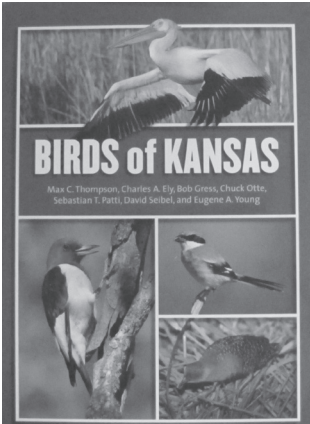


Wichita Audubon

Volume 46 No. 2 September 2011



SEPTEMBER MEETING



The new book *Birds of Kansas* is a collaborative effort from a team of seven avian authorities. It is the first survey of Kansas birds in twenty years, and documents all 473 species seen in the state. It provides information on distribution, breeding and behavior for each species, along with photographs. Max Thompson and Bob Gress, two of the authors, will give us an inside look at the book and what went into producing it. Join us on Tuesday, September 20, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center for the program.

We will also have dinner with Max and Bob before the program. Note that we are meeting at a new location this year: Ryan's, 3323 N Rock Road. Meet at Ryan's at 5:45 p.m. for dinner

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September 24, Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Fall Nature Day and Butterfly Tagging

Join us for a day long celebration of nature at the Chaplin Nature Center. There are bird walks, a herp walk, live reptiles and amphibians, and crafts for kids. 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. You get to learn how to capture and tag the butterflies safely. *Continued on page 3.*

COMING EVENTS

September 10

Chisholm Creek Park and Maple Grove Cemetery. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot. Leader: Kevin Groeneweg, kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net, 706-0116

September 20

Regular meeting, "Birds of Kansas," by Max Thompson and Bob Gress, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center

September 24

Fall Nature Day at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., featuring hikes, Monarch butterfly tagging, food, crafts and more. See page 3.

October 15

Chisholm Creek Park cleanup. Help clean up our adopted park. Meet at the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot. Bring gloves. Leader: Cheryl Miller, avian67226@gmail.com



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.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP 2011

19 members took an extended weekend to visit the birding hotspots of northeastern Kansas. Many gathered for supper on Thursday, May 13th and afterward went to Shawnee Mission Park for nightjars. It was a beautiful evening but we heard only Chuck-will's-Widows. That would be the last of the pleasant weather, as we had to put up with cold and wind the rest of the weekend. We started out the next morning

at the Overland Park Arboretum, where we met up with Mark Land and Trent Reed. We had Kentucky Warblers, both Waterthrushes, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided and several Mourning Warblers and American Redstarts. Everyone also had good looks at a singing Wood Thrush. After lunch there, we made a quick stop at the KCPL Wetlands near Gardner for a few shorebirds, including two Black-necked Stilts. The wind was up and the temperature down, causing a detour to the local Wal-Mart for additional clothing. We next met up with Matt Gearheart, Nic Allen and Chris Fagyel at Shawnee Mission Park. A long walk produced looks at a few warblers, including Blackburnian. Several gathered at the Elephant Bar restaurant for dinner that evening. On Saturday we met with Dave Williams, Matt, Nic and Chris at Fort Leavenworth. Our first stop at the cemetery produced a Cape May Warbler...off to a great start! A Scarlet



Tanager put on a good show and we teased an Ovenbird out of the woods. In the bottomland forest we saw a Chat and a Yellow-throated Warbler. We then headed across the state line to Weston Bend SP, where the Wings Over Weston event was going on. On the way back to the motel we stopped off on "Lonestar Road" in Bonner Springs, where we had great looks at several Yellow-throated Warblers and a Yellow-throated Vireo among the many birds there. Sunday morning turned out to be our best birding. We met up with Dan Larson at Burcham Park in Lawrence, with best-ever looks at Bay Breasted and Blackburnian Warblers. A Philadelphia Vireo allowed careful study, and a Prothonotary Warbler was on territory. We then went over to Baker Wetlands for a few more shorebirds. The Soras were not shy, and a Least Bittern capped off a great trip. Our final tally was 130 species, with 27 different warblers. Not too bad considering the weather. As always, we had a great group of folk along and got some excellent help from the local birders that made for a wonderful trip.
by Kevin Groeneweg

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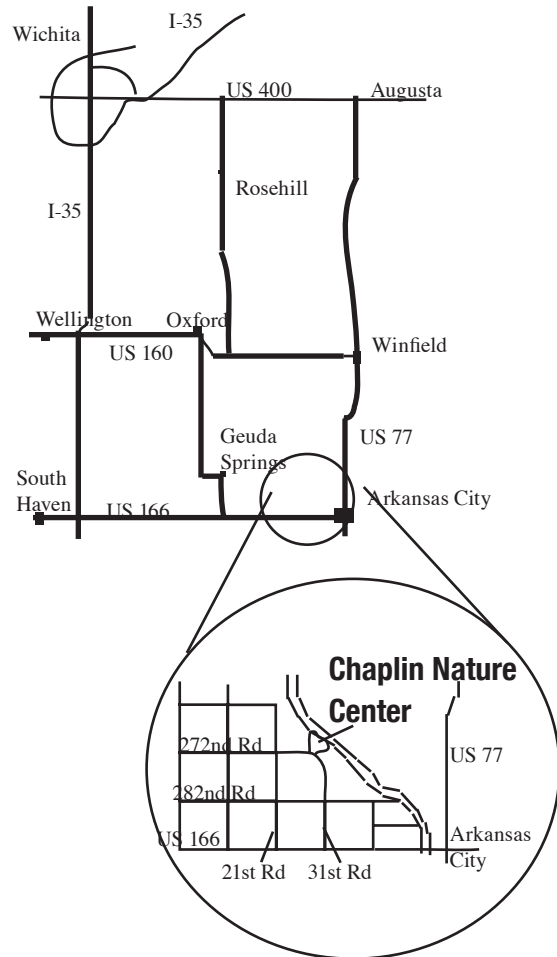
E-mail any officer: was@wichitaudubon.org

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

FALL NATURE DAY, CONTINUED

As always there will be a country store featuring homemade baked goods, homegrown produce, and similar goodies. Lunch will be available to purchase, and will feature homemade desserts courtesy of Laura Groeneweg. Or you are welcome to bring your own picnic lunch.

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



2012 EXTENDED FIELD TRIP

This year the extended field trip is another ambitious one - the Pacific Northwest. We plan to fly to Washington and rent vans like we did for Florida. Planning is in the very earliest stages, but we hope to include the Olympic peninsula, Puget Sound, the Cascades and an optional pelagic trip out of Westport. Kevin Groeneweg and Jeff Calhoun are planning the itinerary. Patty Marlett is planning logistics like lodging and van rental. Space will be limited, so reservations with a deposit will be required. You can sign up at a meeting, or by e-mail or phone to Patty: pmarlett@mac.com, 942-2164.



CALENDARS

The 2012 Chaplin Nature Center calendars are ready, featuring a beautiful bird photograph for each month. They are still just \$5 each. They make excellent gifts, and help support the work of Wichita Audubon at the same time. They will be available at all meetings, or you can contact Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com.


Wichita Audubon Society
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