New Year’s Resolutions, continued

incorporate reusable items
into your lifestyle, and recycle
everything possible. The three
Rs offer the easiest ways to be a
conservationist. Learn about your
community’s recycling policies and
opportunities, and get your whole
family to participate. In Wichita,
take your stuff to the PROKS Miller
Recycling Center at 725 E. Clark, or
call 269-1359 for more information.
There are many ways to be a
good steward right at home, from
composting. Be creative!

8. BE A GREEN SHOPPER

From buying products with less
packaging to bringing your own
shopping bag to the store to going
organic when possible, every
purchase you make can be a choice
for conservation. Learn about the
environmental “price” of the
products and services you buy.

9. BECOME A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

Turn your bird observations into
research data. Whenever you watch
birds or visit a natural area, keep
a count of the species you see and
send your sightings to scientists
who track bird trends. Becoming
a Citizen Scientist is a way to
have fun, learn more about the
natural world, and contribute to the
scientific effort necessary to protect
birds. Christmas Bird Counts and
the Great Backyard Bird Count
both offer an opportunity to play
a key role in conservation. You
will enrich the data that Audubon
scientists and others rely on to
assess bird health and population
trends, and to set conservation
priorities. As you learn more about
the birds in your own backyard and
neighborhood, you will want to take
steps to protect them as well.

10. BE INFORMED AND SPEAK OUT

Write letters to your legislators. Get
involved. Public policy issues at the
national, state, and local levels
determine the degree of protection
of our water, air, and land. Keep
abreast of important actions and
opportunities, and get your whole
community’s recycling policies and
conservation awareness.

See and hear the birds that make the common and
uncommon sounds we hear during the year here in
Wichita. Paul Griffin will share his video of
seventy species, including-Warblers, Sparrows,
Wrens, Woodpeckers, Vireos, Hawks, Owls and
even Hummingbirds, along with many others. The
program will be January 17, 7:30 p.m. at the Great
Plains Nature Center, 29th Street and Woodlawn.
You can join Paul for dinner before the program at Jason’s Deli in Bradley Fair, 21st Street and Rock Road, at 5:45 p.m.

In February, Mike Everhart will take us back to a time 65
million years ago when Kansas was covered by a sea and was
home to giant marine reptiles, flying dinosaurs and birds with
teeth. Mike has collected fossils from the Smoky Hills chalk
in Western Kansas for more than thirty years. He is an Adjunct
Curator of Palaeontology at the Sternberg Museum in Hays and has recently published the book “Oceans of Kansas.”
The program will be February 21, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains
Nature Center, 29th Street and Woodlawn. You can join Mike
together with you at the program at Jason’s Deli in Bradley Fair, 21st Street and Rock Road, at 5:45 p.m.

See and hear the birds that make the common and
uncommon sounds we hear during the year here in
Wichita. Paul Griffin will share his video of
seventy species, including-Warblers, Sparrows,
Wrens, Woodpeckers, Vireos, Hawks, Owls and
even Hummingbirds, along with many others. The
program will be January 17, 7:30 p.m. at the Great
Plains Nature Center, 29th Street and Woodlawn.
You can join Paul for dinner before the program at Jason’s Deli in Bradley Fair, 21st Street and Rock Road, at 5:45 p.m.

In February, Mike Everhart will take us back to a time 65
million years ago when Kansas was covered by a sea and was
home to giant marine reptiles, flying dinosaurs and birds with
teeth. Mike has collected fossils from the Smoky Hills chalk
in Western Kansas for more than thirty years. He is an Adjunct
Curator of Palaeontology at the Sternberg Museum in Hays and has recently published the book “Oceans of Kansas.”
The program will be February 21, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains
Nature Center, 29th Street and Woodlawn. You can join Mike
together with you to the program at Jason’s Deli in Bradley Fair, 21st Street and Rock Road, at 5:45 p.m.

COMING EVENTS

January 17
Regular meeting, “Bird Calls
and Songs of Wichita,” by Paul
Griffin, 7:30 p.m. at the Great
Plains Nature Center.

January 28
Eagle Watch at Chaplin Nature
Center, 10 a.m. to noon.

February 4
Eagle Watch at Chaplin Nature
Center, 10 a.m. to noon.

February 18
Field trip to Lyon County
Lake for Smith’s Longspurs,
Long-eared Owls, waterfowl.
Meet at the KDWP office in
Emporia, 1830 Merchant St.
at 10 a.m. Leader: Marvin
Kuehn, 620-342-9135,
kuehnmar@emporia.edu

February 21
Regular meeting, “Oceans of
Kansas,” by Mike Everhart, 7:30
p.m. at the Great Plains Nature
Center.

March 10
Owl Prowl at Chaplin Nature
Center, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

March 11
Oak Park Cleanup, 9 a.m.
Leader: Rosa McHenry, 263-
4042, rmchenryphoto@sbcglbal.net

January 28 and February 4, Saturday 10 a.m. to noon
Mid-winter is a great time to view Bald Eagles in Kansas. Searching for open
water, many eagles migrate down to Kansas to spend the winter. We will take a one
and a half mile hike down to the Arkansas River to search for our national bird. If
you have binoculars, bring them. The nature center has some binoculars to loan
you. The program will be February 21, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains
Nature Center, 29th Street and Woodlawn. You can join Mike
for dinner together with you at the program at Jason’s Deli in Bradley Fair, 21st Street and Rock Road, at 5:45 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.

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, January 6
The seed will be delivered on Saturday, January 14
25 lbs Black Oil Sunflower seed - $10
25 lbs Audubon Mix - $8
Order by phone, mail or email.
Call Carol Cumberland at 316-685-4867 or email carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Mail: Wichita Audubon Society, PO Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201

CNC Programs, continued

Owl Prowl
March 10, Friday, 7 - 8 p.m.
Why have owls traditionally been seen as bad omens? Why did some people in the southeastern United States take off an article of clothing when they heard an owl call? Find out the truth about owls and the many adaptations that have made them one of the most successful and mysterious nocturnal animals. A short indoor presentation on the owls of Kansas will be followed by an outdoor night hike to listen for owl calls.

The Great Backyard Bird Count
The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), a joint project of Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, returns for its ninth season February 17-20, 2006. Bird enthusiasts of all ages can share their love of birds - opening new eyes to the joy of birding and the fun of creating a unique snapshot of winter bird abundance and distribution across the continent.

“...The level of energy created each February by Great Backyard Bird counters is phenomenal,” said Dr. Paul Green, director of Citizen Science for Audubon. “What always amazes me are the new discoveries made by people across North America. Some bird watchers even send digital photos to back up their reports. Last year participants sent in more than 1,000 photos and many are now part of the GBBC web site gallery.”

Everyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to seasoned experts. During the count, bird watchers can tally up birds for as little as 15 minutes, or for as long as they like, keeping track of the highest number of each bird species they see together at one time. People are encouraged to report birds from public lands and parks, as well as from their own backyards.
Participants enter their numbers online at www.birdsource.org/.
For more information contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at cornellbirds@cornell.edu or (800) 843-2473.

New Year’s Resolutions
The Audubon Action List
Here are 10 things you can do to protect birds and the environment. Make a resolution to incorporate these into your life for 2006.
1. Get Outside
Spend at least two hours a week doing something out in nature - take a walk, ride a bike, work in the garden - and notice the birds and other wildlife that you see and hear. We protect what we value. And we value what we use. But with today’s hectic lifestyles it is increasingly difficult for many of us, especially children, to enjoy the outdoors on a regular basis.

2. Live Pesticide-Free
Throw out those fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides and adopt organic pest-control methods that will lead to a healthier habitat for your family and for wildlife. Audubon At Home (www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/ReducePesticideUse.html) provides information on natural alternatives to chemical pesticides. Develop an environmentally-friendly plan for managing pests in your backyard and, ultimately, protecting your family, your neighborhood, and the environment.

3. Conserve Water
Don’t turn on that lawn sprinkler! There are a number of easy ways you can reduce water use in your backyard, from watering prudently to using mulch to promote water retention to planting native plants that don’t need as much water. Nearly 8 billion gallons of water are used daily in the United States for outdoor purposes, mostly landscaping. Water is an increasingly precious resource. When household use necessitates depletion of water sources like rivers and wetlands, critical wildlife habitat is lost. By conserving water, you can help prevent this from happening.

4. Go Native
Cultivate native plants in your backyard and garden to offer beneficial habitat to the native wildlife that evolved with these plants. Native plants provide food, nesting areas, and shelter for resident and migratory birds. Exotic invasive plants, on the other hand, can crowd out natives - without providing the same welcome to wildlife visitors.

5. Dine With the Environment in Mind
Get to know where the food on your plate comes from. What each of us eats has a powerful impact on our environment. For example, by drinking shade-grown coffee, you can help protect the wintering habitat for many of the migratory birds that travel north to the United States to breed. By buying organic produce and choosing sustainable seafood, you contribute to the health and well-being of your family, as well as to different ecosystems.

6. Conserve Energy
Program the thermostat at a lower temperature when you’re not home, avoid idling your car, and use Energy Star products and appliances. These are just some of the ways the decisions you make about energy consumption can significantly reduce our energy demand, helping to safeguard natural resources, habitat, and health. From taking public transportation and driving fuel-efficient cars to making sure we turn out unnecessary lights, energy conservation is an important way in which each of us can make an environmental difference.

7. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
Reduce your use of paper, plastic, and aluminum. Reduce your use of energy, and use Energy Star products and appliances. And take advantage of recycling programs in your area.

WWW.WICHITAAUDUBON.ORG
email any officer:Was@wichitaaudubon.org
Send address changes to Sister Patricia Stanley, 6739 Perryon, Wichita, KS 67226 pstanley@csjwichita.org

Page 2