

Wichita Audubon

Volume 44 No. 1 July/August 2009



PETE JANZEN HONORED



Kevin Groeneweg and Kan Kilby present the Meritorious Service Award to Duane DeLong.

Pete Janzen was the recipient of the 2009 Meritorious Service Award, presented at the May meeting. Pete has most recently served as field trip chair for Wichita Audubon. He has led innumerable field trips over the years and is one of our most popular leaders. He served as compiler for the Wichita Christmas Bird Count for many years, as well as organizing and serving as com-

piler for the Red Hills count. Recently Pete has authored two books: *The Birds of Sedgwick County* and *Cheney Reservoir and The Guide to Kansas Birds and Birding Hot Spots*. These have contributed greatly to Kansas ornithology. Congratulations, Pete!

JULY PICNIC

Everyone is invited, including family and friends, for our annual picnic. This is an indoor, air conditioned picnic so everyone can stay comfortable. We'll meet on Tuesday, July 21, at 6:00 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. Bring a covered dish or dessert to share and your own service. We will provide iced tea, or you can bring your own beverage. After dinner we will have a program - possibly a bird ID quiz, or possibly a video. Whatever - it will be fun! Bring the whole family for good food and a good time.

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

July 12, Saturday, 8:30 a.m.

Fourth Annual Butterfly Count - see page 2

COMING EVENTS

July 11

3rd annual Butterfly Count at the Chaplin Nature Center. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the CNC Visitor's Center. See page 2.

July 21

Annual picnic, 6:00 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

September 26

Fall Nature Day at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., featuring hikes, Monarch butterfly tagging, food, crafts and more.

September 26

Hike and Bike with the Birds at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. See page 3.



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.

NEW OFFICERS

The following people were elected to serve as officers of Wichita Audubon for 2009-2010:

President - Sandra Tholen
Vice-President - Nathan Ofsthun
Treasurer - Carol Cumberland
Secretary - Patty Marlett

Board of Directors -
Kevin Groeneweg
Jeff Calhoun

Please thank them for their willingness to give their time and talents to our organization, and to Duane DeLong and Dan Kilby, who are leaving the board after six years of service.

EARTH DAY

Wichita Audubon had a booth at the Boeing Earth Day event at the Sedgwick County Zoo on April 23. Kids were invited to compare their size with the wingspan of birds, and we had a quiz for people to test their bird knowledge. Thanks to the volunteers who helped:

Curt VanBoening, Karl and Mary Herald, Sandra Tholen, Rosa McHenry, Patty Marlett and Kevin Groeneweg.



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	776-0993	curtvb@earthlink.net
	Jeff Calhoun	737-1307	jcalhoun@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
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

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E-mail any officer: was@wichitaudubon.org

Send address changes to Sister Patricia Stanley, 6739 Perryton, Wichita, KS 67226

pstanley@csjoseph.org

BUTTERFLY COUNT

We're going to hold a Butterfly Count at Chaplin Nature Center that will be conducted just like a Christmas Bird Count, identifying species and counting the number of individuals seen in a circle fifteen miles across. Results will be reported to the North American Butterfly Association. Meet on July 11, 8:30 a.m. at the Chaplin Nature Center Visitor's Center. People living in Arkansas City can also help by counting the butterflies they see in their gardens. For instructions on garden counting, or more information, call Shawn Silliman, 620-442-4133 or cnc@wichitaudubon.org.

You are welcome to participate even if you can only spend part of the day with us.

BIRDATHON

The 2009 Birdathon featured three teams. The Painted Buntings (Carol Cumberland, Patty Marlett and Marsha Ebaugh) ended up with 134 species. They started this year in Derby, and for the first time on a Birdathon they found a Painted Bunting at the Derby boat launch. Then it was on to Oak Park, Quivira NWR and Cheyenne Bottoms. Persistent rain made it a challenging day. The CNC team (Shawn Silliman, Kevin Groeneweg, Rex Herndon, Dwight Schoup and Gene Young) found a nesting Bald Eagle in Oxford, a Whimbrel at Slate Creek Marsh, a LeConte's Sparrow in Newkirk and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Ark City. They managed a total of 141 species, but never could locate a Mallard. Mike Heaney put together another team with Cheryl Miller, Catherine Lewis, Jeff Calhoun and Kevin Groeneweg. They split their 24 hours into 2 days, spending the evening in Wichita and joining the WAS field trip at Quivira and Cheyenne Bottoms the next morning. They found 150 species. The three teams have collected \$2800 so far, with the pledges still coming in. Thanks to all who contributed!

NEW BROCHURE

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a copy of our new brochure for Chaplin Nature Center. This was made possible by a Collaborative Funding grant from the National Audubon Society. It is our first color brochure, and the first redesign since the visitor's center opened in 1989. We hope you will share it with your friends and family, and make plans to visit CNC soon.

BIKE AND HIKE WITH THE BIRDS

On Saturday, September 26, bike the Scenic Byway (approximately 45 miles of graveled roads) through the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. Check in and start at 8 a.m. at the Stafford Senior Center, 130 S. Main St., Stafford, KS. Three sag stops. Early Registration: \$15 before September 20, \$20 after September 20. Contact: Jennifer Pfortmiller 620-786-5845. More information and registration forms available at www.staffordpride.org or email bike@staffordpride.org. A 3 mile and 14 mile route also available.

PHOTO CONTEST

Audubon magazine is launching the 2009 Audubon Magazine Photography Awards: Birds in Focus, created to celebrate the beauty and diversity of birdlife through the art of photography, and to honor the exceptional work of talented professional, amateur and youth photographers from all over the U.S. Audubon will be accepting submissions online until July 15 in three categories: Professional, Amateur, and Youth. Photographers are encouraged to reveal a new angle or perspective in their work. "Think creatively," advises Audubon's design director Kevin Fisher, one of the judges. "Originality and drama rank high at Audubon. Include tight shots, such as close-ups of eyes, feathers. We welcome uncommon perspectives." Other judges include renowned wildlife photographer Joel Sartore, a regular contributor to Audubon and National Geographic; Kim Hubbard, longtime Audubon photography editor and an accomplished photographer in her own right; and Steve Freligh, publisher of Nature's Best Photography.

The Award winners will be announced in December and will see their work showcased within the pages of both Audubon and Nature's Best Photography magazines, as well as on their respective websites. An impressive array of prizes will be awarded, including top-of-the-line photo and optic equipment from award sponsor, Nikon. Prizes include:

- Journey to Peru's Tambopata National Reserve (Inkaterra Amazonica Lodge)
- An ultimate birding safari to Australia's "Top End," the Northern Territory
- 14-day Tropical Rivers and Rainforest cruise through South America (Travel Dynamics International)
- Opportunity to travel to Honduras with Audubon wildlife photographer Roy Toft as your photographer/guide (Roy Toft Photo Safaris and Pico Bonito Lodge)
- A Nikon D80 digital SLR camera, 18-55mm NIKKOR VR lens, and a set of Nikon EDG 8x32 binoculars

Submissions: Accepted May 15 - July 15, 2009. Up to 10 images per entrant. For details, visit www.AudubonMagazinePhotoAwards.com

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CONSERVATION NEWS

Migratory Bird Conservation Bill Moving through Congress

Each spring, millions of birds travel thousands of miles from Latin America and the Caribbean to their breeding grounds as far north as the Arctic. When winter returns, these migrants make the long trip back to warmer southern climates. Along their journey, neotropical migrants face dangers from development, invasive species, avian diseases, and climate change. In order to protect these incredible birds, such as the Western Tanager, Wood Thrush, and Bobolink, there must be international cooperation to establish conservation projects throughout their migratory path.

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) supports vital conservation projects in 44 U.S. states and territories, 33 Latin American and Caribbean countries, and 12 Canadian provinces and territories, benefiting roughly 3 million acres of migratory bird habitat. The NMBCA grant program is an innovative, cost-effective approach to bird conservation. But right now, this program can only support a fraction of the projects in need of funding. Bipartisan legislation has been introduced in the House (HR 2213) and Senate (S 690) would triple the size of the grant program by increasing the authorized funding from the currently authorized level of \$6.5 million to \$20 million in 2015. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee is expected to consider the bill soon.

Paradise Lost: Construction proceeds on border wall

We are sad to report that construction of a border wall along the U.S.-Mexico border is proceeding. The border wall directly impacts critical habitat for endangered species such as the ocelot, and blocks the area's only reliable source of water for wildlife, the Rio Grande. It leaves Audubon's own Sabal Palm sanctuary in a "no man's land" south of the wall. The sanctuary is now closed to the public from May through October due to an inability to raise funds with construction of the wall looming.