

Audubon

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July 8

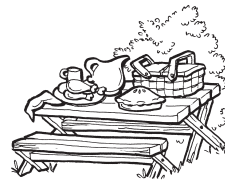
Arkansas City Butterfly Count at Chaplin Nature Center, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Page 4**July 8 & August 12**

Second Saturday Bird Walk in Chisholm Creek Park. Meet in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 8 a.m. Questions?: Kevin Groeneweg, 706-9116, kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net

July 18

Potluck dinner at the Great Plains Nature Center, 6 p.m. Bring a dish to share and your own service.

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Treat yourself to a visit to Chaplin Nature Center this summer. The trails are open dawn to dusk every day.

July Picnic

Join us on Tuesday, July 18, 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 short program about our extended field trip to Ohio and Michigan, with pictures of all the great warblers we saw. It's always fun to have extra time to visit and share a meal, so come and enjoy an evening with friends.

Magee Marsh Field Trip

Wichita Audubon visited Magee Marsh in NW Ohio, the "Warbler Capital of the World", so named due to the large number of warblers and other spring migrants that stack up along the Lake Erie shoreline to fuel up before setting off over the lake. We timed our visit, May 14-17, to start at the end of the big birding festival there so as to avoid some of the crowds. From a birding standpoint our timing turned out to be perfect. Our group trip list was 149 species in Ohio that included 30 species of warblers. We also included an extension into Michigan to see the Kirtland's Warbler, which brought the trip list up to 164 species and 33 species of warblers. An impressive tally of warblers!

Day 1:

After an early breakfast, our group of 16 headed out to Magee Marsh for what promised to be a great day on the boardwalk. North winds had held back the migrants the previous week and the wind had switched. This turned out to be the best day for warblers all week with great looks at many species, including Cape May, Black-throated Blue and Blackburnian. Scarlet Tanagers put on a great show as well. Two Bald Eagle nests by the parking lot provided good photo opportunities.

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Birdathon Report

This year we had three Birdathon teams that raised more than \$5800 for Chaplin Nature Center.

The Painted Buntings started out on May 1 with a cold, stiff wind. But by the end it was sunny and lovely. Carol Cumberland, Anne Woods, and Patty Marlett met Dennice Craig at the Derby boat launch. There was a mini-invasion of migrating sparrows – especially Clay-colored and Chipping. And they had a stunning view of their namesake, the Painted Bunting.

After brief stops at the Great Plains Nature Center and Maple Grove cemetery it was on to Oak Park where they found the Cooper's Hawk nest and were treated to three of them flying in and squawking. Then it was off to Quivira NWR. There was too much water, but it meant the shorebirds were right by the road, giving really good looks. They had a tutorial in small plovers – there were many Semipalmated, Piping and Snowy to compare. A Virginia Rail responded to a tape, and a Black Rail talked for a long time. The last bird of the day was a cooperative Loggerhead Shrike. They ended the day with 127 species.

The Butler County team consisted of Curt

Van Boening, Kevin Groeneweg, Bill Langley, Atcha Nolan and Tom Ewert. They started the morning of May 9 east of Latham at a tall grass prairie field where they found multiple singing Henslow's Sparrows. While they were watching the sparrows they could hear Greater Prairie Chickens booming and then four flew across the road. The next stop was the Butler county fishing lake where they picked up sparrows and a bird that became very common during the day, the Yellow Warbler. There was also a very vocal Louisiana Waterthrush. Heading up to Eldorado they found a Yellow-crowned Night-heron in a ditch. They started at the wetlands near the waste treatment plant and found Sora, Marsh Wren, and a Swamp Sparrow. A muddy field yielded their first batch of sandpipers. The riverside park had Northern Parula, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Least and Great-crested Flycatchers, and Red-eyed Vireos. At the park and campground below the



Eldorado dam they found several Swainson's Thrush, a Belted Kingfisher, Nashville and Black-and-white Warblers. In the afternoon several fields around Augusta gave more shorebirds. At the Thunder road wetlands there were 17 White-faced Ibis and a Hudsonian Godwit. A highlight of the afternoon was finding a mama Wood Duck with at least 8 baby ducks. They ended the day at Santa Fe lake with a large number of Fish Crows coming in to roost.

This year's Chaplin Nature Center team of Shawn Silliman, Rex Herndon, Dwight Shoup and Gene Young identified 133 species. They began at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, May 12th. Heading to Slate Creek Marsh, they found Dickcissels and a flock of turkey. Although flooded with recent rains, the marsh was abundant with diversity including many sandpipers, teal, Black Tern and Upland Sandpiper. By 4:30 they had over 70 species.

Back on the road to Rainbow Bend Bridge they added a Lazuli Bunting, Yellow Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Bell's Vireo, and Least Flycatcher. In the North Marsh they spotted Short-billed & Long-billed Dowitcher, and an American Bittern. At the Winfield Gun Club they added Orchard Oriole, White-crowned Sparrow, Cedar Waxwing and Blue Grosbeak. Close to the marsh in a scrubby landscape they discovered a Yellow-throated Warbler and an Eastern Towhee. Heading back to the South Marsh they found two Bald Eagles circling their nest plus Black-crowned Night-Heron, Black-bellied Plover, Great-horned and Barred Owls. At the end of the day they had 104 species. The first bird the next morning was a Pileated Woodpecker at the Kaw Wildlife Area. At Whispering Oaks they found a Painted Bunting, Field Sparrow and Great-crested Flycatcher. On the Camp Horizon Rd, they added Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Willow Flycatcher, and Grasshopper Sparrow. In Oklahoma at the Kaw Dam they found

a Willet. By 2:00 they were on the way back into Kansas where they found the last bird of the day – a Yellow-billed Cuckoo.



2016-2017 WAS Officers

President	Tom Ewert	670-3140	trewert@yahoo.com
Vice-president	Jim Marlett	942-2164	jmarlett@cox.net
Secretary	Rachel Roth	688-1889	amwoods624@aol.com
Treasurer	Kevin Groeneweg	706-9116	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Directors	Bill Langley	889-5434	1943blangley@gmail.com
	Atcha Nolan	323-4921	qanolan@cox.net
	Gregg Friesen		friesen_fenton@yahoo.com
	Travis Ross	706-7813	rosstravis@yahoo.com
	Karl Herold	655-2389	kjherold2@gmail.com
	Daniel Housholder	684-2070	dhousholder@cox.net

Committee Chairs

AOK Rep	Tom Ewert	670-3140	trewert@yahoo.com
CNC	Travis Ross	706-7813	rosstravis@yahoo.com
Field trips	Cheryl Miller		avian67226@gmail.com
Hospitality	Sarah Blackmon	264-4408	
Membership	Tom Ewert	670-3140	trewert@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
Programs	Jim Marlett	942-2164	jmarlett@cox.net
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaudubon.org

www.wichitaudubon.org

Send address changes to Tom Ewert, 5829 N Legion St, Wichita, KS 67204, trewert@yahoo.com

Magee Marsh Field Trip, Continued

We ended up spending most of our time on the boardwalk unable to tear ourselves away, but late in the afternoon we went over to nearby Ottawa NWR, where we also had great looks at many species of warblers. After a quick drive on the auto tour road seeing dozens of Trumpeter Swans, we ate supper at the Maumee Bay State Park Lodge.

Day 2: Many of the warblers seen the day before had departed, but it was still a good morning on the boardwalk and we added to our species totals. We were joined by two others, making us a group of 18. The surprise of the morning was seeing a Neotropic Cormorant on the lake. Again we spent most of the day at Magee Marsh and headed over to Ottawa NWR to see if we could repeat the magic from the day before. After a return to the motel to freshen up we had supper at the Crazy Lady Saloon, where the food was good and the onion rings were massive.

Day 3: With a forecast of good birding and warm temperatures, we started the morning at Metzger Marsh. A lone Ruddy Turnstone was working the pier. There is a small patch of woods there, making for a great migrant trap. We had 11 species of warblers, a calling Willow Flycatcher and also great looks at a Least Bittern in the cattails beside the woods. Flights of hundreds of Blue Jays was impressive. After birding some of the marshes there we headed back to the boardwalk at Magee for more great birding. The species diversity changes daily there, making multiple visits rewarding. After working things over there we went to Maumee Bay State Park to briefly bird the boardwalk, and the swimming beach held some Caspian Terns. The temps were in the upper 80's so we headed to the motel for a shower and went to the Black Forest Cafe for supper. This restaurant is on private grounds owned by the large German community living there and was recently opened to the public. The food was authentic, as was the atmosphere. The restaurant manager told us of the history and took a group photo for their Facebook page.

Day 4: With strong south winds and continued hot temperatures the birding was again outstanding. We started the day on the two mile boardwalk at Maumee Bay SP. Among the 62 species there were 16 species of warblers and great looks at a Black-billed Cuckoo and several

Marsh Wrens. After spending most of the morning there we again headed back to the boardwalk at Magee Marsh. With the strong wind many of the warblers stayed low, providing great looks. At many places you would see multiple warbler species at one time, and some in the group stayed in one spot and enjoyed the parade of warblers. Having had enough of the heat, we returned to the motel, then headed back to the restaurant at the Maumee Bay SP Lodge for supper.

Day 5: Eight of us made the journey into Michigan on an extension to see the Kirtland's Warbler. On the way we stopped at Waterloo State Recreation Area for the Cerulean Warbler. After walking the road that was supposed to be the best spot and getting good looks at a Blue-winged Warbler we decided to have lunch. As we were finishing a Cerulean started singing near the cars and we



got great looks at a pair. We continued north, stopping at Tawas Point SP. This is Michigan's best migrant trap, being a point that sticks out into Lake Huron. A Fork-tailed Flycatcher was seen earlier in the day but we didn't see it. Turns out there was a birding festival starting that day and lots of birders were looking for this rare vagrant. The wind was howling and the birds were hunkered down but birding was good. We went on to our rustic motel in Mio to spend the night.

Day 6: We met up with a number of other birders at the Forest Service headquarters in Mio to take the Kirtland's Warbler tour. After a program about the warbler we headed out into their young jack pine habitat. It didn't take long to hear them singing, but with temperatures in the upper 30's and a north breeze they were staying low. However, after a while one finally hopped up for great looks. We then had a look at one of their Brown-headed Cowbird trapping cages and an explanation of their control efforts. As we departed, six of us decided to get better looks at Golden-winged Warbler, so we drove to appropriate habitat for great looks at one and a nice finish to our trip.

You can see all the pictures of our trip on our website at www.wichitaudubon.org/Ohio_2017

Kevin Groeneweg

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Chaplin Nature Center Voted Best Local Tourist Attraction

Readers of the Cowley CourierTraveler newspaper have voted Chaplin Nature Center as the best tourist attraction in Cowley County for 2017!



Chaplin Nature Center Programs

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

Help count and identify butterflies as part of a North American Butterfly Association official count. This one-day survey will count all the butterflies seen in a 15 mile diameter area. Anyone interested in butterflies is welcome to participate. More experienced counters will be teamed up with novices, so everyone is welcome to help. Meet at the visitor's center at 8:30 a.m. For more information call the center at 620-442-4133.



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.