

# Wichita Audubon

Volume 40 No. 7 April 2006



## APRIL MEETING



After years on the Endangered Species list, Bald Eagles are a real success story. Our April program will tell that story. Dan Mulhern, Endangered Species Biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will share the skills and techniques he has used to track down and study the nesting Bald Eagles in Kansas. The program will be April 18, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center, 29th Street and Woodlawn. You can join Dan for dinner

at Jason's Deli in Bradley Fair, 21st St. and Rock Road, at 5:45 p.m.

## CHAPLIN NATURE CENTER RECEIVES GRANT

In celebration of the opening of the new Walmart Supercenter in Arkansas City, the Walmart Foundation gave gifts to several local charities, including \$3000 for Chaplin Nature Center. Patty Marlett and Shawn Silliman will attend the grand opening ceremony on March 20 to receive the check.

## CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### **Spring Clean-up**

**April 1, Saturday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Volunteer to get the Chaplin Nature Center in shape for the upcoming year. Help is needed in all areas, from building clean-up to trail maintenance. Light work loads or heavy, your choice. There is a place you can help, no matter what your skills.

### **Astronomy Program**

**April 22, Saturday, 7:30 - 10 p.m.**

Celebrate Earth Day by joining the Kansas Astronomical Observers for a night under the stars. The program will start with an indoor presentation, immediately followed by an evening of stargazing. Participants will use telescopes to view Saturn, Mars, and some deep sky objects. You are welcome to bring your own telescope to join in the fun.

### **Twilight Dinner**

**June 17, Saturday, 5 p.m. - ?**

Join us at Chaplin Nature Center for a beach party, barbecue, scavenger hunt, birdwatching and lots of fun. *Continued on page 3.*

## COMING EVENTS

### **April 18**

Regular program, "Eagles in Kansas," by Dan Mulhern, 7:30 p.m. Great Plains Nature Center

### **April 1**

Spring Clean-up at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

### **April 1**

Pawnee Prairie Park field trip. Meet at the old nature center parking lot on South Tyler Rd at 8 a.m. Leader: Bill Beard, 722-3081, w2bnn@cox.net

### **April 22**

Greater Prairie Chicken field trip. See page 3 for details.

### **April 22**

Astronomy Program at Chaplin Nature Center, 7:30 - 10 p.m.

### **May 13**

Warbler Walk in Chisholm Creek Park. See page 3.

### **May 13**

Prairie Wetlands Conservation Project (Vulcan Chemical) field trip. See page 3.

### **June 17**

Twilight Dinner at Chaplin Nature Center, 5 p.m. - ?



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

## OAK PARK THANK YOU

Eighteen people worked hard on March 11 at our Oak Park cleanup. A big thank you to Tony Schaar, Pete Janzen, Paul Griffin, Bev Dugay, Carol Cumberland, Hal Cumberland, Vern Kyser, Rob McHenry, Rosa McHenry and several Riverside neighbors. They donated 27.5 hours of time, and picked up many bags of trash.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee, with chair Carol Cumberland, Harry Gregory and Sister Patricia Stanley, is looking for nominees to fill three positions: vice-president (1 year term) and 2 director positions (3 year terms.) If you are interested in serving, or have suggestions for candidates, please contact Carol at 685-4867, [carol.cumberland@swbell.net](mailto:carol.cumberland@swbell.net).

## WARBLER WALK

On May 13 we will have our annual Warbler Walk in Chisholm Creek Park. Meet at 7 a.m. in the parking lot of the Great Plains Nature Center. At 1 p.m. we will reassemble at the Vulcan Chemicals parking lot on the east side of S Ridge Rd (south of 55th St S) for a tour of the Prairie Wetlands Conservation Project. We will carpool in from the parking lot, so be on time or the gate will be locked.

Leader for the warbler walk is Kevin Groeneweg, 687-4268 [kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net); leader for the afternoon is Bill Beard, 722-3081, [w2bnn@cox.net](mailto:w2bnn@cox.net).



## BIRDS AND BREAKFAST

### FIELD TRIP

Join us for birds and breakfast on Saturday, April 22, at the Harvest Time Ministries ranch in Dexter, KS, where we will see Greater Prairie Chickens booming on the lek.

There are three options for viewing: Overnight in the bed and breakfast (5 rooms available) for \$65/couple, overnight in the bunkhouse (2 bunkhouses are available, each holds 11 people and has a shower) for \$30/person, drive in that morning for \$15/person. All options include transport to the booming site and a country breakfast afterward. They have 5 blinds, each holding 4 or 5 people. Contact them at 620-876-5700 (evenings are best) to make reservations.

Directions: From K-15 look for the sign pointing to Harvest Time Ministries just south of Dexter. Take that road east approximately 1.5 miles to the ranch.

Our stay at the ranch will support the ranchers who protect the chickens and promote eco-tourism in the area. After we finish breakfast we will continue birding, looking for early spring migrants at Cowley State Fishing Lake and the Kaw Wildlife Area. We will end up at Chaplin Nature Center for lunch and more birding.

Contact:

Kevin Groeneweg, 687-4268, [kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net).

### **2005-2006 WAS Officers**

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### **WWW.WICHITAAUDUBON.ORG**

email any officer: [was@wichitaudubon.org](mailto:was@wichitaudubon.org)

Send address changes to Sister Patricia Stanley, 6739 Perryton, Wichita, KS 67226  
[pstanley@csjwichita.org](mailto:pstanley@csjwichita.org)

## **MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD**

The award committee 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 include a brief description of the nominee's accomplishments and why you think they should receive this award. Mail your nomination to

Dan Kilby, 1220 N. Gow, Wichita 67203, ddkilby@prodigy.net. Merle Manlove and Joan Hackerott are also on the committee.

The previous recipients of this award are:

1994 John Wherry  
1995 Ralph Wiley & Geula McDonald  
1996 Nathan McDonald  
1997 Louise Wherry  
1998 Don Vannoy  
1999 Bob Gress  
2000 Dan Kilby  
2001 Rex Herndon  
2002 Wallace Champeny  
2003 Patty Marlett  
2004 Carol Cumberland  
2005 Sandra Tholen

## **TWILIGHT DINNER, CONTINUED**

As always, donors who gave more than \$100 last year will be invited to attend free. Everyone else is welcome with the meal costing \$6.50 for adults, \$3.25 for children for children 12 and under. You can make reservations by calling Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, cnc@wichitaudubon.org. There will be a mail-in form in next month's newsletter.

## **EXTENDED FIELD TRIP**

The extended field trip this year will be to southeast Arizona with an extension into northern Mexico July 31- August 7, 2006. In Arizona we will visit famous hotspots in the Chiricahuas mountains like Portal and Rustler Park, and the Sierra Vista area with attractions like the Ramsey Canyon Preserve and the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Sanctuary. Following the Arizona birding we plan to rent a van to bird our way to Yecora, Mexico.

This trip is still being planned, so contact one of the trip leaders if you are interested and we will keep you informed as plans progress.

Kevin Groeneweg is planning the itinerary. He can be reached at 687-4268, kgroeneweg@sbglobal.net. Patty Marlett is planning logistics like lodging. She can be reached at 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com.



## **BIRDATHON**

Birdathon is a fund-raising activity that is also a lot of fun. It is open to any member that likes to bird and wants to help. A Birdathon team solicits pledges from friends, neighbors and coworkers for the number of bird species they can find in a 24 hour period. We would really like to have your help. To join a team talk to Carol Cumberland, Patty Marlett, Kevin Groeneweg or Shawn Silliman. If you can't join a team, consider soliciting pledges for one of the teams, or contribute yourself. Any and all assistance is appreciated.

## **BIRD QUIZ**

Spring migration is underway. Take this quiz to see how much you know about birds who travel.

### **1. How many birds migrate?**

- 20% of species?
- 40%?
- 80%?

Eighty percent of all species that nest in the U.S. 520 out of 650 bird species migrate south to spend the winter and return in spring to nest.

### **2. How birds find their way? How do they know which way to fly?**

- Do they sense the earth's magnetic field?
- Do they observe the sun and stars?
- Do they use their sense of smell?

All of the above are correct. They also follow each other and even other groups of birds as they migrate.

### **3. What is the length of the longest bird migration on the planet?**

The arctic tern travels 20,000 miles per year, from the Arctic to the Antarctic, round trip. Other sea birds make long journeys: The long-tailed jaeger flies 5,000 to 9,000 miles in each direction.

### **4. How high can migrating birds fly?**

Bar-headed geese have been recorded flying across the Himalayas at 29,000 feet. Others above 20,000 feet include the whooper swan, the bar-tailed godwit, and the mallard duck. They change altitude to find the best wind conditions. To fight a headwind, most birds stay low, where trees and buildings slow the wind. To ride a tailwind, they get up high where the wind is fast!

 *Wichita Audubon Society*  
**P.O. Box 47607**  
**Wichita, KS 67201**

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IF YOU ARE A MEMBER of the WICHITA Audubon Society ONLY, you do not receive Audubon Magazine. You should check the expiration date above. Use the form below to renew your membership, or go to [www.wichitaaudubon.org](http://www.wichitaaudubon.org) and click on Membership. If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, check the appropriate box below.

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