

# Wichita Audubon



Volume 34 No. 7 April 2000

## CNC Upcoming Programs

April 15, 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm  
Eye Shine  
Take a hike through the woods and search for the eyes of critters that may be watching us.

May 6 5:00 pm - ?  
Members Twilight Dinner  
Join us for a beach party, barbeque, and lots of fun. See [page 4](#) for details.

May 19 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm  
Frog and Toad Walk  
Learn about the amphibians that make Kansas their home. Participants will visit ponds and vernal pools to listen for the calls of frogs and toads. Bring a flashlight.



## April Meeting

Dan Reinking is a biologist with the George Miksch Sutton Avian Research Center in Oklahoma. The Sutton Research Center is a private, nonprofit organization affiliated with the University of Oklahoma's Oklahoma Biological Survey.

The George Miksch Sutton Avian Research Center is dedicated to finding cooperative conservation solutions for birds and the natural world through science and education. The scope of their projects ranges from the reintroduction of Southern Bald Eagles, intensive field research on declining grassland birds, captive breeding of endangered species, raptor surveys world wide, to the use of NASA thermal-imaging cameras to study incubation temperature.

Mr. Reinking has done extensive field survey work with prairie birds, including the Oklahoma Breeding Bird Atlas survey. He will tell us about the conservation of grassland birds on Tuesday, April 18, 7:30 pm at the Great Plains Nature Centers.

We have a tradition of taking our speaker to dinner before the meeting. You can join us to dine at Jason's Deli, in Bradley Fair at 21st and Rock Road, at 5:45 pm.

## Coming Events

April 15  
Clean up Chisholm Creek Park. Meet at 10:00 am at the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot.

April 15  
Eye Shine hike at Chaplin Nature Center, 7:30 - 8:30 pm

April 18  
Regular meeting, "Conservation of Grassland Birds," by Dan Reinking, 7:30 pm, Great Plains Nature Center

April 22-May 21  
Birdathon! Start forming those teams and rounding up sponsors now. You can pick any 24 hour period in this range of dates to find those birds.

April 29-30  
Field trip to Great Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma. See [page 2](#) for details.

May 5,6,7  
Camp Horizon Weekend - see [page 3](#).

May 6  
Members Twilight Dinner at Chaplin Nature Center, 5 pm till ? See [page 4](#) for more information.

## Clean Up Chisholm Creek Park

Please help in our semi-annual cleanup project of Chisholm Creek Park. We will meet at 10:00 am on April 15 in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot. Bring work gloves. Trash bags and trash pickup tools will be provided. It usually takes one to two hours, depending on the number of helpers. If you have questions call Paul Hobelman, 264-8694.

## Great Salt Plains NWR Field Trip

Our field trip happily coincides with a birding festival sponsored by the Great Salt Plains Association. On Saturday, April 29, we will meet at 6 am at the refuge headquarters for an advanced birdwatching field trip lasting 3 hours. This will be led by Bill Howell, regional non-game coordinator for the USFWS. He will take us into areas of the refuge that are not normally open to the public. At 11:00 am there is a 1 hour native plant walk led by Dr. Paul Nighswonger. At 2 pm there is a shorebird identification workshop given by Jim Harmon, a retired refuge manager with the USFWS. At 4 pm there is another advanced birdwatching trip (2 hours). On Sunday morning there is another advanced birdwatching trip at 6 am. Feel free to join us for any or all of the above activities.

There are numerous other activities scheduled, including intermediate birdwatching trips, beginning birding for children, falconry demonstrations, boat trips to visit a heron/egret/ibis rookery, and crystal digging. A brochure is available that has a schedule of all the events.

Great Salt Plains is approximately 125 miles from Wichita, so you will need to spend the night or get up very

early to arrive by 6 am. There is camping available at the state park adjacent to the refuge, and there are motels in the area. The festival is headquartered in Cherokee, OK. There is one motel: the Cherokee Inn, 580-596-2828. Other area motels are the Circle Inn in Medford, 580-295-2326, the Aloha Motel in Pond Creek, 580-532-6436, and the Farmer Motel in Pond Creek, 580-532-4236.

Reservations are not required for the festival events, but the organizers would like to have an idea of how many of us are coming. Please call or e-mail Patty Marlett and let her know if you plan to attend, or if you would like a copy of the event brochure. Call 942-2164 or e-mail [jmarlett@kscable.com](mailto:jmarlett@kscable.com).



### 1999-2000 WAS Officers

		HomePhone
President	Carol Cumberland	685-4867
Vice-president	Marsha Ebaugh	683-4782
Secretary	Julia Hoppes	682-2623
Treasurer	Sandra Tholen	634-0049

### Directors

Bill Barr	316-442-6188
Duane Delong	684-7456
Harry Gregory	263-7608
Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268
Mike Lesan	524-6332
Jay Newton	316-322-9090

### Committee Chairs

Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164
CNC	Rex Herndon	316-442-4550
	Bill Barr	316-442-6188
Programs	Marsha Ebaugh	682-4782
Conservation	Patty Marlett	942-2164
Development	Jay Newton	316-322-9090
Membership	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268
Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	687-4268
Education	Marsha Ebaugh	682-4782
Field Trips	Harry Gregory	263-7608
Finance	Duane Delong	684-7456

### Chapter Information Line 681-2266

Send address changes to Kevin Groeneweg, 2603 Capri Ln, Wichita KS 67210, or by phone (316) 687-4268, ore-mail [kgroeneweg@feist.com](mailto:kgroeneweg@feist.com)

## CRP at Chaplin Nature Center

Chaplin Nature Center has had 36.1 acres of land in the federal CRP program for the last ten years. Our contract expired last year. We were able to get it renewed for another ten years, but are required to plant native forbs to increase the diversity of wildlife that can utilize the prairie. After burning the grass, Shawn slaved on a tractor to plant seeds for several wild-

flowers: Indian blanket, Maxmillian sunflower, prairie coneflower, lead-plant, Illinois bundleflower, purple prairie clover, thickspike gayfeather, plains coreopsis, showy partridge pea, indian paintbrush, and royal catchfly.

If floods don't wash them away, look for lots of wildflowers in the prairie by the river.



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## Twilight Dinner at Chaplin Nature Center

This is a special event on **Saturday, May 6** to honor our members and donors who make Chaplin Nature Center possible. Activities include:

- ⇒ barbeque dinner on the beach
- ⇒ bird watching
- ⇒ sandcastle building contest
- ⇒ night hike
- ⇒ frog and toad study at Kingfisher pond
- ⇒ owl calling
- ⇒ storytelling and music around the campfire
- ⇒ star program

Festivities will begin with a social hour at 5:00 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm, and activities continuing until after dark. We advise bringing a flashlight and lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. We'll have some picnic tables and benches on the beach, but a few more seats would be helpful.

There will be transportation to the river - so don't worry if you can't walk that far. We want this to be accessible to everyone.

Donors who have given one hundred dollars or more will be honored with a free dinner (you'll be receiving a personal invitation in the mail.) For those attending the Camp Horizon Weekend, this will be the Saturday night dinner included in your fees. All others are invited to join the festivities for only \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children 12 and under - and this is all you can eat! Please let us know you are coming by returning the coupon below with payment by April 22.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Fee enclosed for:

# of adults: \_\_\_\_\_ #of children under 12: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to Wichita Audubon Society, PO Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201