

Wichita Audubon



Volume 37 No. 3 October 2002

CNC Upcoming Programs

October 21, Monday, 8 pm - 9 pm Full Moon Hike

Take a leisurely hike down to the Arkansas River by the light of the full moon. During this 2 hour hike we will search for moonshadow and talk about the strange effects of the full moon.

November 2, Saturday, 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Star Gazing

The cool air of fall makes for the best time to view the planets and stars. Locate the North Star, the Big Dipper, and other constellations. With the use of telescopes we'll locate the planet Saturn and search for deep sky objects. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for the 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

The Great Plains is a crossroads for breeding birds whose primary ranges are in other parts of North America. This program will look at the geographic affinities of breeding birds in Kansas using information from the Kansas Breeding Bird Project, a 6-year project conducted by over 180 volunteer birders, including many Wichita Audubon members. Our speaker is Bill Busby, an Associate Scientist with the Kansas Biological Survey, and coauthor of the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas. Please join us on October 15 at 7:30 pm at the Great Plains Nature Center, 29th and Woodlawn, to hear Bill's talk: "Shortgrass Steppe to Eastern Deciduous Forest: The Breeding Birds of Kansas."

You can also join members and Bill for dinner at 5:45 pm at Jason's Deli in Bradbury Fair, 21st and Rock Road.



Coming Events

October 5

Chisholm Creek Park field trip. Meet at the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 8 am. Leader: Sandra Tholen, 634-0049, stholen@cox.net.

October 15

Regular meeting, "Shortgrass Steppe to Eastern Deciduous Forest: The Breeding Birds of Kansas," by Bill Busby, 7:30 pm Great Plains Nature Center.

October 19

Clean up Chisholm Creek Park. Meet at 10 am in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot. Leader: Paul Hobelman, 265-8694.

October 20

Slate Creek Marsh/Oxford field trip. Meet at the Slate Creek Valley Baptist Church, 7 miles S. of the main intersection in Oxford, 9 am. Leader: Gene Young, 620-446-1901, youngg6264@yahoo.com

October 26

Maple Grove Cemetery field trip. Meet at the entrance at 1100 N Hillside at 8 am. Leader: Cheryl Miller, 978-7900, cherylmiller1@cox.net

October 26

Audubon of Kansas Annual Meeting & Dinner. See page 3.

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 19, 10:00 am. Meet in the parking lot of the Great Plains Nature Center. Paul Hobelman is the leader for this project. He can be reached at 264-8694. It is useful to have work gloves and wear old clothes. Trash bags and tools will be provided.



News From Chaplin Nature Center

With some occasional rains, Chaplin Nature Center is looking pretty. The Maximilian Sunflower is making an impressive showing at the entrance road to the Center. There is lots of White Crownhead around Kingfisher Pond and the gravel road, which means there should be an impressive showing of post-frost flowers after the first cold snap. It has been a good summer for the Garden Spider as they have been seen everywhere. The Great Plains Narrowmouth Toad has been observed near the Naturalist's residence during daylight hours, which is somewhat unusual. Bobcats have been seen frequently.

Five weddings have been held at CNC this summer with total attendance above 500. With the rain just before one ceremony, a move inside was necessary and some

guests had to have assistance getting their cars out. But everyone survived and the couple was firmly married in spite of the difficulties. We encourage the public to consider CNC as a wonderful alternative when planning weddings, retreats, family reunions and other social functions. The price is reasonable and the facilities and service are excellent.

Plans are being made to build a new residence to replace the current building which is not in good repair and has some safety problems. The new structure will be similar in appearance to the Visitors' Center and be located just south of the present residence. Every effort will be made to have the best building possible with modest cost.

We continue to encourage everyone to use and support CNC as it represents good value through its beauty and the important nature and conservation programs offered.

Gary Straley and Shawn Silliman

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email any officer: was@wichitaudubon.org

Send address changes to Sherry Brewer, 3231 SW Farmstead Rd, Benton, KS 67017
316-778-1648 or e-mail lpbrewer@earthlink.net

Bird Calendars

Wichita Audubon has received the 2003 Calendars. The bird photos are dazzling!! They sell for \$4.00 each. We will ship (up to four calendars) for an additional \$2.00 shipping and handling. Please consider buying and possibly selling a few calendars for WAS. We will have them for sale at the September WAS meeting. Send check to WAS, PO Box 47607 Wichita KS 67201 and I will ship ASAP. Or contact Carol Cumberland at 685-4867, ccumb@swbell.net.

Audubon of Kansas Annual Meeting & Dinner

Audubon of Kansas will hold its annual meeting and dinner on October 26, 6:00 pm in Manhattan. The event will begin with a cash bar followed by a buffet dinner including sirloin steak and a vegetarian option, along with salad, vegetables, and dessert. The dinner will be held at Mrs. Clyde's Private Room, located at 100 Bluemont Avenue (next to WalMart on Tuttle Creek Boulevard. Directions are to cross the Kansas River, turn left at the bottom of the circular loop and continue on past the intersection with Highway 24).

All members of Wichita Audubon are also members of Audubon of Kansas. The state organization promotes the Audubon cause through state wide projects such as the development of Kansas Birding Trails, and promoting better roadside wildflower management. AOK represents us in the legislature and speaks for us on a number of conservation issues. Everyone is invited to attend the dinner, meet other Audubon members from across the state, and learn more about the projects of Audubon of Kansas.

You can also help by donating to the silent auction. Suggestions include: lead a birding trip or wildflower walk; offer native prairie plants/seeds for home gardeners; donate an item that reflects your business or hobby; provide either framed or unframed wildlife/landscape works of art; etc. Actual items or gift certificates could also be obtained from corporate/business sponsors: dinners at restaurants; stays at hotel/motel/bed and breakfast suites; binoculars; sporting and camping supplies; camera supplies; etc. Anything that you can help us gather for the auction will be greatly appreciated. Please either ship the gifts ahead of time or bring them to the event on October 26th.

Registration Form for the AOK Annual Dinner, October 26

Auction items and registration forms should be sent to: AUDUBON OF KANSAS,
210 Southwind Place, Manhattan, KS 66503.

Number of meat entrees _____

Number of vegetarian entrees _____

Name(s) _____

City/Chapter _____

Please enclose a check made payable to AOK – annual dinner reservation – for \$15.00 per person. All reservations must be received no later than October 18, 2002.

I am sending ___ bringing ___ the following item(s) for the auction:

Nominate a Birding and Prairie Flora Trail Site

Good ideas and community support make an inspiring combination. The concept of "Birding Trails" has been implemented in Texas and several other states as a way of drawing attention to a system of attractions

for birders and others interested in nature-based tourism.

Audubon of Kansas started exploring this concept with others two years ago and is now spearheading the planning for four

promising routes for Birding and Native Flora Trails in Kansas. They include a Tallgrass Prairie Birding & Flora Trail in the Flint Hills and adjacent Chautauqua Hills, a *continued on page 4*

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Nominate a Birding and Prairie Flora Trail Site, continued

Central Flyway Wetlands Birding and Prairie Flora Trail in central Kansas, a Forest & Grassland Birding and Flora Trail along the eastern edge of Kansas, and a Sandsage and Shortgrass Prairie Birding and Flora Trail in western Kansas. All follow north-south routes extending from border to border. The primary trail routes will follow designated highways, and each will be complemented with additional loops and spurs to areas or sites of special interest.

Our greatest need is for folks to nominate sites that should be considered for inclusion in a field guide and web site devoted specifically to the trail system.

Birders and other wildlife watchers are already visiting many of the sites along the proposed trails

or in associated counties. However, most of these sites function independently or are only known to a few people. Sharing your insight on good birding spots and places to see "natural Kansas at its best" will help.

Please help us by nominating any sites that have potential for wildlife watching, nature photography or as a place to view wildflowers. If you enjoy these areas, chances are others will also. We want to explore opportunities in every county in Kansas. Thus, if you know of sites in other counties or parts of the state that you enjoy and may contribute to a nature-based experience, please include those as well.

Please take a few minutes to nominate one or more sites by

providing a brief description and location. Your recommendations will greatly improve the trails and enhance our work by focusing our attention to areas that have greatest promise. You can mail your nomination, or email it.

Additional information and a nomination form, for folks who want to provide lots of detail, can be found on the Audubon of Kansas website: www.audubonofkansas.org.

Please send information to Audubon of Kansas, 210 Southwind Place, Manhattan, KS 66503; e-mail: aok@audubonofkansas.org, call (785) 537-4385 or fax (785) 537-4395. Thanks.

—Ron Klatske & Ferdouz Vuilliminet