

Wichita Audubon

Volume 44 No. 3 October 2009



Ron Klataske, Executive Director of Audubon of Kansas, will be our October speaker. He will tell us about the birds of the Sandhills region of Nebraska, home of the Hutton Sanctuary. Located along the scenic Niobrara River near Bassett, Nebraska, Audubon of Kansas manages a 5,000-acre wildlife sanctuary and working ranch preserving the wishes of the late Harold and Lucille Hutton. Expanses of Sandhills prairie interconnects with wet meadows, wooded ravines and gallery forests along the meandering river.

Ron has spent a lot of time at the sanctuary with his camera at hand, and will share the beauty of this special place. The meeting will be on Tuesday, October 20, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can also join Ron and other members for dinner before the program at Doc Greens, 10096 E. 13th, in the Waterfront, at 5:45 p.m.

WELCOME RENO AND STAFFORD COUNTIES

The National Audubon Society recently added members living in Reno and Stafford counties to the membership roll of Wichita Audubon. Previously they were members of Sand Hills Audubon Society in Hutchinson, but that chapter has been inactive for several years. This will be the first edition of our newsletter that they receive. We want to welcome you and invite you to join in our many activities. Besides the newsletter, you can always check the schedule on our website at www.wichitaaudubon.org. Wichita Audubon now includes seven counties: Sedgwick, Harvey, Butler, Sumner, Cowley, Reno and Stafford.

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

November 14, Saturday, 8 - 9:30 p.m. Astronomy

Join the Kansas Astronomical Observers for a night under the stars. Learn about planets, constellations and other heavenly bodies. You are welcome to bring your own telescopes or binoculars, or the members of KAO will be glad to share their equipment and help you see the sights. Lawn chairs or blankets to sit on will also be useful. The dark skies at Chaplin are perfect for viewing the stars. Note that this is a change of date from the one published in the Schedule of Events.

COMING EVENTS

October 10

Chisholm Creek Park Cleanup. Meet at 9 a.m. in the GPNC parking lot. Leader: Patty Marlett, pmarlett@mac.com, 942-2164..

October 20

Regular meeting, "The Birds of Sandhill Country," by Ron Klataske, Executive Director of Audubon of Kansas, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

October 31

Derby area local field trip. Meet in the parking lot of the Village Inn, 1200 N. Rock Rd in Derby. Leader: Jeff Calhoun, 737-1307, jecalhoun@wichita.edu

November 14

Astronomy Program at Chaplin Nature Center, 8 - 9:30 p.m.



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

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP 2010

Next year we're going to Florida! We plan to fly and rent passenger vans on arrival. We will fly into Fort Lauderdale on Sunday, April 24. The trip will start the next morning with possible stops at Wakodahatchee Wetlands, Loxahatchee Wetlands or Lake Okeechobee, then westward to Corkscrew Swamp and other stops as time allows. We will spend the night in the Naples area. Tuesday we will work our way back eastward along the Tamiami trail and visit points in the Everglades. We will overnight in Homestead. Wednesday we will work our way down the Keys, heading for Key West. Thursday we will visit the Dry Tortugas on the boat "Yankee Freedom," looking for pelagics and migrants on this all day trip. We will spend a second night on Key

West, then on Friday return to Fort Lauderdale and our original motel. There are many more good birding spots than we could possibly visit, so we will have no problem filling our time.

Birds on our wish list include the Black-whiskered Vireo, White-crowned Pigeon, Limpkin, Mangrove Cuckoo, Snail Kite, and Swallow-tailed Kite. Pete Janzen, Kevin Groeneweg, and Mike Heaney are planning the birding itinerary and will be our guides. This trip won't be as cheap as some we have done, but it's a bargain for Florida. The boat trip is \$160 per person. The van expense is roughly estimated to be around \$250 per person (includes rental and gas.) Participants will be asked to make their own flight arrangements. A group reservation has already been

made for the Yankee Freedom boat. We will have hotel information in the next few weeks.

Because of the deposit required for the boat trip, we are asking for a \$100 deposit from participants. If you are interested, be sure to get your name on the list at the meetings, or contact Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com.

CHISHOLM CREEK PARK

CLEANUP

Chisholm Creek is one of two parks we have adopted. Each fall we pick up trash to make the park a better environment for birds and birders. Meet in the parking lot of the Great Plains Nature Center, 29th and Woodlawn, on Saturday, October 10, 9 a.m. Bring gloves - trash bags and tools will be provided. If you can't come on Saturday morning, feel free to clean up on your own schedule. Just let Patty know so we can record the volunteer hours. Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com.

BIRD SEED SALE

Help support Wichita Audubon and Chaplin Nature Center by buying your bird seed from us. We offer high quality seed, **delivered to your home** (within Wichita City limits.)

Please submit your order by **Thursday, October 1.**

The seed will be delivered on **Saturday, October 10**

25 lbs Black Oil Sunflower - \$12

25 lbs Audubon Mix - \$10

Order by phone, mail or E-mail.

Call Carol Cumberland at 685-4867

or carol.cumberland@swbell.net

Mail: Wichita Audubon Society,

PO Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201

2009-2010 WAS Officers

President	Sandra Tholen	634-0049	stholen@cox.net
Vice-president	Nathan Ofsthun	617-7171	nxofsthun@wichita.edu
Secretary	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
Treasurer	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Directors	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
	Curt VanBoening	644-1986	curtvb@earthlink.net
	Jeff Calhoun	737-1307	jcalhoun@wichita.edu
	Catherine Lewis	681-3362	thexchange@cox.net
	Mike Heaney	733-6459	jeager@southwind.net
	Bob Gress	838-4130	bobgress@cox.net

Committee Chairs

Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
CNC	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Programs	Nathan Ofsthun	617-7171	nxofsthun@wichita.edu
Conservation	Curt VanBoening	644-1986	curtvb@earthlink.net
Development	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
Membership	Sister Patricia Stanley	744-2192	pstanley@csjoseph.org
Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	687-4268	lgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Field Trips	Pete Janzen	832-0182	pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net
Finance	Duane DeLong	684-7456	dwdelong@earthlink.net
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaadubon.org

WWW.WICHITAAUDUBON.ORG

E-mail any officer: was@wichitaadubon.org

Send address changes to Sister Patricia Stanley, 3700 E Lincoln Apt 123 , Wichita, KS 67218 pstanley@csjoseph.org

NEWS FROM AUDUBON OF KANSAS

Mid-September is a great time to travel and to enjoy prairie landscapes, especially in a year when there has been adequate moisture. Be sure to note unmowed roadsides that are particularly spectacular with wildflowers and native grasses. We regard our success on state highways as one of AOK's most visible conservation initiatives--although much more remains to be achieved in with the Kansas Turnpike Authority, county road and noxious weed departments, and some KDOT district engineers.

The Pottawatomie and Wabaunsee Co. Conservation Districts hosted a Wildflower Tour on September 1 to give the public a chance to learn about the plant diversity of Tallgrass Prairie. The tour was held at the Mt. Mitchell Heritage Prairie south of Wamego. The 50-acre prairie is an Audubon of Kansas nature sanctuary, including 32 acres of pristine prairie previously held by the Kansas Historical Society and an additional 15.5 acres of pasture land currently being acquired and restored to a near-natural state. A local friends group, under the banner of "Prairie Guardians" is instrumental in efforts to make enhancements designed to accommodate visitation and interpret the intriguing history of this area. The public is welcome to visit the Mt. Mitchell Heritage Prairie at any time, and may

obtain additional information by contacting Audubon of Kansas at 785-537-4385 or aok@audubonofkansas.org

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service coordinated all-night surveys of Black Footed Ferrets on the reintroduction sites in Logan County during the week of August 17. Volunteers from AOK (including board chairman Robert McElroy and Ron Klataske), KDWP, Kansas Zoos, TNC, KSU and a professor from Massachusetts with his 13-year old daughter and two students joined to search for Black Footed Ferrets with searchlights mounted on the



Visitors enjoy the wildflowers at Mt. Mitchell Heritage Prairie

roofs of vehicles. Initial reports indicated that at least sixteen of the elusive nocturnal predators, including members of two litters born this year, were seen on the Haverfield Ranch. An estimate of eight others were reported on the Smoky Valley Ranch.

During the daylight hours, we hauled fencing supplies from the Winona Lumberyard to the Haverfield Ranch. A few days later Don Redeker of Manhattan

began building the first of ten miles of "prairie dog fence" designed to reduce dispersal of prairie dogs from the property to neighboring pasture lands owned or operated by individuals who do not want any prairie dogs--or ferrets. The fence is part of a private lands wildlife "stewardship" project funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Audubon of Kansas. The purposes are to reduce conflicts arising from differing perspectives on prairie dogs, and keep them somewhat contained to provide prey and habitat for other wildlife.

The fence consists of poultry netting combined with an electric wire

positioned to discourage prairie dogs from trying to crawl through or from climbing over the fence. Mike Hudson and Don Redeker devoted days to cutting and sculpturing rebar to make special fence posts to hold the poultry netting.

On a related conservation front, Audubon of Kansas has teamed up with Defenders of Wildlife to try to secure appropriate restrictions on the use of Rozol and Kaput-D for prairie dog control, and to try to get EPA to close the floodgates.

CALENDARS

The 2010 bird calendars are here, with excellent bird photos gracing each month. Proceeds go to support Chaplin Nature Center. They cost \$5 apiece. You can purchase them at meetings, or contact Patty Marlett, pmarlett@mac.com, 942-2164

 *Wichita Audubon Society*
P.O. Box 47607
Wichita, KS 67201

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Wichita, Kansas
Permit No. 921

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Printed on recycled paper

CHECK THE MAILING LABEL TO SEE IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS ABOUT TO LAPSE

The upper left portion of your address printed above is the date your membership expires.

Month/Year of expiration

Name

Address

City, State ZIP

There are two ways of being a member of Wichita Audubon: by joining the National Audubon Society, or by joining or making a donation to the Wichita Audubon Society. IF YOU ARE A MEMBER of the NATIONAL Audubon Society, you receive Audubon magazine in the mail, as well as this newsletter. National will send you renewal notices when your membership is about to expire.

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER of the WICHITA Audubon Society ONLY, you do not receive Audubon Magazine. You should check the expiration date above. Use the form below to renew your membership, or go to www.wichitaaudubon.org and click on Membership. If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, check the appropriate box below.

Name:

Address:

City, State, ZIP

Phone:

e-mail:

Yes, renew my membership in the Wichita Audubon Society at the following level:

☐ Individual - \$20 ☐ Family - \$25 ☐ Student (18 & under) - \$10

☐ Remove my name from your mailing list