

Wichita Audubon



Volume 36 No. 7 April 2002

CNC Upcoming Programs

April 6, Saturday 8:30 am - 10:30 am Beginning Birdwatching

This introduction to birdwatching will begin with bird identification tips and binocular use. Participants will then head for the trails to practice birding skills.

May 4, Saturday 5 pm to 9 pm Twilight Dinner III

Join us for a beach party, a visit from Meriwether Lewis, barbeque, a dig for fossils, and lots of fun. See page 2 for details.

P.R.A.I.R.Y. Project Grant

The Chaplin Nature Center has received a laptop computer and digital camera through a grant from the P.R.A.I.R.Y. Project. This is a coalition of education agencies in South Central KS working to provide technological resources, professional development, and innovative education resources to the students of the region.

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

April Meeting

Our April meeting will feature Dr. Chris Rogers, Assistant Professor of Biology at Wichita State University, who will tell us about the winter survival strategies of birds. Temperate-zone birds are faced with the problem of surviving a long, harsh winter in order to breed successfully in spring. How do they maximize the chance of winter survival? One way is to deposit the optimal amount of fat: deposit too much, and the chance of being captured by a predator increases. Deposit too little, and the chance of starvation during a snowstorm increases. Long-term evidence from North American birds suggests that small wintering birds deposit that amount of fat that maximizes overall winter survival probability. Apparently natural selection has favored those birds that carefully regulate the costs and benefits of fat storage.

Dr. Rogers' presentation will be Tuesday, April 16, 7:30 pm at the Great Plains Nature Center. Join members and Dr. Rogers for dinner at 5:45 pm at Jason's Deli in Bradbury Fair, 21st and Rock Road.



Coming Events

April 6

Beginning birdwatching at Chaplin Nature Center, 8:30 - 10:30 am

April 10

Shorebird ID workshop by Gene Young, 7 pm at the Great Plains Nature Center. See page 4.

April 13

Trash cleanup in Chisholm Creek Park. Meet at 10 am in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot. Leader: Paul Hobelman, 264-8694

April 16

Regular meeting, "Winter Survival in Birds," by Dr. Chris Rogers, 7:30 pm Great Plains Nature Center.

April 18

Video & panel discussion on Urban Sprawl, 7:00 pm City Council Chambers, 455 N. Main. See page 5.

April 21-25

Extended Field Trip to Big Bend, Texas. See page 5.

April 27-28

Festival of Birds at Great Salt Plains NWR. See page 4.

May 4

Twilight dinner at Chaplin Nature Center, 5 pm to 9 pm. See page 3.

May 3-5

Wings & Wetlands Weekend, Great Bend Birding Festival. See page 5.



Birdathon

Birdathon is a fund-raising activity that is also a lot of fun, and open to any member that likes to bird and wants to help. A Birdathon team solicits pledges from friends, neighbors, coworkers, even total strangers, for the number of bird species they can find in a 24 hour period. Next, the team picks a date between April 20 and May 27 and goes birding. Then the pledges roll in to help support WAS and Chaplin Nature Center.

We really would like to have your help this year. To join a team talk to Carol Cumberland, Patty Marlett or Shawn Silliman. If you don't want to go birding, consider soliciting pledges for one of the teams, or contribute yourself. Any and all assistance is appreciated.

Chaplin Nature Center Update

The damage from the ice storm on January 30 is under control. The buildings all appear to be unharmed. Volunteers have done a lot of work to clean up and clear the trails, but it will take a long time to get it all done.

The bluff stairway has been repaired. The Wildlife Homes trail and lower Bluff trail are clear and safe. The upper Bluff trail has been cut, but not all cleared yet. The east side of the River Trail is clear, the west side is mostly clear, but with some hanging debris yet to be removed. The Spring Creek trail has just been started, and the Lost Prairie trail remains to be done.

The effort is ongoing. Volunteers are welcome at any time. There is also a lot of free firewood for anyone that wants to come get it.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee of Barbara Millar, Harry Gregory, and Walker Butin are looking for candidates for officers and directors. If you have suggestions or would be willing to serve, please contact the committee.

Barbara Millar: 838-8542
bmi3931874@aol.com;
Harry Gregory: 263-7608
birdfan@infi.net;
Walker Butin: 686-6578
patandwalk@aol.com.

May Meeting

Please note that the date for the May meeting is incorrect in our schedule of events. The correct date is May 21, the third Tuesday, which is our traditional day. You won't want to miss this presentation by Emily Weiss, Curator of Research at the Sedgwick County Zoo. She is an animal behaviorist who directs all the training and enrichment activities for the zoo. She has done some amazing things to make the animals happier and easier to work with. Come and hear about how she does it.

2001-2002 WAS Officers

President	Patty Marlett	942-2164	jmarlett@kscable.com
Vice-president	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@kscable.com
Secretary	Julia Hoppes	682-2623	jhoppes@kscable.com
Treasurer	Duane Delong	684-7456	dwdelong@earthlink.net

Directors

Carol Cumberland	685-4867	ccumb@swbell.net
Merle Manlove	264-4238	mmanlove@aol.com
Barbara Millar	838-8542	bmi3931874@aol.com
Cheryl Miller	978-7900 (wk)	cheryl.miller@wichita.edu
Jay Newton	316-322-9090	
Gary Straley	620-221-3664	garrob@hit.net

Committee Chairs

Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	jmarlett@kscable.com
CNC	Gary Straley	620-221-3664	garrob@hit.net
Programs	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@kscable.com
Conservation	Jay Newton	316-322-9090	
Development	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	ccumb@swbell.net
Membership	Sherry Brewer	778-1648	lpbrewer@earthlink.net
Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	687-4268	laurann@kscable.com
Education	Marsha Ebaugh	682-4782	43042@prodigy.net
Field Trips	Harry Gregory	263-7608	birdfan@infi.net
Finance	Merle Manlove	264-4238	mmanlove@aol.com
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaudubon.org

www.wichitaudubon.org

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



Save Our Land, Save Our Towns

Want to support local efforts to revitalize city neighborhoods?

Want to preserve farmland for future generations?

DATE: Thursday, April 18, 7 p.m.

PLACE: City Council Chambers at City Hall, 455 North Main, Wichita

Come find out how cities and citizens can invest in urban neighborhoods and preserve farmland and open space. Riverside Citizens Association is joining a number of neighborhood associations, including Mid-Town, Delano and North Riverside, as well as Wichita Independent Neighborhoods, to sponsor a showing of the film, "SAVE OUR LAND, SAVE OUR TOWNS."

The video is about an hour long, and will be followed by a panel discussion moderated by Wichita City Council Member Joan Cole. Please plan to come, and ask friends and neighbors to join you. After the video there will be an opportunity to discuss how the ideas presented in this film apply to Wichita, and what we can do to support our city, neighborhoods and rural areas in making positive choices that will affect the future of our region for many years to come.

For more information contact

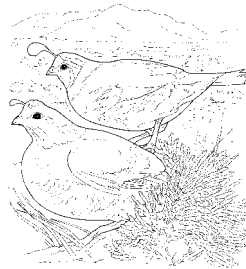
Mary DeSena: 265-5024 or

Elizabeth Bishop: 684-0988.

Extended Field Trip

It's not too late to join us on the field trip to Big Bend National Park in Texas, April 22-25. We will meet at the Big Bend Motor Inn in Terlingua, TX on the evening of Sunday, April 21, then bird the park for the next four days.

Big Bend NP is a preserve of 1100 square miles of Chihuahuan Desert and mountains. It has a diversity of plant zones from woodlands to desert scrub, and a list of more than 400 birds. Target species will include Varied Bunting, Crissal Thrasher, Lucifer Hummingbird, Painted Redstart, Zone-Tailed Hawk, Black-capped Vireo, and the Colima Warbler, found nowhere else in the U.S. We probably won't find them all, but the hunt should be a great adventure. For more information contact Patty Marlett, 942-2164, jmarlett@ksable.com



Wings & Wetlands Weekend

The second Great Bend, KS, birding festival will be held May 3 to 5, 2002. Headquarters are at the Best Western Angus Inn in Great Bend. Activities include field trips to Quivira NWR, Cheyenne Bottoms, and the Nature Conservancy Preserve.

There are also workshops on bird photography, waterbird ID, hummingbird habitats, and a live pelican presentation. More information is available at <http://www.greatbend.com/visitor/wingsww2.htm> or by calling (620) 792-2750

U.S. Farm Bill

The House-Senate Conference Committee working on the farm bill has not yet come up with a final proposal. It's likely they'll do so in the coming weeks. Audubon supports the Senate-passed version, which includes significant increases in funding for various conservation programs. These programs include the Wetlands Reserve Program, conservation Reserve Program, the Farmland Protection Program (FPP), the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and the newly proposed Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP)

Audubon continues to work to convince both House & Senate conferees to accept the Senate-passed version of the conservation title. You can help ensure they do! Please call Rep. Jerry Moran and urge him and his colleagues on the Conference Committee to support the Senate-

passed levels of conservation funding and the Senate-passed language for the Grasslands Reserve Program and Wetlands Reserve Program in conference.

Also ask them to support the limits on multiple large scale feeding operations to only one Environmental quality Incentives Program contract. This will limit use of the cost share program to build waste lagoons for megahog corporations. Ask them to support Commodity Program Payment Limitations in the Senate bill, because it will mean less money for commodity subsidies, and more for conservation, food stamps, and other programs.

Both Kansas Senators voted against this bill. Give them your opinion. More information is available from <http://www.capitolconnect.com/audubon/contact/default.asp?subject=46>

Twilight Dinner at Chaplin Nature Center

This special event on Saturday, May 4, is to honor our members and donors who make Chaplin Nature Center possible. Activities include:

- barbecue dinner on the beach
- a sandbar "dig" for kids - hunt for fossils and buried artifacts
- bird watching
- nature scavenger hunt for kids
- sand castle building contest
- owl calling
- star program
- and a special visit by Meriwether Lewis (as portrayed by Dr. Phillip Thomas.)

The West was unknown when Meriwether Lewis (1774-1808) and Captain William Clark set forth to explore Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase in 1806. Journey with Lewis and his crew as they navigate the Missouri and the Columbia. Learn what it's like to hunt with flintlock guns and to enjoy the hospitality of the Mandan, the Sioux, and the Shoshone.

Dr. Thomas teaches environmental history at WSU, and is a past president of Wichita Audubon.

Festivities begin with a social hour at 5:00 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm, and activities continuing until after dark. There will be transportation provided 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 will receive a personal invitation in the mail.) All others are invited to join the fun for only \$6.50 for adults and \$3.25 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 26.



Phillip Thomas as Meriwether Lewis

Dr. Thomas's presentation is sponsored by a grant from the Kansas Humanities Council.



Twilight Dinner Reservation - Saturday, May 4

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

phone: _____

email: _____

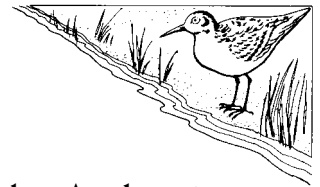
Fee enclosed for:

of adults: _____ (\$6.50 each)

of children under 12: _____ (\$3.25 each)

Mail to: Wichita Audubon Society, P.O. Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201

The Natural History Series Shorebird ID Workshop



Our series of courses cosponsored by the Wichita Audubon Society and the Great Plains Nature Center returns with a workshop on shorebird identification presented by Gene Young, natural science instructor at Cowley County Community College. Gene, an ornithologist and well known birder, has spent years studying the shorebirds that visit Slate Creek Marsh.

There is no cost, but you must preregister! Send in the coupon, or call the Great Plains Nature Center at 683-5499.

Peeping at Peeps

When: Wednesday, April 10, 7 pm

What: Workshop on identifying shorebirds, with an emphasis on those perplexing sandpipers.

Where: Great Plains Nature Center

When: Sunday, April 14, 7:30 am

What: Field trip to Slate Creek Marsh (just south of Oxford, KS) to try out our new ID skills.

Where: Meet at the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot and we'll carpool.

.....

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

home phone: _____

day phone: _____

best time to reach you: _____

email: _____

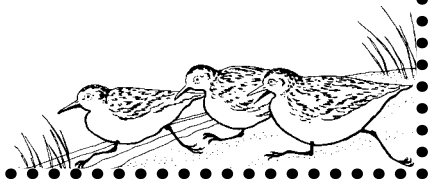
I want to register for the Shorebird ID workshop on April 10, and the field trip to Slate Creek Marsh on April 14.

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Mail to: Great Plains Nature Center
6232 E 29th St N, Wichita, KS 67220-2200

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NOTE: If you also receive the Great Plains Nature Center newsletter, the date and time given there are INCORRECT. The information listed here is correct.



Migration Madness at Chisholm Creek Park

If you are eager to find those migrants on early spring mornings, join the staff at the Great Plains Nature Center for a week of morning walks through Chisholm Creek Park. On May 6 through May 10 we'll meet each morning at 7 am by the GPNC sign in the nature center parking lot. There is no fee and no need to register - just show up with binoculars.

Celebration of Birds Festival at Great Salt Plains NWR

The annual Celebration of Birds Festival in Cherokee, OK will be held April 27 and 28, 2002.

Activities will be similar to previous years with tours being taken to areas of the Great Salt Plains Refuge that are normally closed to the public. For a complete listing of all activities including locations and times, check the website

<http://www.greatsaltplains.com>.

The end of April is the peak of the spring migration and there will be lots to see. At each of the last four festivals over 150 species of birds have been seen over the two day weekend. So pack your binoculars, scopes, field guides and checklists and head for Cherokee April 27 & 28.



Return Service Requested

Printed on recycled paper

Meritorious Service Award

The award committee, consisting of Marsha Ebaugh, Ruth Hodges, and Dan Kilby, is accepting nominations for the annual Meritorious Service Award. The criteria for selection include: outstanding or sustained leadership as a member, officer,

committee chair, or special project leader. Please put your nomination in writing and send to Marsha Ebaugh, 6510 E 29th St N #203, Wichita 67226, 683-4782, 43042@prodigy.net

Help Clean Up Parks

On Saturday, April 13 we will have our regular biannual cleanup of Chisholm Creek Park, a task we do as part of the Greenways Project. Meet at 10:00 am in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot. Paul Hobelman leads this cleanup. 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.

Planning Session

Thanks to the twelve people who braved ice and snow to attend the WAS planning session on March 2. We updated our long term plan, and wrote a new mission statement. Our updated mission statement is:

"The Wichita Audubon Society is committed to providing nature education, promoting environmental conservation and encouraging appreciation of the natural world."

Oak Park Update

Good news on the repair of the pump and stream in Oak Park. The Wichita Parks Department made this part of their regular maintenance schedule instead of waiting for the capital improvements project. The work is being done by the Sewer Department, and is scheduled to start March 18. Completion date is set for April 1.

A flowing stream will be a welcome sight to all those returning migrants, and should help make this year's birdwatching more productive, too! Thanks to all those who wrote and called and made yourselves heard. Our input really made a difference, and we really educated some people about the needs and value of wildlife.