

Wichita Audubon

Volume 41 No. 5 January/February 2007



JANUARY MEETING



In March, 2005, wildlife photographer Ron Day traveled to the Kenai Peninsula of Alaska to observe and photograph Bald Eagles during the Alaska winter. In his program, 'Eagles Of The Kenai Peninsula', Ron reviews highlights of the trip, shares special photographic techniques, and presents a digital slide show, set to music, featuring more than 125 of his best

photographs of the Kenai eagles. A variety of eagle photographs are presented,
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FEBRUARY MEETING



Bob Gress has been photographing birds for publication for 30 years. He's photographed all of the easy ones. The difficult birds he's left for last. A commitment by Bob and fellow WAS member Pete Janzen, to finish a book on Kansas birds forced Bob into a year-long panic to photograph some of these elusive and colorful birds of the woodland canopy. Join Bob in greeting April migrants as they cross

the Gulf of Mexico at High Island, Texas. In May, these migrants flood
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CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

January 27 and February 3, 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 and will provide a spotting scope.

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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.

COMING EVENTS

January 16

Regular meeting, "Eagles of the Kenai Peninsula," by Ron Day, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center

January 27

Field trip to Maple Grove Cemetery. Meet at the entrance at 1100 N. Hillside. Leader: Cheryl Miller, avian67226@hotmail.com

January 27

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

February 3

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

February 17

Field trip to El Dorado State Park. Meet at 9 a.m. at the McDonald's in El Dorado, 2004 W. Central. Leader: Kevin Groeneweg, 687-4268, kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net

February 20

Regular meeting, "Chasing Woodland Birds" by Bob Gress, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

March 3

Full Moon River Hike at Chaplin Nature Center, 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

March 10

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

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 12

The seed will be delivered on Saturday, January 20

25 lbs Black Oil Sunflower seed - \$12

25 lbs Audubon Mix - \$10

We have had to raise prices due to increased cost from our supplier.

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

Full Moon River Hike

March 3, Friday, 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Moon madness is upon us. Take a hike by the light of the moon down to the Arkansas River. During this two mile hike we'll search for our moon shadow and discover the strange effects of the full moon.

2006-2007 WAS Officers

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THE GREAT BACKYARD

BIRD COUNT

What mid-winter activity is fun, easy, free, and helps bird conservation? What can parents and teachers do with children that connects them to a whole new world of natural wonders? This February, the tenth annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, will give everyone a chance to discover the birds in their neighborhood and "Count for the Record."

During February 16-19, 2007, people of all ages, from beginners to experts, are invited to join this event which spans all of the United States and Canada. Participants can take part wherever they are - at home, at school, at local parks or wildlife refuges. Observers simply count the highest number of each species they see during an outing or a sitting, and enter their tally on the Great Backyard Bird Count web site at www.birdsource.org/gbbc.

Visitors to the web site can also compare their sightings with results from other participants, as checklists pour in from throughout the U.S. and Canada. Together, these counts offer a real-time snapshot of the numbers and kinds of birds that people are finding, from Boreal Chickadees in Alaska to Anhingas in Florida.

We often fail to notice how rich our surroundings are, but counting birds is not only educational - it can provide a lasting source of enjoyment, turning a daily walk into a treasure hunt.

ATTENTION RETIREES

The Pension Protection Act of 2006, signed by President Bush on August 17, contains a provision called Qualified Charitable Distributions. It allows persons 70 1/2 or older to donate to a qualified charity from an IRA distribution and pay no income tax on it. You can take advantage of this provision even if you don't itemize deductions on your income tax returns.

As with all tax laws, there are many details to consider, so be sure to consult with your financial advisor. But please keep Wichita Audubon and Chaplin Nature Center in mind. You can help us and help yourself, too. This provision is only authorized for 2006 and 2007 unless extended by Congress.

Each company has its own set of forms. If you need help locating information you can contact Carol Cumberland at 265-0466 (work), 685-4867 (home), email carol.cumberland@swbell.net. She is not a tax expert, but will be glad to assist you in finding the right person to answer your questions.



The CNC Visitor's Center is about to get a whole new look.

JANUARY PROGRAM, CONTINUED

including intimate portraits, action flight shots, and scenic images depicting the eagles in their mountainous glacial habitat.

Ron Day is a wildlife photographer who began photographing the natural world over twenty years ago. His photographs have been published nationwide in magazines such as Nature Photographer, Nature's Best, Wild Bird, Equus, Boating Life, Peterson's PhotoGraphic, and Birder's World Online. Over the past decade, Outdoor Oklahoma has selected more than 25 of Ron's images for publication in the magazine's annual 'Photography Showcase'. Ron was a finalist in National Wildlife's 2005 Photography Competition, and two of his photographs have been featured on National Wildlife's website. To view a sample of Ron's work you may visit his website at www.rondayphotography.com.

The program will be January 16, 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.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM, CONTINUED

into Kansas. In June we visit the Boreal forests of northern Wisconsin and the Apostle Islands to chase warblers on their nesting grounds. Join us for this colorful look at warblers, vireos, tanagers, grosbeaks, orioles and more. Bob is the Director of the Great Plains Nature Center and a member of Wichita Audubon Society.

The program will be February 20, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center, 29th Street and Woodlawn. You can join Mike for dinner before the program at Jason's Deli in Bradley Fair, 21st Street and Rock Road, at 5:45 p.m.

NEW DISPLAYS FOR CNC

Shawn and the Chaplin Nature Center Committee have contracted with the Kauffman Museum in North Newton to design and build new educational displays for the visitor's center at Chaplin Nature Center. Kauffman Museum has extensive experience and expertise in exhibit design and construction, and Bob Regier, a long-time member of Wichita Audubon, is part of their team.

The CNC committee has been brainstorming ideas for months, and after several meetings the Kauffman team is now working on the plans. One feature will be exhibits that will be changed seasonally, so that visitors will see new things on repeat visits. Wichita Audubon has received a grant of \$1069 from the National Audubon Society for this project.

Watch for more news as our plans and fund-raising progress.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Printed on recycled paper

NOTABLE BIRDS

Here are some real rarities spotted this fall.



This Little Gull was spotted at Cheney Reservoir by the folks on the WAS field trip October 28. This is a first year bird. Mostly an Old World species, these are rarely seen in Kansas. It was a lifer for most of the observers. Unfortunately, it was never located again.

Photo by Kevin Groeneweg



This Black-legged Kittiwake stayed at Marion reservoir for several weeks., becoming a life bird for people from all over the state, and beyond.

Photo by Patty Marlett