

Wichita Audubon

Volume 47 No. 7 April 2013



APRIL MEETING



For our April program Bob Gress will take us to Costa Rica. This presentation features intimate looks of birdlife, wildlife, and landscapes. Toucans, guans, tanagers, honeycreepers, antbirds, macaws, hummingbirds and the stunning Resplendent Quetzal are featured. Nearly 25 species of hummingbirds, many in high-speed, stop-action photography, were photographed. This is for all those who enjoy wild places and wild things!

The program will be on Tuesday, March 19, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can join Bob and other members for dinner at Doc Green's, 10096 E. 13th, in the Waterfront at 5:30 p.m.

NOTE: PROGRAMS THIS YEAR BEGIN AT 7:00 P.M.

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

April 6, Saturday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Spring Clean-up

Come celebrate spring at the nature center while lending a helping hand. Clearing trails of debris, raking, sprucing up the area around the building, and small repair projects will be on our to-do-list. A simple lunch will be provided for those staying for the whole day. Be sure to wear old clothes and bring work gloves. Branch clippers and yard rakes are needed.

April 20, Saturday, 9 a.m. & Friday, May 24, 8:30 p.m.

Kayaking for Chaplin Nature Center

Cost: \$25 donation

Special kayak trips down the Arkansas River have been planned to help celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Chaplin Nature Center. These guided trips, led by the CNC naturalist will include kayak, paddle, life jacket and instructions on kayak use. Your \$25.00 donation will help support our educational programs at the Center. All equipment is provided by Ark City Kayak Rentals free of charge, so 100% of your donation will go to CNC. Space is limited, so call the Center to reserve your space. For more information call (620) 442-4133.

COMING EVENTS

March 30

Wichita area field trip. Meet at 8 a.m. at Crane Park in Derby. Leader: Jeff Calhoun, 737-1307, jeffcalhoun11@gmail.com

April 6

CNC spring cleanup, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

April 16

Regular meeting, "Birds of Costa Rica," by Bob Gress, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center

April 20

Prairie Chickens and Konza Prairie field trip. This trip has been CANCELLED due to scheduling conflicts.

April 20

Kayaking for Chaplin, 9 a.m.

April 25

Earth Day at the Sedgwick County Zoo, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.



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

BIRD SEED SALE

Help support Wichita Audubon and Chaplin Nature Center by buying your bird seed from us. We offer high quality seed, delivered to your home (within Wichita City limits.)

Please submit your order by Friday, May 3. The seed will be delivered on Saturday, May 11.

25 lb Songbird Delight Mix - \$13

25 lb Black Oil Sunflower - \$16

25 lb Safflower - \$21

Order by phone, mail or E-mail. Call Carol Cumberland at 685-4867 or carol.cumberland@swbell.net Mail: Wichita Audubon Society, PO Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201.

Thanks to those who delivered in February: Texie and Bill Randle, Richard and Margaret Wieland, Kevin Groeneweg and Tom Ewert.

EARTH DAY

Wichita Audubon will be participating in Earth Day at the Sedgwick County Zoo on Thursday, April 25. This year the event is sponsored by Meritrust Bank and is geared for fourth and fifth grade students. Our booth will feature educational activities about birds. We could use volunteers to help monitor our booth and interact with the kids and their parents from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. You can work any part of that time. If you are interested please contact Jay Newton, jmnewtonus@yahoo.com, 733-2486.



BIRDATHON

It's that time of year again for our annual Birdathon. This fundraiser is a very important source of funding for Chaplin Nature Center every year. Just contact a team member and tell them you would like to help. Pledges can be made based on the number of species the team finds or can be a fixed amount. For the CNC team contact Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, cnc@wichitaaudubon.org, or Kevin Groeneweg at 316-706-9116, kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net. For the Painted Bunting team contact Carol Cumberland, 685-4867, carol.cumberland@swbell.net or Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com. Both teams are planning on early May for their marathon bird search.

2012-2013 WAS Officers

President	Jay Newton	733-2486	jmnewtonus@yahoo.com
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Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaaudubon.org

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E-mail any officer: was@wichitaaudubon.org

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

CONSERVATION NEWS

Lesser Prairie Chickens

In 1998 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that the LPC was warranted for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act. In December 2012, the USFWS released a proposed rule that indicates the agency is considering listing the LPC as “threatened” under the ESA, with a final determination to be made by September 2013.

The Kansas Ornithological Society and the Oklahoma Ornithological Society recently submitted a joint letter supporting the listing of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken as threatened under the Endangered Species Act by the USFWS.

Their letter begins with this statement: “We, the Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS) and Oklahoma Ornithological Society (OOS) jointly support the listing of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken as threatened for the following reasons: biological considerations including range reduction and population declines; anthropocentric factors such as wind power and oil development in existing habitat; climatic factors such as global warming and its potential impact on habitat; and the lack of regulatory mechanisms or action by the state of Kansas to protect the species.” The KOS/OOS letter can be read online on www.ksbirds.org.

Audubon of Kansas also participated in a joint statement representing Audubon New Mexico, Audubon Texas, Audubon of Kansas, Audubon Rockies and the Oklahoma Audubon Council. Three of the state offices are directly under the auspices of the National Audubon Society. AOK is an independent state organization. Collectively, all of the Audubon entities have been working together for about two years on LPC issues.



Black-footed Ferrets Need a Helping Hand

Opponents of the black-footed ferret recovery are urging KDWPT Secretary Robin Jennison to ask (or demand) that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service remove the wild black-footed ferrets now living in Logan County. Secretary Jennison has contemplated doing that and has had some conversations with various entities about employing this political move.

It would not be binding on the USFWS to remove the black-footed ferrets even if such a demand were made. However, it would be disruptive and undermine an exceptional endangered species recovery partnership involving private ranch landowners, wildlife agencies at various levels, non-governmental organizations and many individuals working for a common goal of restoring important elements of the state’s wildlife heritage. It would also further erode the state’s credibility on conservation of imperiled species.

We can help by writing or emailing Robin Jennison, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism urging him to express his agency’s support for the work that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and cooperating landowners are doing to reestablish a sustainable population of Black-footed Ferrets in Kansas. The email address for Secretary Jennison is: Robin.Jennison@ksoutdoors.com

Copies of your letter can be also sent to Governor Brownback governor@ks.gov and to members of the KDWPT Commission. More information about this issue and addresses for the KDWPT Commission can be found on the Audubon of Kansas website at www.audubonofkansas.org

 *Wichita Audubon Society*
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There are two ways of being a member of Wichita Audubon: by joining the National Audubon Society, or by joining or making a donation to the Wichita Audubon Society. IF YOU ARE A MEMBER of the NATIONAL Audubon Society, you receive Audubon magazine in the mail, as well as this newsletter. National will send you renewal notices when your membership is about to expire.

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 and click on Membership. If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, check the appropriate box below.

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Yes, renew my membership in the Wichita Audubon Society at the following level:

☐ Individual - \$20 ☐ Family - \$25 ☐ Student (18 & under) - \$10

☐ Remove my name from your mailing list

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