

# Wichita Audubon



Volume 35 No. 5 January/February 2001

## CNC Upcoming Programs

**Saturday, January 27**  
**10 am - 12 pm**  
**Eagle Watch**

Take a hike down to the river to search for Bald Eagles and enjoy Chaplin Nature Center in the winter. Bring binoculars - we will provide spotting scopes.

**Sunday, February 4**  
**1:30 pm to 3:30 pm**  
**Eagle Watch**

Missed the first one? Then join us for the second Eagle Watch.

**Friday, March 9**  
**7:30 pm to 9pm**  
**Full Moon Hike**

Moon madness is upon us. Take a hike down to the Arkansas River by the light of the moon. During this 2 mile hike, we'll search for our moon shadow and discover the strange effects of the full moon.

For more information about any of these programs call Shawn Silliman at 316-442-4133, or e-mail [cnc@wichitaudubon.org](mailto:cnc@wichitaudubon.org).



## January Meeting

We start the new millennium with another wonderful program from our own Lowell Wilder, nature videographer. Dr. Wilder will tell us about the effort to establish and maintain a nonmigrating flock of Whooping Cranes, including the efforts at Patuxant and the San Antonio Zoo to provide young birds not contaminated by human contact, and conditioned so they do not need to migrate.

The program will be Tuesday, January 16, 7:30 pm, at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can join us for dinner with the speaker at Jason's Deli in Bradley Fair, 21st and Rock Road, at 5:45 pm.

## February Meeting

Roy Beckemeyer will present the February meeting, speaking on the "Secrets of Insect Flight." The incredible diversity of insects is due in part to their being the first animals to achieve flight over 300 million years ago. Almost equally diverse are the ways in which the various groups of insects fly. High speed video of insects flying in nature reveals the different approaches to flight taken by bees, dragonflies, and butterflies.

Join us on Tuesday, February 20, 7:30 pm, at the Great Plains Nature Center, and also for dinner at Jason's Deli at 5:45 pm.

## Coming Events

**January 13**

El Dorado Lake and Woodlands field trip. Meet at El Dorado State Lake Park Headquarters at 9 am. Leader: Jay Newton, 316-322-9090

**January 16**

Regular meeting. "Development of the Nonmigrating Florida Whooping Crane Flock," by Lowell Wilder. Great Plains Nature Center, 7:30 pm

**January 27**

Eagle Watch at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 am - 12 pm.

**February 4**

Eagle Watch at Chaplin Nature Center, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

**February 17**

Field trip to the Sedgwick County Zoo Jungle Building. Meet at 10:15 am in the lobby of the Jungle Building. Leaders: Jim & Patty Marlett, 942-2164, [jmarlett@kscable.com](mailto:jmarlett@kscable.com)

**February 20**

Regular meeting, "Secrets of Insect Flight," by Roy Beckemeyer. Great Plains Nature Center, 7:30 pm.

**March 3**

Backyard Birding Tour. See page 2 to volunteer to help.

**March 9**

Full Moon Hike at Chaplin Nature Center, 7:30 pm to 9 pm

## Beginners Birding Class

Learn to recognize commonbirds in area and take trips to other birding spots in south-central Kansas. Classes meet Saturdays or Sundays depending field trip schedule.

You need your own binoculars. We will meet the first Saturday at 9 am at BCCC in Andover room 443. You can enroll now in BI 230 Bird Identification Seminar. If you have any questions, contact Bill Langley at 733-3139 or email <blangley@butler.buccc.cc.ks.us>

## Backyard Birding

Volunteers who would like to show off their backyards and share their birdfeeding secrets are needed for the Backyard Birding field trip on March 3. If you would like to help, call Harry Gregory at 263-7608 or email birdfan@wichita.infi.net

## January Bird Seed Sale

On the weekend of November 18 Lonny Wright, John Wherry, Merle Manlove, Duane Delong and Hal Cumberland delivered over 3500 pounds of bird seed. Thanks to them all! Our profit was over \$550.

Our next sale and delivery is January 20. If you would like to order 25 lb. bags of Black Oil Sunflower (\$10) or Audubon Mix (\$7), call Carol at 685-4867 before January 16.

## Meritorious Service Award

The award committee, consisting of Walker Butin, Gary Straley, and John Wherry, is accepting nominations for the annual Meritorious Service Award. The criteria for nomination and selection include: outstanding and sustained leadership as a member, officer, committee chairperson, or special project leader. Please send your nomination for this award in writing with justification to John Wherry at 2114 Geo Washington Blvd, Wichita, KS 67218-4827, 682-1004, jwherry@feist.com

## Correction

In the 1999 Annual Report, the names of Belle Turnbull and Glenn & Charlene Shaw were accidentally omitted as donating in memory of Victor Gillespie.

## Thanks to the Cleanup Crew

On Saturday, October 28, three WAS members met at the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot to clean up trash in Chisholm Creek Park. Two went along the waterways and Woodlawn and brought back five and a half bags of trash. One went to the Oliver entrance parking lot and collected one and a half bags. Thanks a lot to those who helped! A few more hands would have helped us do a better job.

*Paul Hobelman, Greenways chair*

### 2000-2001 WAS Officers

		HomePhone	E-mail
President	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	ccumb@swbell.net
Vice-president	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@feist.com
Secretary	Julia Hoppes	682-2623	jhoppes@kscable.com
Treasurer	Sandra Tholen	634-0049	stholen@feist.com
<b>Directors</b>			
	Duane Delong	684-7456	dwdelong@earthlink.net
	Harry Gregory	263-7608	birdfan@wichita.infi.net
	Patty Marlett	942-2164	jmarlett@kscable.com
	Cheryl Miller	978-7900 (wk)	cmiller@twsuvm.uc.twsu.edu
	Jay Newton	316-322-9090	
	Gary Straley	316-221-3664	garrob@hit.net

### Committee Chairs

Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	jmarlett@kscable.com
CNC	Gary Straley	316-221-3664	garrob@hit.net
Programs	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@feist.com
Conservation	Patty Marlett	942-2164	jmarlett@kscable.com
Development	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	ccumb@swbell.net
Membership	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@feist.com
Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@feist.com
Education	Marsha Ebaugh	682-4782	43042@prodigy.net
Field Trips	Harry Gregory	263-7608	birdfan@wichita.infi.net
Finance	Duane Delong	684-7456	dwdelong@earthlink.net
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	316-442-4133	cnc@wichitaudubon.org
Chapter Information Line	681-2266		www.wichitaudubon.org

email any officer: was@wichitaudubon.org

## Nominating Committee

The WAS nominating committee is seeking nominations for President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer and three director positions. Please contact Cheryl Miller 978-7900, Rick Goodrick 722-3205 and Ruth Steinke if you would like to serve or would like to nominate someone.

# Reports from the Christmas Bird Counts:

The Wichita Count was a challenge, but 22 hardy souls braved the winds gusting to 50mph and the wind chills. We found 84 species, with an additional 2 for count week (Bonaparte's Gull and Marsh Wren). That was a respectable total with the weather being what it was.

A few highlights:

Double-crested Cormorant-14  
Pied-billed Grebe-15  
18 species of waterfowl including 1 Greater Scaup, 88 N. Shovelers, 165 Common Goldeneye, and 46 Hooded Mergansers  
Northern Harrier-7 (good number for this count circle)  
Prairie Falcon-2  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker-2  
American Crow-50,000  
LeConte's Sparrow-1  
Fox Sparrow-7  
Swamp Sparrow-3  
Orange-crowned Warbler-1

The dump was closed due to the high winds, and gulls were really scarce, with only 209 ring-bills and 26 Herring. There are several species which have essentially disappeared from this count circle due to the encroachment of development. These include Loggerhead Shrike, Eastern Bluebird and Lapland Longspur. Many other open country birds are represented in ever-declining numbers. Harris Sparrow numbered only 277, continuing a pattern of decline that began some time ago. The continued increase of wintering waterfowl, grebes, etc., keeps our diversity at historic levels, but it is interesting to ponder the shifts in population.

*Pete Jenzen*

## Quivira

Quivira (75 species) was mostly frozen on December 15, with some interesting species, but nothing spectacular. We did have a Vesper Sparrow, a Greater Prairie Chicken, eight pelicans, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds.

*Mike Rader*

## Winfield

The Winfield CBC was held Dec. 15 on a beautiful clear day at 10F warming to a balmy 20F. We had 2" of snow on the ground. Fourteen observers managed to dig up 97 species! Nothing really exciting however. Sparrow numbers were way down. We had to scramble to find Red-breasted Nuthatch. Finally resorted to a tape to get one to show itself.

*Max Thompson*

## Slate Creek Marsh

Numbers of both species and individuals were down, largely due to the lack of open water. One chilly Virginia Rail was spotted at the marsh. More than 19,000 Mallards were seen, mostly feeding in milo fields, but other waterfowl were scarce. Six observers braved the frigid temperatures and icy roads for a reward of hot soup at the Dennett's in Oxford.

## Arkansas City

A respectable 84 species were found by 8 observers. Raptors were well represented with a record Red-shouldered Hawk, a Ferruginous, a Rough-legged, and a Prairie Falcon as well as 30 adult Bald Eagles and 27 juveniles. Gene Young called up record numbers of owls: 28 Screech, 29 Great Horned, and 13 Barred. The huge roost of blackbirds behind the

Walmart held an estimated 3.5 million Red-winged Blackbirds, 500,000 starlings and grackles, plus a single male Yellow-headed Blackbird, still in breeding plumage, and a lone female Great-tailed Grackle.

## El Dorado

Eight observers braved the frozen wastelands of El Dorado Lake on Dec. 30 to find 59 species. The ice kept waterfowl species and numbers to a minimum, and only one Bald Eagle was seen. A total of 15 Greater Prairie Chickens were seen in two flocks. There were also 15 Rough-legged Hawks, outnumbering Kestrels. The only slightly unusual sightings were a single Yellow-headed Blackbird and a single Brown Thrasher.

Walker Butin, one of the founders of the Wichita Audubon Society, reports that the first count sponsored by our fledgling group was held January 2, 1955. His journal records that he was with a group of five who covered the southwest quadrant with special mention of the Big Slough and the Cowskin Creek area. Among the group was Louise Watson, treasurer of the Society, and 13 year old Kirk Downing of Arkansas City.

This year was the 101st Christmas Bird Count for the national program. Although the first Wichita count sponsored by WAS was Christmas 1954, a Wichita count had been held most years since 1910.

**Return Service Requested**

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## Help End Moratorium on Endangered Species Protection

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has unilaterally issued a one year moratorium on the listing of new species under the Endangered Species Act and the designation of "critical habitat" areas for those species already listed. In response, the Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Biodiversity Legal Foundation have filed formal notice with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service that it will sue the agency to strike down the moratorium.

Find out more at:

[www.biologicaldiversity.org/swcbd/](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/swcbd/)

[activist/ESA/moratorium.html](http://activist/ESA/moratorium.html)

The Fish & Wildlife Service blames environmentalists for the moratorium, saying we have absorbed the entire federal listing budget with court orders. It also claims that designation of critical habitat is a waste of time because it does not add significant protection to species already listed as threatened or endangered. The Center has developed an extensive Moratorium resource website which shows that the USFWS created the budgetary crisis by purposefully not request-

ing enough money to deal with current petitions and court orders, never mind the backlog of 3,000 imperiled species that remain unlisted.

Please send an email today to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Director, Jamie Clark, asking her to rescind the listing moratorium:  
[Jamie\\_Clark@fws.gov](mailto:Jamie_Clark@fws.gov)

*Kieran Suckling,*  
*Center for Biological Diversity*  
[ksuckling@biologicaldiversity.org](mailto:ksuckling@biologicaldiversity.org)

## Thanks To Joyce Wolf

Joyce Wolf of Lawrence has served for six years as the chapter-elected representative to the National Audubon Society Board of Directors from the West Central Region (Kansas, Nebraska, NDakota, SDakota, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Arkansas.) Chapters are represented by nine regional directors, who help in shaping the policies and direction of the national organization. Joyce has been an articulate spokesperson for local

chapters, and has worked hard to make our voice heard and understood by the rest of the board. Her leadership will be missed. Thank you, Joyce, for all the time, travel, phone calls, and hard work you have done to forward the cause.

Because Joyce has completed two terms, she is not eligible to continue on the board. A new representative has been elected. His name is Dave Tylka, from St. Louis. He is an award

winning environmental educator, teaching biology at the St. Louis Community College at Meramec. He was formerly a wildlife biologist for the city of St. Louis. He has a strong background as a chapter leader in the St. Louis Audubon Society. He has pledged to represent the interests of members and chapters of the Region, and to work to keep Audubon a strong grassroots organization.