

Wichita Audubon

Volume 44 No. 4 November/December 2009



NOVEMBER MEETING



Bob Gress



Jay Newton



Kevin & Laura Groeneweg

Escape the cold and join us for a tour of Panama. Last winter four Wichita Audubon members went on a tour to Panama organized by Max Thompson. Bob Gress, Jay Newton, Kevin and Laura Groeneweg braved the jungle. Being the excellent birders they are, they found a lot of birds. Bob, of course, took excellent pictures, and they have pooled their resources to share their journey with us. The meeting will be on Tuesday, November 17, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can also join the speakers and other members for dinner before the program at Doc Greens, 10096 E. 13th, in the Waterfront, at 5:45 p.m.

CHENEY RESERVOIR AND QUIVIRA NWR FIELD TRIP

This is a trip to see the spectacle of thousands of Sandhill Cranes and geese coming in to roost at night at Quivira NWR. On November 14, meet at the Kings-X Restaurant at 21st and Amidon at 9 a.m. We'll proceed to Cheney Reservoir. After birding there, we will stop for lunch at the Anchor Inn in Hutchinson. Then we will proceed to Quivira and be at the Big Salt Marsh at sundown. It will be a full day - be prepared for a lot of birds! The leader will be Pete Janzen, 832-0182, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

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

November 14

Cheney Reservoir and Quivira NWR field trip. Leader: Meet at 9 a.m. at the Kings-X at 21st & Amidon. Leader: Pete Janzen, 832-0182, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

November 14

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

November 17

Regular meeting, "The Birds of Panama," by Bob Gress, Jay Newton, Kevin & Laura Groeneweg, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Christmas Bird Counts

See Page 3.



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.

HOW CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS HELP BIRDS

The data collected by observers over the past century allow researchers, conservation biologists, and other interested individuals to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. When combined with other surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey, it provides a picture of how the continent's bird populations have changed in time and space over the past hundred years.

The long term perspective made possible by the Christmas Bird Count is vital for conservationists. It informs strategies to protect birds and their habitat - and helps identify environmental issues with implications for people as well. For example, local trends in bird populations can indicate

habitat fragmentation or signal an immediate environmental threat, such as groundwater contamination or poisoning from improper use of pesticides.

In the 1980's CBC data documented the decline of wintering populations of the American Black Duck, after which conservation measures were put into effect to reduce hunting pressure on this species. More recently, in 2009, the data were instrumental in Audubon's Birds & Climate Change analysis, which documented range shifts of bird species over time. In 2007, the data were instrumental in the development of two Audubon State of the Birds Reports - Common Birds in Decline, which revealed

that some of America's most beloved and familiar birds have taken a nosedive over the past forty years, and WatchList 2007, which identified 178 rarer species in the continental U.S. and 39 in Hawaii that are imperiled. These three reports helped scientists and policy-makers to both identify threats to birds and habitat, and promote broad awareness of the need to address them.



A happy group after a successful El Dorado Christmas Bird Count

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E-mail any officer: was@wichitaudubon.org

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

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

Tuesday, November 24.

The seed will be delivered on

Saturday, December 5

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



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

These annual events are all-day efforts to census all birds with pre-established 15-mile diameter circles. The results are reported to the National Audubon Society and Kansas Ornithological Society. Remember to dress for the weather and expect to do a fair amount of walking. A \$5 fee is due from each participant on most counts to defray data entry costs for the National Audubon Society. Most counts have a compilation at the end of the day.

DECEMBER 16, WEDNESDAY, 8 a.m. SLATE CREEK CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Meet at the Slate Creek Baptist Church, 7 miles south of Oxford, at 8 a.m.
Compiler: Gene Young, 620-442-4165, youngg6264@yahoo.com

DECEMBER 19, SATURDAY, 7:30 a.m. WICHITA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Meet at the Lawrence-Dumont Stadium parking lot. Compilation: 5:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. Chili and beverages will be provided.

Compiler: Kevin Groeneweg, 687-4268, kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net

DECEMBER 19, SATURDAY, 6:45 a.m. HALSTEAD/NEWTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Meet at the Kaufman Museum, N. Newton. Participants pay a fee of \$7.50. Compilation 5:30 p.m. at the museum. Bring a sack lunch.
Compiler: Dwight Platt, 283-6708, platword@southwind.net

DECEMBER 19, SATURDAY, 7:30 a.m. EL DORADO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Meet at the McDonald's in El Dorado, 2004 W Central. \$5 fee required for the National Audubon Society.
Compiler: Bill Langley, 316-889-5434, blangley@butlercc.edu

DECEMBER 20, SUNDAY, 7:30 a.m. WINFIELD/UDALL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Meet at the Beech Science Center, Southwestern College at 7:30 a.m. \$5 fee required for the National Audubon Society.
Compiler: Max Thompson, 620-229-6304, maxt@cox.net

DECEMBER 26, SATURDAY, 8 a.m. ARKANSAS CITY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Meet at Newman Park on Hwy 77, just north of the Arkansas River, at 8 a.m. \$5 fee required for the National Audubon Society.
Compiler: Gene Young, 620-442-4165, youngg6264@yahoo.com

JANUARY 2, SATURDAY, 7:30 a.m. RED HILLS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Meet at the Indian Grill Restaurant on U.S. 160 in Medicine Lodge. Groups will depart at 7:30 a.m. \$5 fee required for the National Audubon Society.
Compiler: Pete Janzen, 832-0182, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

This is the 110th year for Christmas bird counts, and the 56th year of the Wichita count. There are many more counts in Kansas. For a complete listing check the KOS website at www.ksbirds.org.

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

CHISHOLM CREEK PARK

CLEANUP THANKS

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. Thanks to the five people who showed up on October despite the frigid temperatures. It was 36 degrees with a north wind when they started, and never got about 38 degrees all day. A big thank you to Kevin Groeneweg, Carolyn Lindsey, Ben Rogers, Sandra Tholen, and Angela Mords

INTERESTING STATISTICS

from the US Fish & Wildlife Service:

One out of every five Americans watches birds, and in doing so contributed \$36 billion to the US economy in 2006.

Backyard birders number 42 million. some 20 million people take bird-watching trips away from home.

The average birder is

- 50 years old
- female
- college-educated
- well-paid
- more likely to live in the urban South (33 percent) or the Midwest (27 percent).

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Printed on recycled paper

HELP TRACK TRUMPETER SWANS

Though restoration of Trumpeter Swans throughout historic breeding areas of the Midwest and Great Plains has been highly successful, most of the flocks remain vulnerable. Historically much of the Interior population migrated to favorable sites south of the 40th parallel. Today, a small percentage of the flocks are exploring and possibly pioneering routes into their historic winter range. Trumpeter Swans are showing up in new locations, some they have not frequented for over 100 years. Audubon members and fellow birders are asked for help to document and then monitor winter habitat use in twenty states of the Central, Southern and eastern U.S. Observers are asked to REGISTER with TRUMPETER WATCH,

a program of The Trumpeter Swan Society. Identification guidelines and data forms to be printed for field use can be found online. Photographic documentation is useful but not required.

Find out more about this Citizen Science project on the Trumpeter Swan Society website today! (www.trumpeterswansociety.org)

WHAT WE ASK FROM OBSERVERS

Clear description of the location: Note name of state, county, closest town or recognizable location such as a lake, park or refuge. Additionally, you may note township, range section, lat-long coordinates or GPS coordinates if known. If you can include a small

map of the site, that would be very helpful.

Details on the sighting

To the best of your ability, note age class (adult birds are white, juvenile birds (cygnets) are gray. Note total numbers of Trumpeter, Tundra, or unidentified swans. Note behavior (feeding, flying overhead, loafing/resting). General notes on other species in the area are of interest, such as in mixed flock with 300 Snow Geese, etc.

Details on habitat characteristics

Notes on human activities in the area and swan reaction, notes on any obvious hazards or attractive attributes of the sites, food resources, water conditions, use by other waterfowl, etc.