

Wichita Audubon

Volume 44 No. 5 January/February 2010



JANUARY MEETING



Dr. Lowell Wilder

Start out the new year with another fascinating film from Lowell Wilder. This film takes us to the largest concentration of eagles in North America. Experience the natural beauty of Alaska in this truly spectacular wildlife gathering.

Join us on Tuesday, January 19, 7:30 p.m. for the “Bald Eagles of the Chilkat” at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can also join Dr. Wilder and other members for dinner at Doc Green’s, 10096 E. 13th, in the Waterfront at 5:45 p.m.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Kay Drennen, Environmental Specialist with the City of Wichita Water Resources Department, is our February speaker. She will present “The Wonders of Water” and help us discover the amazing features of the substance upon which all life depends. She will also teach us about practical and innovative methods to conserve this precious natural resource. The program will be on Tuesday, February 16, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can also join Kay and other members for dinner at Doc Green’s, 10096 E. 13th, in the Waterfront at 5:45 p.m.

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

March 5, Friday, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Woodcock Walk

The American Woodcock is a fascinating and uncommon bird that has an elaborate courtship at dusk. Although hard to see, we’ll be able to find the bird by the sound made by its wings in flight. After visiting the woodcocks, we’ll continue down the trails without flashlights to listen and learn about other nocturnal animals. Dress for the outdoors and wear sturdy shoes.

COMING EVENTS

January 19

Regular meeting, “Bald Eagles of the Chilkat” by Lowell Wilder. 7:30 p.m.. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

February 6

Kanopolis Lake and Saline County field trip. Depart from the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at noon. Leaders: Cheryl Miller, avian67226@gmail.com & Kat Farres, ozbelgnz@swbell.net.

February 16

Regular meeting, “The Wonders of Water” by Kay Drennen. 7:30 p.m.. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

February 28

El Dorado Lake field trip. Meet at McDonald’s in El Dorado, 2004 W. Central (Hwy254) at 8 a.m.

March 5

Woodcock Walk at Chaplin Nature Center, 6:30 - 8 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.

IN MEMORIAM

We have lost two long time members recently.

Rick Goodrick died November 18 at the age of 85. He was an early member of WAS. He served as president from 1985-1987. He also served as field trip chair and led many field trips. He remained an active member until the last few years when health became an issue. His cheerful and always helpful presence will be missed.

John Wherry died Dec. 5 at the age of 93. John and his wife Louise have been members so long that Louise can't remember exactly when they joined! When WAS purchased the Chaplin Nature Center property in 1973, John became involved in a number of projects using his skills as a structural engineer. He designed

and helped with the renovations to Kingfisher Pond and the two bedroom addition made to the



John Wherry

residence when Gerald Wiens was hired as the first naturalist in 1980. He was chairman of the Chaplin Nature Center committee for many years, and remained an active member of that committee until just a few years ago. John was

chair of the Building Committee for the Visitor's Center and was an active member of the Development committee that raised the money for the building and established the Endowment Fund. He kept records of all the donations to WAS and wrote all the thank you letters until 1999. And for 10 years he sold bird seed to benefit CNC, driving all over town to deliver seed to customers. He was president from 1983-1985, and was the recipient of the first Meritorious Service Award in 1994. His many contributions had an incalculable impact, and made WAS the strong organization it is today.

2009-2010 WAS Officers

President	Sandra Tholen	634-0049	stholen@cox.net
Vice-president	Nathan Ofsthun	617-7171	nxofsthun@wichita.edu
Secretary	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
Treasurer	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Directors	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
	Curt VanBoening	644-1986	curtvb@earthlink.net
	Jeff Calhoun	737-1307	jecalhoun@wichita.edu
	Catherine Lewis	681-3362	thexchange@cox.net
	Mike Heaney	733-6459	jeager@southwind.net
	Bob Gress	838-4130	bobgress@cox.net

Committee Chairs

Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
CNC	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Programs	Nathan Ofsthun	617-7171	nxofsthun@wichita.edu
Conservation	Curt VanBoening	644-1986	curtvb@earthlink.net
Development	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
Membership	Sister Patricia Stanley	744-2192	pstanley@csjoseph.org
Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	687-4268	lgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Field Trips	Pete Janzen	832-0182	pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net
Finance	Duane DeLong	684-7456	dwdelong@earthlink.net
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaudubon.org

WWW.WICHITAUDUBON.ORG

E-mail any officer: was@wichitaudubon.org

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

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

Monday, January 11.

The seed will be delivered on

Saturday, January 16

25 lbs Black Oil Sunflower - \$12

25 lbs Audubon Mix - \$10

25 lbs Safflower Seed - \$18 NEW!

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.

GOOD CONSERVATION NEWS!

Endangered Species Act Gets Back on Strong Footing

Responding to urging from thousands of Audubon activists, the Obama administration revoked a controversial last-minute rule change imposed by the Bush administration, which effectively gutted critical protections offered by the Endangered Species Act for threatened and endangered wildlife on the brink of extinction. Score one for the good guys and for species survival.

Another example of how the Endangered Species Act works to protect flagging species, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service announced last month that Brown Pelicans had sufficiently recovered from the impact of DDT contamination compounded by continuing habitat

loss to be taken off the list in areas where it is not already delisted.

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Gets Respect!

This little bill packs a big wallop for migratory songbird conservation by tripling funding for projects in South America, the Caribbean, and Canada. Responding to the call of thousands of Audubon activists, the Senate has acted on this \$20 million package for bird conservation and the House Natural Resources Committee passed a similar bill with a \$15 million funding level. We expect to get it to the President's desk in the next session of Congress. Final passage will be good news for the more than 125 neotropical species in decline from habitat loss and other threats.

The West Breaks New Ground for Species Protection

Groundbreaking work in Wyoming to protect critical Sage Grouse habitat from oil drilling and ill-conceived siting of energy transmission lines will serve as a model for other western states. This is the culmination of a long-standing fight to protect Bureau of Land Management lands from exploitation without regard for natural resources and wildlife needs.

In addition, one million acres of state land within core sage grouse population areas was withdrawn from wind energy development after urging from Audubon activists.

THANK YOU

Thanks to the following people who helped stuff envelopes for our solicitation letter:

Carol Cumberland
Sandra Tholen
Julia Hoppes

from Patty Marlett

Thanks to the people who have helped with bird seed delivery for our bird seed sales:

Rob & Rosa McHenry
Patty Marlett

from Carol Cumberland

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Kanopolis Lake and Saline County, February 6, Noon

The primary object of this trip is to view Short-eared Owls at dusk in prairies near Salina. Kat Farres from Salina is going to be our guide to the best spots. On the way to Salina we will visit Maxwell Game Preserve and Kanopolis Lake to observe raptors, waterfowl and other wintering birds. We will depart from the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at noon. Cheryl Miller will lead the group to Salina. Leaders: Cheryl Miller, avian67226, & Kat Farres, ozbelgnz@swbell.net

El Dorado Lake, February 28, Saturday, 8 a.m.

This trip should produce a nice mix of wintering grassland, woodland and waterbirds. There are usually lots of wintering Bald Eagles on El Dorado Lake. Meet at the McDonald's, 2004 W Central (Hwy 254). The leader will be announced. For information contact Pete Janzen, 838-0182, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net.

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

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SANDHILL CRANE MIGRATION FOCUS OF 40TH ANNUAL RIVERS AND WILDLIFE CELEBRATION

by Kevin Poague, Audubon Nebraska

The 40th annual Rivers and Wildlife Celebration will be held March 18-21, 2010, in Kearney, Nebraska. Organized by Audubon Nebraska and the Nebraska Bird Partnership, the conference gathers together nature enthusiasts from across the county to witness the migration of over half a million sandhill cranes and millions of waterfowl and other birds through central Nebraska. Events include guided field trips, workshops, a family fun room, and daily visits to river blinds operated by Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary for up-close views of cranes roosting on the Platte River.

Local and national speakers will present information on a variety of wildlife and conservation topics. Main speakers are Scott Weidensaul, author of more than two dozen natural history books, including *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds*, a Pulitzer Prize finalist; Mike Forsberg, nature photographer and author of *Great Plains: America's Lingering Wild*; Ron Klataske, executive director of Audubon of Kansas; and Chris Wood, eBird Project Leader, Cornell Lab of Ornithology. More than twenty local environmental organizations will have information booths and hands-on activities on Saturday.

The celebration is open to the general public. Registration materials can be found beginning in mid-December at www.nebraska.audubon.org. Or contact Audubon Nebraska to be put on the mailing list: Nebraska@audubon.org; 402/797-2301. Rowe Sanctuary has information about viewing the sandhill crane migration, 308/468-5282; www.rowsanctuary.org