

Wichita Audubon



Volume 38 No. 3 October 2003

CNC Upcoming Programs

October 31, Friday 6:30 - 7:30 pm Night Hike

Don't be afraid of the dark! It doesn't have to be scary, even on Halloween. Hike through the woods without flashlights to learn about your five senses and how they can help at night. Listen for night sounds and learn about some nocturnal animals while on the trail. Dress for the outdoors and wear sturdy boots.

November 21, Friday 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Constellations, Planets, and Space Station

The cool air of fall makes the best time to view the night sky. With the Center's telescope you will be able to see Venus, Mars, and possibly some deep sky objects. Around 6:30 pm the International Space Station will be viewable. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for best viewing.

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

October Program

See the impressions of a first safari through the lens of photographer Jim Griggs. Jim and his wife, Cindy, spent two weeks in Tanzania, photographing the wildlife and wilds of Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Crater and Lake Nanyara National Park. Join us on Tuesday, October 21, 7:30 pm at the Great Plains Nature Center for the program. You are also invited to join us and our speaker for dinner before the meeting at Jason's Deli, in Bradbury Fair at 21st and Rock Road at 5:45 pm.

Big For A Day

Audubon and Big Brothers Big Sisters are joining forces to provide an opportunity for sharing our love of nature with some kids who don't get many opportunities to experience a day in the woods.

On October 18 we're planning a day at Chaplin Nature Center to show them the basics of bird watching and having a good time in the outdoors. We need volunteers who will be matched one on one with a child who has not yet been assigned a regular big brother or big sister. Vans will transport us to Chaplin, where we will teach the kids to use binoculars, then take them on a hike

Continued on page 2

Coming Events

October 18

Big Brothers Big Sisters program at Chaplin Nature Center. See this page for details

October 19

Slate Creek/Wellington City Lake field trip. Meet at the Slate Creek Valley Baptist Church at 8 am. Leader: Pete Janzen, 832-0182, prarybrd@southwind.net.

October 21

Regular meeting: "Tanzania, Serengeti and a First Safari," by Jim Griggs. at the Great Plains Nature Center, 7:30 pm

October 25

Maple Grove Cemetery field trip. Meet at the entrance at 1100 N. Hillside at 8 am. Leader: Cheryl Miller, avian67226@hotmail.com, work number 978-6659.

October 25

Chisholm Creek Park cleanup. Meet at 10 am in the parking lot of the Great Plains Nature Center. Leader: Paul Hobelman, 264-8694

November 15

Wilson Reservoir field trip. Meet at the Minooka Park boat ramp at 8 am. Leader: Mike Rader, mike_rader@hotmail.com.

November 22

Big Brothers Big Sisters program at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. See article this page.



Big For a Day, continued

to the river. After lunch, we will return to Wichita. Volunteers don't need to be birding experts to do this - we just want people who are willing to share their enthusiasm and love of nature. On November 22 we will hold another event. This time we are going to take the kids to Quivira National Wildlife Refuge to see the thousands of migrating Sandhill Cranes and geese that stopover during migration. Because the best time to see the flocks is as they return from feeding in the evening, we will leave Wichita in the

afternoon, again travelling by van, tour the refuge, watch the huge flocks, have a picnic supper, then return in the evening.

If you can share a day of your time with one of these children, please call Big Brothers Big Sisters at 263-3300, or Patty Marlett at 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com. You can find out more about the Big Brothers Big Sisters Pass It On outdoor mentors program on their website: www.ksbbbs.org/passiton/PIOHome.

Correction!

In the 2003-2004 Schedule of Events that you received with your September newsletter, one field trip was accidentally omitted. It will be on Sunday, April 25, to Fall River Lake, Toronto Reservoir and Woodson County Lake. Meet at the Dillon's parking lot at Andover Road and Kellogg at 6:30 a.m. Bring an FRS radio if you own one. This will be an all day trip exploring some under-birded areas east of Wichita. Please bring a sack lunch, and make sure you have a full tank of gas. We will carpool as much as possible. Leader: Pete Janzen, 832-0182, prarybrd@southwind.net.

This information will be repeated in the March & April newsletters.

2003-2004 WAS Officers

President	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@cox.net
Vice-president	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	ccumb@swbell.net
Secretary	Sharon Bolin	620-584-2314	jbolin@sktc.net
Treasurer	Duane Delong	684-7456	dwdelong@earthlink.net

Directors

Bill Beard	722-3081	wbeard@cox.net
Mary Englemen-Kemmer	688-5322	rockchalk123@aol.com
Barbara Millar	838-8542	bmi3931874@aol.com
Gary Straley	620-221-3664	garrob@hit.net
Don Dewitt	722-0742	ddewitt@omnibizcenter.com

Committee Chairs

Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
CNC	Gary Straley	620-221-3664	garrob@hit.net
Programs	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	ccumb@swbell.net
Conservation	Barbara Millar	838-8542	bmi3931874@aol.com
Membership	Sister Patricia Stanley		pstanley@csjwichita.org
Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	687-4268	lauranng@cox.net
Field Trips	Cheryl Miller	978-6659 (wk)	avian67226@hotmail.com
Finance	Don Dewitt	722-0742	ddewitt@omnibizcenter.com
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaaudubon.org

www.wichitaaudubon.org

email any officer: was@wichitaaudubon.org

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

Bird Seed Sale

Buy your bird seed from Wichita Audubon and support your chapter. Wichita Audubon sells and delivers bird seed. The next delivery date will be November 22. To place your order call Carol at 685-4867 or email ccumb@swbell.net. You may also mail your order to WAS, PO Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201. Include your name, address, and phone number.

November 22

___25 lb Black Oil Sunflower@\$10

___25 lb Audubon Mix @\$8

Help Clean Up Chisholm Creek Park

Wichita Audubon has adopted Chisholm Creek Park, and that includes a commitment to help maintain the park. We will have a trash pickup on October 25, 10:00 am. Meet in the parking lot of the Great Plains Nature Center. It is useful to have work gloves and wear old clothes. Trash bags and tools will be provided. Paul Hobelman is the leader for this project. He can be reached at 264-8694.

Bird Calendars

The 2004 Wichita Audubon calendars will be here shortly with another year of stunning bird photos. They sell for \$4.00 each. We will ship (up to four calendars) for an additional \$2.00. Please consider buying and possibly selling a few calendars for WAS. They will be on sale at the October meeting, or send your check to WAS, PO Box 47607, Wichita KS 67201 and they will ship ASAP. Or contact Carol Cumberland at 685-4867, ccumb@swbell.net

Audubon of Kansas Awards Dinner

Our second annual Audubon of Kansas Membership and Awards Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 11 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel Ballroom, 1641 Anderson Avenue in Manhattan. Please join Audubon members from across the state in celebrating the beauty of nature in Kansas.

The event is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m., with pre-dinner drinks and hors d'oeuvres. This will be followed by a sit down dinner, a guest speaker, and an awards ceremony.

A silent auction will be held throughout the evening, so all donations are greatly appreciated. Anything goes, so be creative! The cost of the event is only \$18.75 per person.

Members are also welcome to attend the Board of Trustees meeting Saturday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. It will be held in the State Room of the Ramada, and is a wonderful opportunity for members to meet one another. We hope to see you there!



Audubon of Kansas

Annual Membership and Awards Dinner October 11, 2003

Names: _____

Chapter: _____

I would like to sit in on the afternoon AOK Board of Trustees Meeting

Please enclose a check made payable to AOK - annual dinner reservation - for \$18.75 per person. Return this form to Audubon of Kansas, 210 Southwind Place, Manhattan KS 66503. Thanks!

Rethink Your Lawn...

Home lawns blanket 25 million acres of land in this country. That's more area than occurs in Vermont, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware, Rhode Island, and the District of Columbia COMBINED.

Consider :

- The average American lawn is only 1/3 acre, but generates almost 2 tons of clippings a year.
- A 1/3 acre lawn can consume up to 170,000 gallons of water in a single summer.
- A typically treated lawn receives 3-20 lbs. of fertilizers and 5-10 lbs. of pesticides a year.
- The average homeowner spends the equivalent of a typical work week (40 hours) simply mowing the lawn each year.
- \$8.5 billion is spent annually on retail sales of residential lawn care products and equipment.

We love our lawns – they're a wonderful place to play and picnic, and they can provide a beautiful setting for our homes. Is there room, too, for a pocket of native plants? Might a flowerbed be expanded, or a tree or shrub added? Shrubs, trees, perennial flowers, and groundcovers consume less water than lawn grass, add visual interest and color to your landscape, and can provide a welcoming habitat for birds and butterflies.

Imagine the Impact

If each one of us that takes care of our own lawn, replaced just ONE square yard of our lawn with a non-turf alternative, we would eliminate 1.2 MILLION hours of mowing and stop 60,000 tons of grass clippings from going to a landfill. In addition, millions of gallons of water would be saved and tons of fertilizers and pesticides never applied.

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

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AOU Changes Bird Names

The 44th Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds has been published, and once again they have made changes.

The Rock Dove is now to be called the Rock Pigeon. Since most everyone called them pigeons anyway, that shouldn't be too hard.

The Snowy Owl is now in the genus *Bubo*, along with the Great Horned Owl. All the Screech-owls have a new genus, too: *Megascops*.

A change was made in the order the species are listed in the checklist.

Ducks, Geese and Swans as well as Quails and Grouse are moved ahead of Loons in the list. Since almost all field guides use the same order as the AOU, future editions will reflect this change, and we'll all have to readjust to find things in our books.

The only other change with much impact on North American birders is that the Three-toed Woodpecker has been split, with the European and American populations in two different species. Our woodpecker is now the American Three-toed Woodpecker.

Audubon Adventures News

Wichita Audubon member Kathleen Ethridge has sponsored an Audubon Adventures Classroom at Earhart Elementary School in Wichita. Audubon Adventures is an award winning Elementary level Environmental Educational program for grades three through six. This year's topics are Grasslands, Nature in Your Neighborhood (schoolyards, backyards, parks), Forests (coniferous), and Water, Wildlife and People. Wichita Audubon underwrites \$20 of the \$41.50 cost. If you are interested in sponsoring an elementary classroom, call Carol at 685-4867 or via email ccumb@swbell.net