

# Wichita Audubon

Volume 49 No. 1 July/August 2014



## JULY PICNIC

Join us on Tuesday, July 15, 6 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center for an air-conditioned picnic. Bring a dish to share and your own service. Drinks will be provided. After the meal we'll have a slide show of our Nebraska adventures from the extended field trip in June.

## SAVE THE DATE!



WICHITA AUDUBON SOCIETY

1954 — 2014

Wichita Audubon will celebrate its 60th anniversary the weekend of September 13, 2014. Kenn Kaufman will join us for a weekend of activities. Details are still being finalized, but this is what we have planned:

°Saturday 9/13 1 - 3 pm: a bird identification workshop, "Principles and Pitfalls of Field ID," by Kenn at the Great Plains Nature Center.

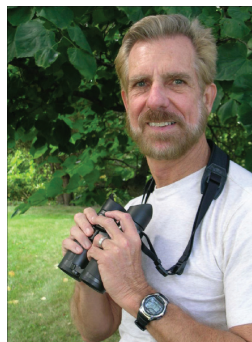
°Saturday 9/13 7 pm: Kenn will speak, followed by a reception at the Sedgwick County Zoo Cargill Learning Center.

°Sunday 9/14 7 am: birding with Kenn in Chisholm Creek Park.

We will be selling a \$10 pass, which will get you admission to any or all of these events. Get your pass by mailing your \$10 check to the Wichita Audubon Society at P.O. Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201, or email [60@wichitaaudubon.org](mailto:60@wichitaaudubon.org)

Kenn Kaufman is the originator and editor of the Kaufman Field Guides series.

His fascination with birds developed at the age of six, and he went on to become one of the world's best-known bird experts and all-round nature enthusiast. During his teenage years he and his family lived in Wichita, and the members of Wichita Audubon were mentors and fellow enthusiasts for his birding adventures. In addition to his work on the field guides, Kenn is also a Field Editor for Audubon Magazine, a regular columnist for BirdWatching and Bird Watcher's Digest, and an editorial consultant for WildBird.



## COMING EVENTS

### **July 12**

Chaplin Nature Center Butterfly Count, 8:30 a.m. at CNC.

### **July 15**

Picnic, 6 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center

### **September 13 - 14**

WAS 60th Anniversary Celebration!

Saturday 9/13, 1 p.m. bird identification workshop at GPNC,

Saturday 9/13, 7 p.m. speech and reception at SCZ Cargill Learning Center,

Sunday 9/14 7 a.m. birding in Chisholm Creek Park.

\$10 pass for admission to any or all of the events.

Watch for more information in the newsletter, on our website at [www.wichitaaudubon.org](http://www.wichitaaudubon.org), on our facebook page and in the media.

## CHAPLIN NATURE CENTER UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### **JULY 12, SATURDAY, 8:30 a.m. BUTTERFLY COUNT AT CHAPLIN NATURE CENTER**

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.

For more information about any Chaplin Nature Center programs call Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, or e-mail [cnc@wichitaaudubon.org](mailto: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.



## GE CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

In May, twenty-seven volunteers from GE Aviation-Strother Field celebrated Earth Day by spending the afternoon working on projects at the Chaplin Nature Center. The volunteers worked on removing the old outhouse, replacing fence posts, putting wood chips on the Bluff Trail, trimming and clearing trails, and repairing the bench seats on the staircase. Thanks goes out to all the GE volunteers for supporting the Chaplin Nature Center.



*The G. E. crew volunteering at CNC*



## WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STAMP

On June 10th, The Wichita Audubon Board unanimously agreed to support the Wildlife Conservation Stamp Project.

WildlifeConservationStamp.org is a collaborative effort to promote a new wildlife stamp and funding stream for our National Wildlife Refuges.

The Wildlife Conservation Stamp will provide a consistent source of income for our Refuges, separate but parallel to the current Federal Duck Stamp program. The Wildlife Conservation Stamp would raise fees from the millions of non-consumptive users, wildlife viewers and conservationists — to help ensure a thriving future for our National Wildlife Refuge System and all of its inhabitants.

To learn more go to <http://wildlifeconservationstamp.org/>

### 2014-2015 WAS Officers

President	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Vice-president	Pete Janzen	519-1979	pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Anne Woods	688-1889	amwoods624@aol.com
Treasurer	Rod Wedel	215-4362	redb819@sbcglobal.net
Directors	Em Capoun	706-0954	ecapoun@gmail.com
	Tom Ewert	670-3140	trewert@yahoo.com
	Catherine Lewis	992-1708	seasidesparrow@mac.com
	Gregg Friesen	316-217-3301	friesen_fenton@yahoo.com
	Dallas Hewett	316-648-9677	dallash@yahoo.com
	Travis Ross		rosstravis@yahoo.com
Committee Chairs			
AOK Rep	Tom Ewert	670-3140	trewert@yahoo.com
Field trips	Jeff Calhoun		jeffcalhoun11@gmail.com
Finance	Duane DeLong	684-7456	duane.delong669@gmail.com
Hospitality	Sarah Blackmon	264-4408	
Membership	Tom Ewert	670-3140	trewert@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
Programs	Pete Janzen	519-1979	pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaaudubon.org

### WWW.WICHITAAUDUBON.ORG

Send address changes to Tom Ewert, 1021 N. Lakewind, Wichita, KS 67212, [trewert@yahoo.com](mailto:trewert@yahoo.com)

## KOHL'S SUPPORTS CHAPLIN NATURE CENTER

The Kohl's National Go Green campaign and associates in action program support youth oriented organization through volunteers and financial contributions. Five Kohl's associated from the Derby Store volunteered several hours at the Chaplin Nature Center in April to help us get ready for another year of school programs. As a result, the local Derby Kohl's Store contributed \$750.00 and the Kohl's corporate office matched that amount for a total donation of \$1,500. Thank you Kohl's, for supporting the environmental education programs at the Chaplin Nature Center.



*Halea Shaw and Maddie Trillo spotting birds at the 6th Street Pond*

## **BIRDATHON**

We had two teams raising money for Chaplin Nature Center. The CNC team included Rex Herndon, Dwight Shoup, Shawn Silliman, Gene Young and Kevin Groeneweg, joined by three new members from the Arkansas City Middle School: Hadlea Shaw, Morgan Gonzales and Maddie Trillo. The team began Friday afternoon at Slate Creek Marsh, then continued on Saturday morning at the Kaw Wildlife area, Cowley County State Lake and numerous other locations around Arkansas City. They ended with an impressive 143 species. The Painted Bunting team of Carol Cumberland, Dennice Craig, Patty Marlett and Anne Woods started their day at the Derby Canoe Launch, then visited Oak Park and various Wichita heron rookeries before heading to Quivira NWR and Cheyenne Bottoms. They ended the day with 133 species. The two teams collectively raised more than \$5,000. Thanks for all your support!

## **NEBRASKA EXTENDED FIELD TRIP**

Eleven people enjoyed a trip to Audubon of Kansas' Hutton-Niobrara Sanctuary in northern Nebraska. We all stayed at the Hutton house on the property, which is a 5,000 acre ranch that borders the Niobrara river.

Our first morning, we spent exploring the Hutton Ranch. There were at least four, maybe five Long-billed Curlews wheeling around the pastures. One evening while we were watching a coyote strolled across the back of the pasture - the birds went crazy. We certainly heard plenty of curlew calls. We watched Bobolinks in the wet meadows near the river. We also saw Sedge Wrens in cattails, American Redstarts and Cedar Waxwings in the woods. The pastures had lots of Lark Sparrows, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Bell's Vireos.

That afternoon we went driving. We wound around on some truly obscure little sand tracks, but never got completely lost and saw lots of good birds, including Western Grebes, Trumpeter Swans, Upland Sandpipers, Yellow-headed Blackbirds and many, many Orchard Orioles. The second day we went over to Valentine. We spent the morning at Ft. Niobrara NWR where we hiked the falls trail and found Black-and-White Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Yellow Warbler, Red-breasted Nuthatch and many more. We kept hearing Ovenbirds, but never did actually see one. After lunch in Valentine we went down to Valentine



*A barbecue at the Hutton House*

NWR and spent the afternoon.

The third day we were supposed to canoe, but strong thunderstorms were predicted so we chickened out and didn't go. We birded around the Carns bridge, which is a very rickety structure, and explored the north side of the river. Sharp-eyed Atcha spotted a Bald Eagle soaring over the river and Tom followed it to a nest with a chick.

The clouds looked really threatening. The big storm hit about 12:30. If we had been canoeing we would have still been on the river. Just north of Newport wind wiped out a metal building and knocked down several trees. We had to wait for crews to move power lines off the road. On the dirt road leading to

*continued on Page 4*



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### **Nebraska, continue**

the Hutton house there was a huge tree down across the road, so we had to zigzag around the backroads, stopping to move big branches in several places. But we got home without incident. The power was out at the Hutton house. The locals were very efficient. The big tree was off the road and the power came back about 4:30 p.m. It was an adventure that fortunately provided some excitement but no real problems.

We also enjoyed the Sharp-tailed Grouse lek across the road. Every morning we tried different ways to sneak up on them, but always managed to spook them. It gets light so early we weren't quite willing to get up in the dark. But we could hear them from the house, and had several good looks - we counted as many as 20. There is also a pair of Blue Grosbeaks hanging around the front yard, which was quite entertaining. The travelers were Bev DuGay, Sharon and John Dilks, Tom Ewert, Patty and Jim Marlett, Cheryl Miller, Atcha Nolan, Helen and Charles Winter, and Lisa Weeks. Everyone was very impressed with the property, and had a really good time.



*The Hutton House*

### **THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE!**

Thanks to outgoing board members Cheryl Miller, Vice President; Dennise Craig, Secretary; Bob Gress, Director; Kevin Groeneweg, Director, and Mike Heaney, Director, for their service and commitment to the Wichita Audubon Society Board. We appreciate their guidance in making Wichita Audubon a leader in nature education and conservation, as well as a lot of fun.