CNC Upcoming Programs

November 7, Sunday
2 p.m.
Community planning meeting

This is a brainstorming session to help us find ways to enhance Chaplin Nature Center and improve its service to the community. We hope to have community leaders and members of the public as well as Audubon members give us their ideas. Jazmin Wood, Director of the Arkansas City Chamber of Commerce, has agreed to facilitate the meeting. Please come and share your input.

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

October Meeting

Our program will be presented by Karen Graham, Curator of Amphibians, Reptiles, and Fishes at the Sedgwick County Zoo. She will share her adventures in the field helping with Iguana conservation projects in the West Indies. Karen serves as Vice President of the International Iguana Foundation and as a member of the IUCN Iguana Specialist Group. She has participated in fieldwork and conservation planning for iguana species throughout the West Indies. She is currently active in field biology and conservation planning for the Saint Lucian green iguana.

The program will be October 19, 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium at the Great Plains Nature Center, 29th and Woodlawn.

You can also join Karen and other members for dinner at Jason’s Deli, in Bradley Fair at 21st and Rock Road, at 5:45 p.m. before the meeting.

Coming Events

October 9
Help clean up Chisholm Creek Park. Meet in the parking lot of the Great Plains Nature Center at 9 a.m. Bring gloves. Leader: Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com

October 15
Slate Creek Marsh field trip. Meet at the Slate Creek Valley Baptist Church (7 miles south of the main intersection in Oxford) at 8 a.m. Bring a lunch. Leader: Kevin Groeneweg, 687-4268, kgroeneweg@cox.net

October 19
Regular meeting, “Iguana Conservation in the West Indies,” by Karen Graham, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

October 23
Maple Grove Cemetery field trip. Meet at the entrance at 1100 N Hillside at 8 a.m. Leader: Rosa McHenry, 263-4042, mchenryphoto@sbcglobal.net

November 7
Toronto & Fall River field trip. Meet at the Dillons parking lot at Andover Rd and US 54 at 6:30 a.m. Bring a lunch and plan to carpool. There may be some walking if the weather allows. Leader: Pete Janzen, 832-0182, prarybrd@southwind.net

Attaching transmitters to hatchling iguanas on St. Lucia
2005 Calendars
The new calendars are in, and they feature gorgeous pictures of some of your favorite birds. Also, this year the calendar has been expanded to cover 16 months. They are available for only $4.50, and benefit your Audubon chapter and Chaplin Nature Center. Consider giving them as Christmas gifts for neighbors, teachers, or the mailman. They will be available at program meetings, or you can call Rosa McHenry at 263-4042, or email her at rmchenryphoto@sbcglobal.net.

Wichita Audubon has adopted Chisholm Creek Park, and one of our obligations is to give service to the park. Twice a year we hold cleanup days and pick up trash. We will meet on Saturday, October 9, at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of the Great Plains Nature Center. If you can come for even 30 minutes it would help. We will provide trash bags and pick up sticks. Gloves and long pants are recommended. If you can't make it on that day, consider doing some litter pickup on your own - just let us know so we can report our volunteer hours. For more information call Patty Marlett, 942-2164, or email pmarlett@mac.com.

Bird Feeding Basics
Did you know that over 100 North American bird species supplement their natural diets with birdseed, suet, fruit and nectar obtained from feeders? Bird feeding can benefit birds and also provides great bird watching from your own backyard.

To keep birds coming back to your feeders in any season provide them with the following three essential elements:
- Variety of quality seed.
- Fresh water for drinking and bathing.
- Ample cover, preferably provided by native plants. Native plants also provide potential nesting sites and a source of natural food.

Here are some common questions people have about feeding birds:
Does feeding birds prevent them from migrating on time?
Seasonal changes in the length of day, rather than an abundance of food, determines when birds will begin to migrate. Migration begins in the fall as days shorten (when natural food is still abundant), and commences again in the spring as days lengthen.

Will birds suffer if feeders go empty?
Natural food supplies are typically exhausted during winter, as birds consume all the seeds and fruits at one location before moving on to the next. Similarly, if backyard feeders go empty while homeowners are on vacation, birds will look elsewhere for food. Since feeders only supplement natural foods, most species will not suffer if feeders go empty for days or even weeks at a time.

How soon can birds be expected at new feeders?
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WICHITA AUDUBON SOCIETY
50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE SHIRTS

We are offering several styles and colors of shirts in honor of Wichita Audubon Society's 50th Anniversary. The t-shirts are highest quality, 100% cotton “Beefy Ts” in either long or short sleeves. The 100% cotton classic denim shirts are long sleeve and come in men and women's styles. These shirts will be available at the meetings, or you can order them using the form below.

Short Sleeve (SS) T-shirt:
WAS 50th Anniversary Logo screen-printed on left crest.
Colors: Stonewash Blue, Stonewash Green, Sand, Ice Gray
Price: $10.00

Long Sleeve (LS) T-shirt:
Meadowlark in Sunflowers artwork by Dan Kilby screen-printed on the front with “Wichita Audubon Society-Celebrating 50 Years” encircling it.
Colors: Stonewash Blue, Stonewash Green, Sand
Price: $15.00

Long Sleeve Denim Shirt:
WAS 50th Anniversary Logo embroidered on left crest
Mens or Womens
Price: $25.00

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<th>Qty</th>
<th>Style (SS/LS/Denim)</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Size (Adult) (S, M, L, XL)</th>
<th>Mens/Womens (Denim only)</th>
<th>Price Each</th>
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Please check delivery option:
☐ I will pick up my order at the next program meeting.
☐ Please ship to the address below. I have included $2.00 shipping for each item above.

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: ___________ Zip: ________

Phone: (     ) __________________________

Send completed order form and check to: Mary Kemmer
(Make check out to Wichita Audubon) 18 Lakeside
Wichita, KS  67207

You can call Mary with questions at 688-5322 or email rockchalk123@aol.com
Bird Feeder Basics, continued

It may be a matter of hours before birds discover new feeders— or a matter of weeks. The variation depends on the distance to bird habitat, density of nearby feeders, and the kinds of birds that might chance on the new feeder. If there are many feeders in your neighborhood, birds may find new feeders more readily, as they already associate feeders with an easy meal. If birds are slow to find feeders, scatter sunflower seeds on top of the feeders and on nearby surfaces such as bare soil. Bird decoys may help to lure the first visitors, and other birds will soon notice the new food source.

What are the best times and weather conditions to watch feeders?

Birds visit feeders most often in the early morning, and again just before dusk. They use feeders less often in the afternoon and during rainy weather. In contrast, snow forces sparrows and juncos to congregate at feeders as these species typically feed on bare ground.

Does backyard feeding create a population of “dependent” birds?

While research in this area is limited, so far studies suggest that backyard feeders are not creating a population of dependent wintering birds.

What can I do if a hawk starts killing birds at my feeder?

If a hawk sets up a regular routine at your feeders, stop feeding long enough to let the smaller birds disperse. Soon the hawk will find another place to feed.

How can I stop birds from crashing into my windows?

A recent study found that colliding with a window is the most common cause of bird death associated with feeders. To avoid such collisions, position feeders at least three feet from the window. If collisions persist, fruit-tree netting stretched taut a few inches in front of the glass is the best deterrent.

Is it okay to leave my cat outside as long as I put a bell on its collar?

Cats account for about 30 percent of birds killed at feeders. Cats are such stealthy hunters that they can stalk and pounce on prey without jingling the bell on their collar. By keeping your cat indoors, you will not only protect birds, but also keep the cat safe from traffic, disease, and fights with neighborhood pets and wildlife. For more information, visit www.abcbirds.org/cats.