

Wichita Audubon



Volume 39 No. 2 September 2004

Wichita Audubon Celebrates 50 years!

2004 marks 50 years of achievements for the Wichita Audubon Society. In celebration we're planning a full weekend of activities on September 25 and 26th.

BioBlitz & Fall Nature Day

The weekend starts at Chaplin Nature Center. BioBlitz is an intense 24 hour survey by scientists from many disciplines to find as many species of living things as is possible. They will start at 3:00 p.m. on Friday the 24th and work around the clock to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday the 25th. On Saturday, the public is invited to attend our annual Fall Nature Day and see what the scientists have found and watch them at work.

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Field Trip

We'll end our weekend with a field trip with Kenn Kaufman. On Sunday, September 27, meet at the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 8:00 a.m. We'll bird various locations around the city and see if we can turn up some interesting migrants. For more information call Kevin Groeneweg 687-4268, or email kgroeneweg@cox.net

Banquet

Join us Saturday evening, September 25, at the Wichita Art Museum for a scrumptious banquet featuring guest speaker **Kenn Kaufman**. Kenn is a world authority on birding, having been watching birds since the age of six. His early adventures in birding, including the time spent in Wichita, are detailed in his book "Kingbird Highway". His other books include "Lives



of North American Birds" and the best-selling Kaufman Focus Guides on the birds and butterflies of North America.

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September Meeting

Our first program of the new season will be presented by Verajeon (Vicki) Hatfield on the Bats of America. Join us September 21, 7:30 p.m., at the Great Plains Nature Center.

Vicki has worked for the State of Texas and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service banding and recording endangered species such as the

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Coming Events

September 4

Field trip to Great Salt Plains NWR, near Jet, OK. Meet at the headquarters at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com

September 21

Regular meeting, "Bats of America," by Vicki Hatfield, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

September 26

BioBlitz and Fall Nature Day at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. See article this page.

September 26

Fiftieth Anniversary Banquet featuring speaker Kenn Kaufman. Wichita Art Museum 6:30 p.m. See article this page.

September 27

Field trip with Kenn Kaufman. Meet at the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Kevin Groeneweg, 687-4268, kgroeneweg@cox.net

October 16

Slate Creek Marsh field trip. Meet at the Slate Creek Valley Baptist Church at 8 a.m. Leader: Kevin Groeneweg, 687-4268, kgroeneweg@cox.net



September Program, continued

Golden-Cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo in Texas. Vicki will present Merlin Tuttle's images on Bat Conservation, featuring close-ups of some of the common bats in this country and interesting commentary. You can also join Vicki and other members for dinner before the program at Jason's Deli in Bradley Fair, 21st and Rock, at 5:45 p.m.



AOK Annual Dinner Extended Field Trip

Audubon of Kansas will hold their Annual Dinner on September 25 in Manhattan. The fall Board of Trustees meeting will be held from 1 - 4 p.m. at the Ashland Community Center 6 miles south of Manhattan. This will be followed by a reception at the home of Dick and Martha Seaton and then the membership and awards dinner at the Ashland Community Center from 6-9 p.m. September 25 is also the date of the Konza Prairie Open House with field trips and tours that begin at 8 a.m. The price for the banquet is \$15 per person. More information is available from Ron Klataske at 785-537-4385, or email aok@audubonofkansas.org

This year's extended field trip will be to High Island. This is a barrier island along the Gulf of Mexico near Galveston, Texas. For spring migrants crossing the gulf, it is the first land they see, and thousands stagger in, exhausted and ready to refuel before continuing their journeys. The third week in April it is a mecca for both birds and birdwatchers as migration peaks.

We expect to see around two dozen species of warblers, along with all sorts of other songbirds. We will also visit local beaches and mud flats for shorebirds.

This should be an undemanding trip that does not require a lot of standing or walking.

We have a block of rooms saved at the LaQuinta in Galveston. Information will be available at meetings so you can get your reservation in. We are also considering renting a van as we did for this year's Colorado trip and would like to have participants' opinions.

Sign up at meetings or call or email Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com.

Volunteers Needed

Shawn and the Chaplin Nature Center Committee are busy getting ready for the BioBlitz and Fall Nature Day on September 25. Your help is needed in the following areas:

- Donated items to sell in the country store: baked goods, homegrown produce, homemade foods like jellies, craft items of all kinds, especially if bird or nature related.
 - Act as greeter and register visitors
 - Assist with children's crafts
 - Lead nature walks
 - Assist the BioBlitz scientists
- Call Shawn at 620-442-4133, cnc@wichitaaudubon.org

2003-2004 WAS Officers

President	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@cox.net
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pstanley@csjwichita.org

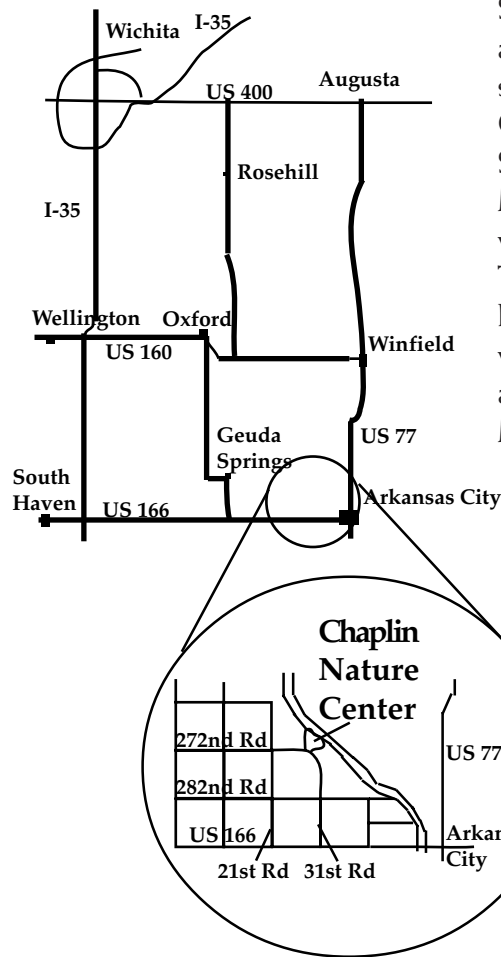
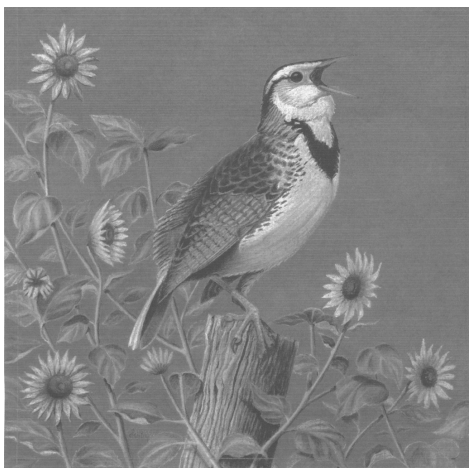
Banquet, continued

He is a columnist for numerous magazines and is the youngest person to ever win birding's highest honor: the Ludlow Griscom Award.

The festivities begin with a reception at 6:30 p.m. with a cash bar, followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. Dress is business casual. Tickets are \$30 per person, and must be purchased in advance. Reservations must be made by SEPTEMBER 15. Invitations have been mailed separately to all our members. For more information call Kevin Groeneweg, 687-4268, or check the website at www.wichitaudubon.org.

Get your 50th Anniversary gear!

We have designed some cool clothes to help celebrate: short-sleeved T shirts, long-sleeved T shirts, denim shirts, and sweatshirts. The denim shirts have the 50th anniversary logo embroidered over the pocket. The other shirts are silk-screened with the logo and/ or a great Meadowlark painting by our own Dan Kilby (shown below). See them and buy them at Fall Nature Day and the meetings.



BioBlitz, continued

We have an impressive array of experts coming to help with the BioBlitz. Kenn Kaufman, Dr. Max Thompson, and Gene Young will be hunting birds. Craig Freeman, author of *Roadside Wildflowers of the Southern Great Plains*, will be hunting vascular plants. Roy Beckemeyer will be working on dragonflies and insects. Travis W. Taggart and Curtis J. Schmidt, Curators of Herpetology at the Sternberg Museum, will be seeking reptiles and amphibians. Scott Campbell from the Kansas Biological Survey will work on fish, and Caleb Morse of the Kansas Biological Survey will look for lichens.

There will also be the more usual Fall Nature Day activities of nature walks and crafts for children. We will also be tagging Monarch butterflies. Monarchs are our only migratory butterfly, traveling each fall to wintering grounds in the mountains of Mexico. By attaching a tiny tag to their wing, we can help scientists track them and learn more about this unique phenomenon.

As always there will be the country store featuring homegrown produce, baked goods, and crafts.

Lunch will be available for purchase or you are welcome to bring a picnic lunch.



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Sewer Plant in Pawnee Prairie Park?

An article in Section 1B of the Wichita Eagle of August 8, 2004 described how the City Water and Sewer Department (W&S) wishes to build a needed west side sewage treatment plant, preferably at one of three sites in the boundaries of Pawnee Prairie Park. Two of these sites are 10-20 acre areas in the middle of the grassland on the east side of Cowskin Creek. The other is north of the old Pawnee Street, just behind the golf course. There are a number of other proposed sites nearby that are not on

park land. One would suspect that the park sites are preferred because they are already city property. The Park Board has already turned down the proposal, but the W&S apparently intends to persist. If you feel strongly about these continued attempts to divert park property to other uses call the Recreation and Parks Department Director (Doug Kupper, 268-4638) and the Water and Sewer Department Director (David Warren, 268-5404). You may keep up with Park Board meetings and agendas at

the city website, www.wichita.gov. Look under Recreation and Parks. So far, the sewer project is not on their agenda, but stay tuned for further developments.

Bill Beard, Conservation Chairman