

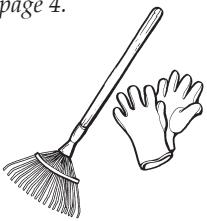
Audubon

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April 4

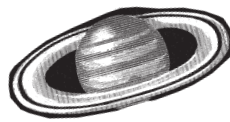
Spring Cleanup at Chaplin Nature Center, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. See page 4.

**April 11**

Oak Park Cleanup, 9 a.m. Help us get this premier birding spot ready for those spring migrants. Bring gloves and meet by the pond at the north end of the park. Leader: Carol Cumberland, carol.cumberland@swbell.net 685-4867

April 11

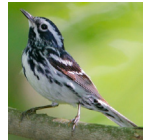
Astronomy Program at Chaplin Nature Center, 8:30 - 10 p.m. See page 4.

**April 18**

Cowley County Hotspots field trip. Meet at 7 a.m. at the Dillon's on Rock Rd in Derby and we'll carpool from there. We will spend the day exploring Winfield and Kaw Wildlife areas for spring migrants. Bring a lunch. Leader: Kevin Groeneweg, kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net, 706-9116.

April 21

Regular meeting, "Warblers in Kansas," by Chuck Otte, Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. Join us for dinner before the meeting at Barn'rds, 2037 N Woodlawn, 5:30p.m.



April Meeting

Our April program will be "Warblers in Kansas," presented by Chuck Otte. Ask most birders what they look forward to in spring migration and invariably you'll hear, "warblers"! Why not? Warblers are our largest group of birds in Kansas. They have wonderfully bright plumage and their songs are as varied as are their looks! Chuck will discuss not only the basics of warbler ID, including song, but also important considerations like migration timing, habitat considerations and some of the "intangibles" of warbler identification.

Chuck Otte grew up on a family farm in York County, Nebraska and received B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Nebraska. Chuck has been the Geary County Extension Agent for 32 years. He has the sole programming responsibilities for agriculture, horticulture and natural resources for Geary County.

An avid birder and naturalist since early boyhood, Chuck spends considerable time in activities and with organizations that foster support, outreach, and knowl-

edge of the natural world. Chuck is a past president for the Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS), served as the KOS newsletter editor for over twelve years,

served as secretary of the Kansas Bird Records Committee for six years and has served as Chairman of the Kansas Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council, an advisory group to the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. A long time believer in the use of the Internet to provide unrestricted access to information, Chuck volunteers extensive time in providing technical support and management to over a dozen Internet discussion groups, (list serves) including BirdChat and KSBIRD-L, and serves as webmaster

for several web sites.

The program will take place on Tuesday, April , 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

You can also join us for dinner before the program at Barn'rds, 2037 N. Woodlawn, at 5:30 p.m.



Backyard Bird Workshop

Our workshop was held February 2 at the Great Plains Nature Center. About 250 people visited. We gave away about 40 birdhouses and an uncounted number of pine cone bird feeders. We all had a great time - volunteers and visitors alike. Thanks to all the people who helped make this such a success: Pete Janzen and Rod Wedel, who donated lumber as well as helping build the bird houses, Tom Ewert, Cheryl Miller, Mary Singleton, Sandra Tholen, Sarah Blackmon, Jim and Patty Marlett. Cathy Clausen brought a display of feeders from her store, The Backyard Nature Center, and dispensed lots of bird feeding wisdom. Krista Dahlinger represented the Kansas Native Plant Society and talked to people about using native plants in their landscapes to attract birds.



2014-2015 WAS Officers

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Membership	Tom Ewert	670-3140	trewert@yahoo.com
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Programs	Pete Janzen	519-1979	pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaudubon.org

www.wichitaudubon.org

Send address changes to Tom Ewert, 1021 N. Lakewind, Wichita, KS 67212, trewert@yahoo.com

Slate of Officers

The nominating committee of Anne Woods, Sharon Dilks and Bob Gress have presented the following slate of officers:

President: Gregg Friesen

Vice-president: Pete Janzen

Treasurer: Rod Wedel

Secretary: Anne Woods

Board of directors (3 year term): Tom Ewert and Karl Herold

(2 year term): Mary Singleton

The election will occur during the May meeting. The term of office will begin July 1. Give a big thank you to those who have agreed to serve!

E-mails needed

We have decided to join the digital age and begin offering our newsletter as an email. Hopefully we will save some money and some trees. But to do this we need your email address. If you would like to participate please let us know your address by emailing us: newsletter@wichitaudubon.org Put anything in the subject line - just be sure to let us know the name or names associated with the email. If there are two or more of you in a household who would like to receive the newsletter just give us all the addresses. We will also have a signup sheet at the meetings. Thanks for your cooperation! And we will never give out your email to anyone else!

New Tractor at Chaplin Nature Center

Shawn has a new John Deere 2025R tractor that includes a front loader, mower and box blade. Chaplin Nature Center has four miles of hiking trails on the 230 acre property. These trails are an essential part of our mission to provide unique educational opportunities to explore plant and animal relationships found in riparian forests and prairie habitats. The tractor will make property maintenance more efficient. Funds for the tractor were provided by the V.J. Wilkins Memorial Foundation, which is a private, non-profit foundation whose mission is to maximize the value of its finances so that it may assist the community to provide a quality, cultural environment of arts, music, language and other endeavors, which many times are shadowed by the importance placed upon athletic achievements.



Fred Bunting, Karen Zeller, Patty Marlett and Shawn Silliman with the new tractor. Karen is on the board of the V. J. Wilkins Memorial Foundation. Fred and Patty are members of the CNC Committee. Shawn is our naturalist at CNC.

Silent Auction in May

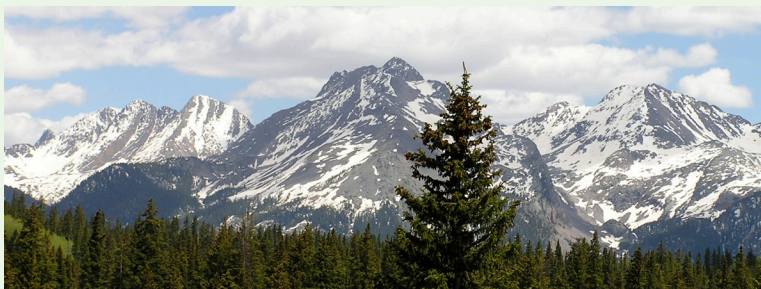
At the May meeting on May 19, we are having a silent auction as a fundraiser for Chaplin Nature Center. We would appreciate donations of bird and birding related items: books, art, gear. If you have anything to contribute please contact Carol Cumberland, 685-4867, carol.cumberland@swbell.net (for east side donations) or Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com (for west side donations.)

Extended Field Trip

This year's extended field trip is to Colorado June 20 - 23. We still have room for more, so if you are interested please contact the organizers.

We'll leave Wichita early on Saturday, June 20 with stops in NW Kansas and NE Colorado. We'll spend the night in Sterling, Colorado. The next morning we visit the Pawnee National Grasslands. Target species will be McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs and Mountain Plovers. Following this, we will travel to Grand Lake, Colorado, our home base for the next three nights. We'll start really early to get to Medicine Bow Curve on Trail Ridge Road at or near dawn. The objective is to observe White-tailed Ptarmigan. The remainder of the day will be spent birding high altitude forests in search of other montane birds. The next day we will repeat our attempt for the ptarmigan if necessary. Otherwise we will seek out ponderosa, pinyon-juniper, meadow or other new habitats to bolster our trip list variety.

This is a fairly short trip since many will want to continue on to other destinations. All participants will travel in their own vehicles. Carpooling is encouraged. Contact the leaders for specific information and details about reservations. Leaders: Pete Janzen, 519-1979, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net; Jeff Calhoun, 737-1307, jeffcalhoun11@gmail.com; Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com.



Chaplin Nature Center Programs

Saturday, April 4, 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. Spring Cleanup

With Earth Day right around the corner why not get an early start and volunteer at the Chaplin Nature Center? The center needs your help with a variety of outdoor projects to help get the trails and facility in tip-top shape for school programs and visitors. Be sure to wear old clothes and bring a pair of work gloves. Call for more information.

Saturday, April 11, 8 - 10:30 p.m. Astronomy

Take a journey through the night sky with the help of the Kansas Astronomical Observers. We'll use telescopes to view Jupiter, Venus and other deep sky objects. The common constellations will also be a part of the program. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about the night sky and the different types of telescopes astronomers use.

Dress for the outdoors.



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.

