

Wichita Audubon

Volume 48 No. 1 July/August 2013



JULY PICNIC



Join us on Tuesday, July 16, 6 p.m. for our annual indoor picnic at the Great Plains Nature Center. We'll dine inside in air-conditioned comfort. The picnic is pot-luck, so bring a dish to share along with your own service. Iced tea will be provided, or bring your own drink. After dinner we will watch a nature video in the auditorium. Bring friends and family for a fun time!

COMING EVENTS

July 16

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

July 13

Butterfly count at Chaplin Nature Center. Meet at the visitor's center at 8:30 a.m.

July 20

Stream exploration at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

September 28

Butterfly tagging at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

October 12

CNC 40th Anniversary celebration - see page 4.

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Saturday, July 13, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Butterfly Count

In cooperation with the North American Butterfly Association, the Chaplin Nature Center will be conducting its annual butterfly count in the Arkansas City area. This one-day survey will count all the butterflies observed in a 15-mile diameter area. Anyone interested in butterflies can participate. More experienced counters will be teamed up with participants who are new to butterfly identification.

Saturday, July 20, 10 - 11:30 a.m. Stream Exploration

If you have ever been curious about the aquatic invertebrates that lurk just beneath the surface, this program is perfect for you. Adults, children and families will collect samples from the stream to dig through in search of dragonfly nymphs, bloodworms, scuds and other invertebrates. The Nature Center will provide collecting equipment. Be sure to wear old shoes and clothes that can get muddy.

Saturday, September 28, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Butterfly Tagging

Don't let your family miss this once-a-year opportunity to participate in the Monarch migration. Once instructed on proper handling and capture techniques of butterflies, adults and children will enjoy the challenge and sometimes humorous hunt, as they search out these beautiful creatures. The butterfly tagging program is part of on-going research conducted by the University of Kansas. The program will start at 10:00 am with an indoor presentation on the Monarch butterfly.



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.

KOHL'S GRANT

The Chaplin Nature Center is the recipient of \$1,500 grant from the Kohl's Associates in Action Program. As part of Kohl's Cares "Go Green" initiative, employees from the Derby store volunteered their time on April 27 to work on the trails and visitors center. Thank you Kohl's and volunteers for your support of Chaplin Nature Center.



BIRDATHON

We had two teams again this year. The Chaplin Nature Center team included Shawn Silliman, Rex Herndon, Dwight Shoup, Kevin Groeneweg and Gene Young. They conducted their bird search from 3:30 p.m. on Friday, May 3 until 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 4. It was the coldest Birdathon ever, and included sleet! But they searched from Slate Creek wetlands to the Kaw wildlife area to Camp Horizon and found an amazing 160 species. The Painted Bunting team was comprised of Carol Cumberland, Marsha Ebaugh, Dennice Craig, and Patty Marlett. They went out on Sunday, May 5. There was a very cold drizzle in the early morning, so they decided to start at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, where it wasn't raining, and return to the Wichita parks in the afternoon. It turned out to be a decent day, with some of the best birds, like Bobolinks, found just west of Wichita around Colwich. The Painted Buntings ended their day with 136 species. The two teams raised more than \$4700 for Chaplin Nature Center. Thanks for your support!

2013-2014 WAS Officers

President	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Vice-president	Cheryl Miller		avian67226@gmail.com
Secretary	Dennice Craig	788-0320	mdcraigster@gmail.com
Treasurer	Rod Wedel	215-4362	redb819@sbcglobal.net
Directors	Tom Ewert	670-3140	trewert@yahoo.com
	Bob Gress	838-4130	bobgress@cox.net
	Kevin Groeneweg	706-9116	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
	Mike Heaney	733-6458	jeager@southwind.net
	Catherine Lewis	681-3362	thexchange@cox.net
	Pete Janzen	519-1979	pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net
Committee Chairs			
CNC	Kevin Groeneweg	706-9116	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Development	Mike Heaney	733-6458	jeager@southwind.net
Finance	Duane DeLong	684-7456	duane.delong669@gmail.com
Membership	Sister Patricia Stanley	744-2192	pstanley@csjoseph.org
Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
Programs	Cheryl Miller		avian67226@gmail.com
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaudubon.org

WWW.WICHITAAUDUBON.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

NEW OFFICERS

The following people were elected at our May meeting and will begin serving on July 1:

President (two year term):

Carol Cumberland

Vice-President (one year term):

Cheryl Miller

Treasurer (one year term):

Rod Wedel

Board of Directors (three year term):

Catherine Lewis

Pete Janzen

Please thank them for their willingness to serve and give them lots of support!

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP TO NORTH CAROLINA

Our 2013 extended field trip found us once again on the ocean...this time off the Outer Banks of North Carolina with Seabirding Pelagic Trips operated by Brian Patteson. Everyone arrived in Raleigh around noon on May 26, and after picking up our van we headed east toward the Outer Banks. To break up the long drive, we stopped at Palmetto Peartree Preserve for a chance at Red-cockaded Woodpecker. We didn't see one, but we picked up a few of the common species, including Brown-headed Nuthatch. We then drove on to Buxton, where we had two houses rented for our group of 10 participants.

May 27: We started our first full day of birding by exploring the Outer Banks. Our first stop was the visitor center at Pea Island NWR and the trail to the observation tower on North Pond. Several shorebird species were seen and distant singing Seaside Sparrows were observed through the scope. On Bodie Island we stopped at the lighthouse pond. Later we walked the beach to the point at Cape Hatteras and saw our first American Oystercatchers and Sandwich Terns.

May 28: We boarded the Stormy Petrel II at 5:15 am for our first of two pelagic adventures. Brian, Kate Sutherland and 5 other leaders made sure everyone got on the birds. We had great looks at everything, including Black-capped Petrel, Greater Shearwater, Band-rumped and Leach's Storm-Petrels, among others. The highlight was a White-tailed Tropicbird that appeared out of nowhere above the boat, as well as a Pomarine Jaeger that fed on chum and circled the boat for about an hour. We spent over 11 hours on the water.

May 29: We devoted this day to Alligator River NWR with the goal of seeing Swainson's Warbler. We were successful in the south end of the refuge, and also had great looks at Hooded and Prairie Warblers. Prothonotary Warblers were everywhere.

May 30: On the second day of pelagic birding we added to our list of species with great looks at a Manx Shearwater, sitting next to an Audubon's Shearwater for a nice comparison, and all three Jaeger species. The star of the day was a Herald

(Trinidad) Petrel that cruised beside the boat for a great look. The weather and wind was mild on both days on the ocean.

May 31: The destination for our last day of birding was the Croatan National Forest, requiring a ferry ride to Ocracoke Island, then another ferry to Cedar Island. The second ferry was larger and allowed comfortable viewing from the lounge chairs on the upper deck during the longer ride. Once on land, we headed straight to the Millis Road Savanna where we quickly heard singing Bachman's Sparrows. One was spotted on a high perch and everyone had great scope views. We proceeded farther down the road to find trees marked with white paint, indicating Red-cockaded Woodpecker nest cavities. We heard their chatter and located a nesting pair feeding young. Again, everyone had great scope views. Unable to top that, we headed back to Raleigh for our flight back to Wichita the next day.

All-in-all it was a very successful trip, with the pelagic birding exceeding expectations thanks to the expert crew and guides at Seabirding Pelagic Trips, as well as seeing many of the target specialty species found near coastal North Carolina. It was fun in the sun with a great group of folks. The participants were Jeff Calhoun, Dennice Craig, Terry & Sam Mannell, Cheryl Miller, Bill Sutton, Sandra Tholen, Rod Wedel and Dan Kilby, a real trouper who provided his usual light-hearted charm and was an inspiration to us all.

Kevin Groeneweg – trip leader



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

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CELEBRATE CHAPLIN NATURE CENTER'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of Chaplin Nature Center. The Wichita Audubon Society purchased the property from Stedman and Hazel Chaplin in 1973. Open to the public every day, the center provides educational programs to the public free of charge. For 40 years the Chaplin Nature Center has served as an oasis of natural diversity and has provided over 175,000 visitors opportunities to interact with nature.



Celebration plans include an outdoor concert by the Tallgrass String Band. This four-member string band is dedicated to traditional style string music with a focus on the beauty of nature. Their concerts include brief stories on the background of songs, humorous observations on rural life today, and frequent references to their experiences with the land and culture of their home, the tallgrass prairie of the Kansas Flint Hills. Join us on **Saturday, October 12**, 1 - 4 p.m. for wildlife tours featuring live animals, guided nature hikes, and the concert.

More details will follow, but save the date!