

Wichita Audubon



Volume 38 No. 2 September 2003

CNC Upcoming Programs

September 27, Saturday 10 am to 3 pm Fall Nature Day with Butterfly Tagging

Join us for a day long celebration of nature at the Chaplin Nature Center. There are bird walks, a herp walk (herps are reptiles and amphibians), a live herp demonstration, and crafts for kids!

See page 3 for more details.

October 31, Friday 6:30 - 7:30 pm Night Hike

Don't be afraid of the dark! It doesn't have to be scary, even on Halloween. Hike through the woods without flashlights to learn about your five senses and how they can help at night. Listen for night sounds and learn about some nocturnal animals while on the trail. Dress for the outdoors and wear sturdy boots.

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



September Program

Jim Mason, a naturalist at the Great Plains Nature Center, kicks off our year of programs by sharing his journey to the wintering grounds of the Monarch Butterflies. In February of 2003, Jim traveled to the state of Michoacan in Mexico on a "Spirit of the Butterflies" tour. He visited two reserves filled with butterflies, as well as several other cultural and natural history sites in the region. Proceeds from the trip benefited the La Cruz Habitat Protection Project, which grows trees to be planted in areas adjacent to the Monarch reserves. Join us on September 16 at 7:30 pm at the Great Plains Nature Center for this opportunity to learn about a really unique part of the world.

You can also join Jim for dinner before the meeting at Jason's Deli in Bradford Fair at 21st and Rock Road at 5:45 pm.

Big For A Day

Audubon and Big Brothers Big Sisters are joining forces to provide an opportunity for sharing our love of nature with some kids who don't get many opportunities to experience a day in the woods.

On October 18 we're planning a day at Chaplin Nature Center to show them the basics of bird watching and having a good time in the outdoors. We need volunteers who will be matched one on one with a child who has not yet been assigned a

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Coming Events

September 6

Quivira NWR/Cheyenne Bottoms field trip. Meet at Quivira headquarters at 9 am. Leader: Kevin Groeneweg, 687-4268, kgroeneweg@cox.net

September 16

Regular meeting, "A Visit to the Monarch Butterfly Winter Sanctuary," by Jim Mason, 7:30 pm Great Plains Nature Center.

September 20

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

September 20

Bird Seed Sale. See Page 2

September 27

Fall Nature Day & Butterfly Tagging at Chaplin Nature Center. See page 3.

October 18

Big Brothers Big Sisters program at Chaplin Nature Center. See this page for details.

October 19

Slate Creek/Wellington City Lake field trip. Meet at the Slate Creek Valley Baptist Church at 8 am. Leader: Pete Janzen, 832-0182, prarybrd@southwind.net.

Big For A Day, continued

regular big brother or big sister. Vans will transport us to Chaplin, where we will teach the kids to use binoculars, then take them on a hike to the river. After lunch, we will return to Wichita. Volunteers don't need to be birding experts to do this - we just want people who are willing to share their enthusiasm and love of nature.

On November 22 we will hold another event. This time we are going to take the kids to Quivira National Wildlife Refuge to see the thousands of migrating Sandhill Cranes and geese that stopover during migration. Because the best time to see the flocks

is as they return from feeding in the evening, we will leave Wichita in the afternoon, again travelling by van, tour the refuge, watch the huge flocks, have a picnic supper, then return in the evening.

If you can share a day of your time with one of these children, please call Big Brothers Big Sisters at 263-3300, or Patty Marlett at 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com. You can find out more about the Big Brothers Big Sisters Pass It On outdoor mentors program on their website: www.ksbbbs.org/passiton/PIOHome.

Be sure to keep up with the latest news on conservation issues, local issues and events by visiting our website at

2003-2004 WAS Officers

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www.wichitaaudubon.org

email any officer: was@wichitaaudubon.org

Send address changes to Sister Patricia Stanley, 6739 Perryton, Wichita, KS 67226

pstanley@csjwichita.org

Bird Seed Sale

Buy your bird seed from Wichita Audubon and support your chapter. Wichita Audubon sells and delivers bird seed. The first two sale dates are September 20 and November 22. To place your order call Carol at 685-4867 or email ccumb@swbell.net. You may also mail your order to WAS, PO Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201. Include your name, address, and phone number.

September 20

___25 lb Black Oil Sunflower@\$10

___25 lb Audubon Mix @\$8

November 22

___25 lb Black Oil Sunflower@\$10

___25 lb Audubon Mix @\$8

Wichita Audubon Bird Seed Sales have been an important part of our fund-raising effort. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated team of individuals who volunteer to deliver the seed. This team not only helps raise money for WAS, but they provide bird seed to many individuals who can no longer drive. If you would like to help deliver bird seed, we would love your help. Please call Carol at 685-4867.

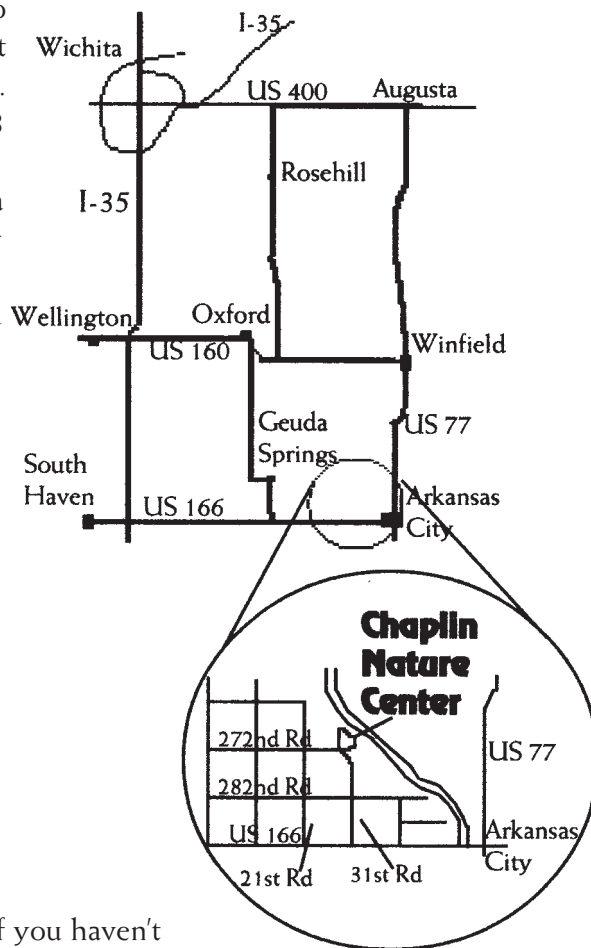


Fall Nature Day, continued

We will also be tagging Monarch butterflies. Monarchs are our only migratory butterfly, traveling each fall to wintering grounds in the mountains of Mexico. By attaching a tiny tag to their wing, we can help scientists track them and learn more about this unique phenomenon. Three years ago two butterflies were recovered in Mexico that had been tagged at Chaplin Nature Center. They had traveled 1218 miles in 120 days.

As always there will be a country store featuring homemade baked goods, homegrown produce, and similar goodies. We will raffle the beautiful afghan crocheted by Louise Wherry. Raffle tickets will be available at the meeting as well as at Chaplin Nature Center. Lunch will feature homemade desserts courtesy of Laura Groeneweg, and can be purchased for \$3 for adults and \$2 for children. Or you are welcome to bring a picnic lunch.

Fall Nature Day is free and open to the public. If you haven't been to Chaplin Nature Center, this is the time to get acquainted. Please come!



Help Needed

Shawn and the Chaplin Nature Center Committee are busy getting ready for Fall Nature Day on September 27. Your help is needed in the following areas:

- Donated items to sell in the country store: baked goods, homegrown produce, homemade foods like jellies, craft items of all sorts, especially if bird or nature related.
- Help prepare and/or serve lunch.
- Act as greeter and register visitors.
- Assist with children's crafts.
- Lead nature walks.

We have also discovered that the kitchen towels at the Nature Center have been disappearing. If you would like to contribute a few tea towels to help us restock, it would be appreciated.

If you can help please call Shawn at 620-442-4133, or e-mail cnc@wichitaudubon.org.

Extended Field Trips

April 10 - 17 Colorado Grouse

This will be a high mileage, rather intense journey to see three species of grouse on leks, showing off in their spring mating displays, and one more species (the White-tailed Ptarmigan) still in its winter white coat. Due to the many miles of driving involved and the possibility of snow in some areas, we have decided to make this a trip by van, rather than driving individual cars as we usually do. We will rent a 15 passenger van, but take no more than 8 people so we will not be crowded. This means that space is limited - get your reservation in as soon as possible! We anticipate that the cost per person for the van will be under \$200. The tentative itinerary:

- April 10 drive to Denver
 - April 11 Guanella Pass to look for Ptarmigan, through Willow Creek Pass to North Park
 - April 12 Bird the Walden area, drive to Hayden
 - April 13 Sharp-tailed Grouse lek at Hayden, bird the Hayden/Craig area
 - April 14 Greater Sage Grouse lek at Craig, drive to Gunnison
 - April 15 Gunnison Sage Grouse lek, bird the Gunnison area
 - April 16 Drive to Pueblo, birding along the way
 - April 17 Drive home to Wichita
- Sign up at our monthly meetings, or contact Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com.

June 1 - 5 Hatton/Niobrara Sanctuary, Nebraska

This is a special year, with two extended field trips! If the grouse trip is too intense for you, consider the

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Extended Field Trips, continued

more relaxed trip to the Nebraska sand hills. Audubon of Kansas, our state organization, received the 4600 acre Hutton ranch on the Niobrara River as a bequest from Harold and Lucille Hutton. It will be a wildlife sanctuary, and eventually have a visitor's center and other facilities. You can be one of the first to tour this beautiful property, as well as seeing other great spots like Valentine National Wildlife Refuge. Early June is the best time for wildflowers, and the birds should be great, too.

The tentative schedule:

June 1, Tuesday, travel to south central Nebraska, visit the Rowe Sanctuary or

the Halsey National Forest. Lodging in Valentine.

June 2, Wednesday, birding Valentine National Wildlife Refuge, a great area for Sand hills scenery and wildlife.

June 3, Thursday, canoeing the Niobrara River, or alternately, visit the Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge and river valley. Lodging in Sparks.

June 4, Friday, Birding along the Niobrara, possibly including the Sandall Ranch, afternoon tour of the Hutton Niobrara Sanctuary, lodging Bassett

June 5, Saturday, morning tour of the Hutton Niobrara Sanctuary,

afternoon Audubon of Kansas Board of Trustees meeting, overnight Bassett.

June 6, Sunday, return to Kansas.

We might also fit in a trip to Lacreek NWR in nearby South Dakota.

Besides the great birds, scenery, and wildflowers, this will be a chance to meet some other Audubon people from around the state. You can sign up at meetings or contact Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com