



Come one, come all for our annual summer picnic. The annual picnic will be held on Tuesday, July 19 at 6:00 p.m. This year we decided not to fight the heat and go for air conditioned comfort, so we will be eating in the classroom at the Great Plains Nature Center. Bring a dish to share and your own service. Ice tea will be provided, or bring your own beverage. After the meal we will watch the movie *Winged Migration* in the auditorium..

Laura Groeneweg, Hospitality Chair

SANDRA THOLEN HONORED



Sandra Tholen was honored at the May meeting with the 2005 Meritorious Service Award. Sandra has been an integral part of our organization for many years and has served in many capacities.

She served three terms as secretary, as a director, field trip chairman, and as treasurer for five terms. She planned and led five extended field trips. She can always be counted on for park cleanups and envelope stuffing parties.

We've never talked her into being president, but her hard work and dedication have been an essential part of the success of Wichita Audubon, and her leadership qualities are obvious from the success of the projects she has headed. Congratulations Sandra, and thank you for your all your efforts.

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Saturday, July 9, 1 - 2 p.m., Stream Ecology

Whether you want to cool off, or just have a special place in your heart for things that crawl, wiggle, or swim, this is the program for the curious mind. Children will enjoy digging through the mud of Spring Creek to get a close up look at dragonfly nymphs, crawdads, scuds, and others. The Nature Center will provide collecting equipment and holding containers. Wear old clothes and shoes.

Saturday, August 27, 8:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. Star Program

Join the Kansas Astronomical Observers for a night under the stars. Learn about planets, constellations and other heavenly bodies.



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.

COMING EVENTS

July 9

Stream Ecology program at Chaplin Nature Center, 1 - 2 p.m.

July 19

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

August 27

Star Program at Chaplin Nature Center, 8:30 - 10 p.m.

September 24

Fall Nature Day at Chaplin Nature Center, featuring Monarch butterfly tagging, guided nature walks, the Country Store, and more!
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

BIRDATHON

The 2005 Birdathon is over, and we raised about \$3000! The Chaplin Nature Center team got the most species – 140!- thanks to their power team of Shawn Silliman, Rex Herndon, Dwight Shoup, Norman Smith, Gene Young, Kevin Groeneweg and Max Thompson. They started on Friday afternoon and birded Slate Creek Marsh, where they found many wetland species including Avocet, Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin, Short and Long-billed Dowitcher, a Peregrine Falcon, a flock of 36 White Pelicans, and three Bobolinks sitting on a power line. The next morning, the team stopped by Camp Horizon in time to see a Merlin flyby and a magnificent Painted Bunting sitting on a fence post. At the Kaw Wildlife Area they picked up Northern Parula, Prothonotary Warbler and Black-and-white Warbler, and a few more flycatchers. They ended the day back at the Chaplin Nature Center to find the last two species, a Barn Owl in the old pole barn and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at the feeder.

The Painted Bunting team of Cheryl Baumeister, Carol Cumberland, Marsha Ebaugh, and Patty Marlett picked an unfortunate day – it was cold, with a temperature of 44 degrees and a dark cloudy sky as the day began. They hit the best Wichita spots first – Chisholm Creek Park, Maple Grove Cemetery, and Oak Park – where they found a good selection of sparrows and a gorgeous Summer Tanager in Oak Park. Then they headed for Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. The sheer abundance of several species was striking. There were thousands of Wilson's Phalaropes doing their spinning dance in the water. Avocets were more abundant than usual. After getting all excited about an Eared Grebe, the team discovered they were everywhere. At Cheyenne Bottoms they discovered amazing numbers of Piping Plovers - they seemed to be everywhere. Coming across one of the low water crossings they spotted a Common Moorhen! The Painted Bunting team ended up with 132 species for the day. A big thank you to the teams for their hard work, and a big thank you to all of you who supported them with your pledges.

2005-2006 WAS Officers

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email any officer: was@wichitaaudubon.org

Send address changes to Sister Patricia Stanley, 6739 Perryton, Wichita, KS 67226
pstanley@csjwichita.org

NEW OFFICERS

The following officers were elected at the May meeting:

President: Patty Marlett

Vice-president: Carol Cumberland

Secretary: Marsha Ebaugh

Treasurer: Sandra Tholen

Board members:

Ben Rogers

Kevin Groeneweg

Please give them your support as we begin another year of great programs and exciting field trips.

WISH LIST

Shawn would like a copy of the book *Wildflowers and Weeds of Kansas*, by Janet E. Bare, for the nature center. It is no longer in print. If anyone has a copy they would be willing to donate, remember that donations to Wichita Audubon and Chaplin Nature Center are tax deductible. Call Shawn at 620-442-4133 or email cnc@wichitaaudubon.org.

High Island 05



The rail walk at Anahuac NWR

Nineteen members of Wichita Audubon traveled to Galveston April 17 – 21 to visit the birding Mecca at High Island. Our trip began with a Rail Walk at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge. Besides our group, about a hundred other people showed up for the chance to see Yellow Rails. We all lined up across a wet meadow and walked very fast to flush the birds. Besides seeing nine Yellow Rails, we also had good looks at Seaside Sparrows and Sedge Wrens.

The next morning we went to High Island to the Boy Scout

Woods and the

Smith Woods, working hard for warblers, but with little success. However, we did see many Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Summer Tanagers. That afternoon we drove down country roads looking for shorebirds in the rice fields and saw flocks of Whimbrels, Upland and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, and a Crested Caracara. Four of the guys stopped at Bolivar Flats on the way home and found one of the best birds of the trip – a Roseate Tern. When the rest of us returned the next day, it was nowhere to be seen.

On Tuesday, Kevin stayed behind to get the battery replaced in his car. The rest of us went to Bolivar Flats where we saw Red Knots and Common Terns, along with many other shorebirds. At



The bleachers at Boy Scout Woods



WAS members at Smith Oaks Sanctuary

Fort Travis we watched four Clapper Rails walk back and forth across mud flats. We went back to Galveston to check on Kevin and found Piping Plovers and Black Skimmers on the beach (and we found Kevin, too!) We ended the day at Galveston Island State Park watching a tree full of orioles, buntings and tanagers.

On Wednesday one group went to Sabine Woods and Sea Rim State Park while the other group returned to High Island and Anahuac NWR. At Sabine Woods, while waiting

for birds to come to a dripper, we started watching the snakes in the little pond in front of us. Then we noticed a large cottonmouth coiled in the pan under the dripper. No wonder the birds were staying away! We talked Jim into moving the snake – he used a large stick to carry it back in the woods. The audience all applauded, and the birds started coming – Indigo and Painted Buntings, Blue Grosbeak, American Redstart and many others. At dinner we ran into Jon Dunn, who filled us in on the latest location of the King Eider who had been in the area.



Jim Marlett moving the cottonmouth

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HIGH ISLAND, continued



Roseate Spoonbill

Delong, Bill & Letha Frye, Kevin & Laura Groeneweg, Julia Hoppes, Dan Kilby, Terry & Sam Mannell, Jim & Patty Marlett, Cheryl Miller, Cliff & Nadine Miller, Jay Newton, Ben Rogers, Sandra Tholen

The next morning the whole group headed for the jetty at Galveston Beach to see the Eider, who cooperated by actually being there! After that one carload headed off to chase the Streak-backed Oriole being seen at Brazos Bend State Park. (Jay Newton actually did see it!) The rest of us suffered through a series of car troubles, but had one more day at High Island with its fantastic Spoonbill rookery, and Anahuac NWR.

We never got the great fallout of migrants that we were hoping for, but we still ended the trip with a respectable list of 183 species, and everyone got at least one lifer. Participants: Wallace Champeny, Duane & Maxine



The Cathedral at Boy Scout Woods