

Wichita Audubon

Volume 48 No. 5 January/February 2014



JANUARY MEETING



The January program will be presented by Gregg Friesen, who will tell us about the Western Meadowlark, the icon of the short grass prairie. Selected as the state bird of a host of western states, its bold colored pattern and melodious voice lend a unique voice to an often arid landscape. Through the voices of past ornithologists, explorers and others, this program provides a brief glimpse into the life and story of the bird chosen to represent the state of Kansas.

Gregg is a psychiatric nurse at Prairie View in Newton, but his hobby and passion is birding. He has been a long-time active member in the Kansas Ornithological Society.

Join us on Tuesday, January 21, 7 p.m. at the Great

Plains Nature Center for Gregg's presentation.

Also join Gregg and other members for dinner before the program at Panera's, Central & Hillside, at 5:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY MEETING



Ted Cable will transport us to the ancient city of Timbuktu where we will learn about the colorful history of the city whose name has come to represent the most remote and unattainable place on the planet. We will see the common birds of Timbuktu and we will learn about the last remaining herd of desert elephants - the region's most significant and critically endangered species.

Ted T. Cable is Professor of Park Management and Conservation in the Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources at Kansas State

University. He has authored 13 books, several book chapters and scenic byway video scripts, and more than 200 articles, reports, and presentations dealing birds, travel, and heritage interpretation. Dr. Cable has traveled in all 50 states and worked in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Join us on Tuesday, February 18, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center for "From Here to Timbuktu."

Also join Ted and other members for dinner before the program at Panera's, Central & Hillside, at 5:30 p.m.

COMING EVENTS

January 4

Red Hills Christmas Bird Count. See page 2.

January 21

Regular meeting, "The Very Spirit of the Boundless Prairie: the Recent History of the Western Meadowlark," by Gregg Friesen, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center

January 25 & February 1

Eagle Watch at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 a.m. - noon. See page 2

February 1

Wichita area field trip. Meet at the Copper Oven Restaurant, 2409 W 13th, at 7:30 a.m.

The group may go as far as Cheney Reservoir, depending on weather, and will bird until early afternoon.

Leader: Pete Janzen, 519-1970, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

February 18

Regular meeting, "From Here to Timbuktu," by Ted Cable, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center

February 22

Backyard Bird Workshop, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. See page 3 for details.

March 7

Night Hike at Chaplin Nature Center, 7 - 8 p.m. See page 2

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

January 25, Saturday, 10 a.m. - noon and

February 1, Saturday, 10 a.m. - noon

Eagle Watch

Winter is one of the best times to look for these majestic birds. Take a hike down to the river and search for Bald Eagles while enjoying the Chaplin Nature Center in winter. Bring binoculars and we will provide spotting scopes. Dress for the weather!

March 7, Friday, 7 - 8:00 p.m.

Night Hike

Don't be afraid of the dark. We'll hike through the woods without a flashlight to learn about our senses in the absence of light. We'll listen for night sounds and nocturnal animals while on the trail. Dress for the outdoors and wear sturdy shoes.



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.

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E-mail any officer: was@wichitaudubon.org

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

RED HILLS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

This count will be held on Saturday, January 4. Meet at the Wright Truck Stop on U.S. 160 in Medicine Lodge, just east of the Copa Motel. Note that the name has changed from previous years, but it is still the same place. Groups will depart at 7:30 a.m., so come early if you want breakfast! Let Pete, the compiler, know if you are attending so he can plan the groups.

Compiler: Pete Janzen, 519-1970, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

Backyard Bird Workshop

Do you enjoy watching birds in your yard? Want to know more about how to attract and care for them? How about building a free bird house?



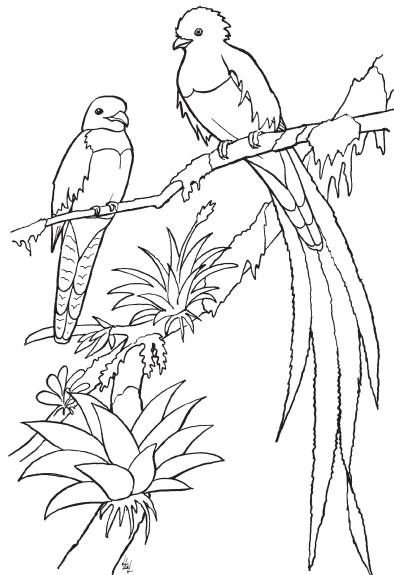
We'll have all that and more at our workshop on Saturday, February 22, at the Great Plains Nature Center. There will be bird seed for sale. We'll have materials and tools (and helpers) so you can build your own wren house to be ready for spring. Younger kids can make a pine cone bird feeder to hang in the yard for the birds. Plus there will be lots of experienced people with lots of information on all aspects of backyard birds -- from housing to water to feeding to other wildlife.

Bring the whole family and have a good time regardless of the weather. We'll be there from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.



SONGBIRD COFFEE

The Owl's Nest giftshop at the Great Plains Nature Center now carries Songbird Coffee. Shade-grown coffee is bird-friendly coffee. The coffee trees are planted under a canopy that continues to support bird life. It is also organically grown and part of the purchase price goes to the American Birding Association's conservation projects. Support your caffeine habit and feel good about it!



CALLING ALL GOOSE COUNTERS!

The 32nd Annual Migratory Survey is coming up in January. This is a count of all the Canada Geese (including Cackling Geese) in the Wichita Metropolitan area. This count is conducted every winter to determine the number of wintering geese, and again in the summer to determine the breeding population. Dr. Alan Maccarone of Friends University is the organizer. Volunteers are divided into ten groups, each with their own area, and spend the afternoon counting geese. Here are the particulars:.

Meeting Place: Great Plains Nature Center, Room 129A on KDWP side.
Meeting Date/Time: Thursday, January 23, 2014 at Noon
Survey Period: Survey lasts until 5 p.m. + travel time back to GPNC.

If you are interested in helping, contact Alan Maccarone at alanm@friends.edu

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WICHITA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Wichita Christmas bird count was held December 14. Things started out cloudy, breezy and cold, but it sure was good to have the sun by late morning. The species total of 91 (plus one count week species) was well below the 10-year average.

Although most small ponds were still completely frozen, waterfowl numbers were fairly average. Exceptions included a low number of Canada Goose (13,301) and Northern Shoveler (53) but record high counts of Wood Duck (122) and Common Merganser (186). Notable species included a Hermit Thrush, an Orange-crowned Warbler and 2 Pine Warblers.

Notable misses included Common Grackle and Brown-headed Cowbird,

and the noticeable absence of certain species chased out by the recent cold snap, as well as a few other species that are getting more difficult to find in this increasingly urban count circle.



A big thanks to all the participants, and to Laura Groeneweg for providing our chili supper for the compilation.