talk to Carol Cumberland, Patty Marlett, or Shawn Silliman. If you don't want to go birding, consider soliciting pledges for one of the teams, or contribute yourself. Any and all assistance is appreciated.

Help Clean Up Parks

On Saturday, April 19 we will have our regular biannual cleanup of Chisholm Creek Park. Meet at 10:00 am in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot. Paul Hobelman leads this cleanup. He can be reached at 264-8694.

It is useful to have work gloves and wear old clothes. Trash bags and tools will be provided.

Earth Day

Wichita Audubon will have a booth at the Earth Day event at the Sedgwick County Zoo. We plan to have outlines of various bird wingspans so the children can compare their own size to that of the birds. It is an all day event on Tuesday, April 22. If you could help for couple of hours that day it would be appreciated and you will get free admission to the zoo.

Call Carol Cumberland at 685-4867 or email ccumb@swbell.net
**Twilight Dinner at Chaplin Nature Center**

This special event, on Saturday May 3, is to honor our members and donors who make Chaplin Nature Center possible. Activities include

- Barbecue dinner on the beach (weather permitting - if it’s raining we’ll move inside)
- Nature scavenger hunt for kids
- Sand castle building contest
- Bird watching
- Owl calling
- An animal program by Joyce Lent, a naturalist at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, featuring "Chuck" the Turkey Vulture.

Festivities begin with a social hour at 5:00 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm, and activities continuing until after dark. There will be transportation provided to the sandbar, so don’t worry if you can’t walk that far. We want this to be accessible to everyone.

Donors who have given one hundred dollars or more in the past year will be honored with a free dinner (you will receive a personal invitation in the mail.)

All others are invited to join in the fun for only $6.50 for adults and $3.25 for children 12 and under - and this is all you can eat!

Please return the reservation below by April 26.

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**Twilight Dinner Reservation May 3**

Name:__________________________________________________________

Address:____________________________________________________________________

City:____________________State:__________ Zip:___________________

phone:_________________________

email:___________________________________________

Fee enclosed for:

# of adults:__________($6.50 each)

# of children under 12:_______ ($3.25 each)

Mail to: Wichita Audubon Society, P.O. Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201

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**Roaring River Extended Field Trip**

It's not too late to make plans to join us June 9-11 for a field trip to Roaring River State Park in Missouri. We'll be looking for all those beautiful resident warblers. The nights of June 8 & 9 we will stay at the Roaring River Resort. For reservations call 800-693-2792. Be sure to mention that you are with Wichita Audubon. After birding that area we will travel north to check out the Schell-Osage Wildlife Area and Taberville Prairie. The wildflowers are supposed to be great. We will spend the night of June 10 in Nevada, Missouri, at the Comfort Inn, 417-667-6777. Let me know if you're joining us - Patty Marlett 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com.
Birding Festivals

Here are several area birding festivals occurring in the next couple of months to tempt you:

**Prairie Chicken Festival**
April 4, 5, 6 in Washington, KS. Tours to Greater Prairie Chicken booming grounds, plus numerous other tours to area attractions. Fee is $30 per person. For more information visit www.washingtonks.net/special.htm or call 785-325-2281.

**Lesser Prairie Chicken Tour**
April 11 - 13 Comanche County, KS. Package includes lodging and meals, and a tour of the Z-Bar ranch. Cost is $350 for one person, $650 for 2. For more information call Cathy Ready at (620) 582-2211 ext 3, Monday-Friday 8:00-4:00 cst.

**Wings N Wetlands Weekend,**
April 25-27, Great Bend, KS. Numerous field trips to Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira NWR, plus educational seminars on waterbird ID, marsh management, outdoor photography, and more. Registration is $75 per person. For more information visit www.visitgreatbend.com/wnw2003.html or call 620-792-2750.

**Crystal Festival & Celebration of Birds**
Great Salt Plains NWR, Jet, OK. April 26 & 27, 2003. This event is free, although donations are requested. Planned activities included birdwatching tours each morning, shorebird identification sessions, native plant hike, falconry exhibition, selenite crystal digging, plus numerous other events. More information is available at www.greatsaltplains.com, or by calling 580-596-3053.