

# Audubon

Vol. 60 No.1

July/August 2020

## July 11 & August 8

Second Saturday Bird Walk in Chisholm Creek Park. Meet in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 8 a.m. & social distance! Questions? Tom Ewert, 670-3140, [trewert@yahoo.com](mailto:trewert@yahoo.com).

## July 11

Arkansas City Butterfly Count at Chaplin Nature Center, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
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## July 21

Online trivia game, 7 p.m.  
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## July Virtual Meeting

Traditionally we have a pot luck dinner in July, but that just didn't seem safe to do yet. So our vice-president Rachel Roth has put together an online trivia game!

Birds for Nerds is a just-for-fun trivia event all about birds with 5 rounds of trivia, and we're keeping score with the honor system.

To participate, go to this website - [https://](https://wichtaaudubontrivia.eventbrite.com)

[wichtaaudubontrivia.eventbrite.com](https://wichtaaudubontrivia.eventbrite.com) - to get a ticket (free).



They will send you an email with a link for the Zoom meeting, plus reminders before the event and a scoresheet.

Want to watch and not participate? Follow our Facebook Page to see the trivia game live!

The presentation will be on Tuesday, July 21, 7 p.m.



classroomclipart.com  
<http://classroomclipart.com>



We have had to cancel many events in the last few months. In July we begin planning for next year. We will be proceeding as we normally would, but are trying to plan contingencies in case of more disruption to due the pandemic. Please bear with us as we try to be flexible.



## New Officers

The nominating committee has presented the following slate of officers for the year of July 2020-June 2021:

Vice-president: Rachel Roth

Secretary: Barbara Gobbert

Treasurer: Patty Marlett

Directors: Rod Wedel and Daniel Housholder

Normally we would hold an election at the May meeting, but since we have not had a meeting, the board is functioning as normal, with these officers considered "acting" until we are able to have another in person meeting and formally elect them.

Thanks to the nominating committee of Cheryl Miller, Rachel Roth and Jim Marlett

And a big thank you to Travis Ross and Niall Horton, who are leaving the board, for their service.

### 2020-2021 WAS Officers

President	Bob Gress	316-765-2046	bobgress@cox.net
Vice-president	Rachel Roth	316-213-9527	lilbluestem@gmail.com
Secretary	Barbara Gobbert	316-841-5099	bgobbert@gmail.com
Treasurer	Patty Marlett	316-200-3419	pmarlett@cox.net
Directors	Bill Langley	316-889-5434	78gmouse43@gmail.com
	Mark Nolen	785-346-7213	nolen.mark@gmail.com
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	Rod Wedel	316-215-4362	redb819@sbcglobal.net
	Tom Ewert	316-670-3140	trewert@yahoo.com
	Daniel Housholder	316-648-0434	dhousholder@cox.net

#### Committee Chairs

AOK Rep	Tom Ewert	316-670-3140	trewert@yahoo.com
Field trips	Tom Ewert	316-670-3140	trewert@yahoo.com
Hospitality	Sarah Blackmon	316-264-4408	
Membership	Carol Cumberland	316-685-4687	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Newsletter	Patty Marlett	316-200-3419	pmarlett@mac.com
Programs	Rachel Roth	316-213-9527	lilbluestem@gmail.com
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaudubon.org

[www.wichitaudubon.org](http://www.wichitaudubon.org)

Send address changes to Carol Cumberland, 1106 Gretchen, Wichita, KS 67206  
carol.cumberland@swbell.net, 316-685-4867

## Thanks to Our Donors!

Thanks to you we met our goal of raising \$10,000 for a matching grant from the V. J. Wilkins Foundation. The new Gator for Chaplin Nature Center is ordered and we expect to receive it in September. We'll have pictures when that happy day comes.

## In Memory

We lost long-time friend and volunteer when Louise Wherry died in March. She and her husband John, who died in 2009, were pillars of our organization. They gave countless hours as volunteers and were great supporters and cheerleaders for Chaplin Nature Center. They have remembered us with the gift of an annuity from their estate. This gift will be used to support CNC. We will always remember John and Louise and all they meant to Wichita Audubon.



*John & Louise Wherry*

# Birdathon

Our three teams raised a record amount this year with their efforts! The Roadrunner team consisted of Tom Ewert, Bob Gress, Andrew Miller, Michael Miller, Joseph Miller, and Curt van Boening. To maintain social distance they all drove separately and stayed six feet apart while birding. They chose to limit themselves to one county and chose Reno. They began the day at Cheney Reservoir, where a big find was a flock of seven Whimbrels and three Marbled Godwits, plus numerous song birds. They constantly heard Pileated Woodpeckers calling across the river. They also heard a Louisiana Waterthrush and a Prothonotary Warbler responded to their tape.



*The Roadrunner Team*

Dillon Nature Center gave them Nashville, Black & White, Orange-crowned Warblers and Common Yellowthroat, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, plus Chipping, White-crowned, Clay-colored, Harris's and Lincoln's Sparrows. At a private sandpit on the west side of Hutchinson they find a Common Loon, a great bird to find in May. North towards Nickerson at another sandpit was a Snowy Plover running in the sand. Back down south to the Peace road wetlands, northwest of Arlington where an American Redstart was in the bushes and Bell's Vireo are called everywhere. One more stop at some tall timber near Arlington they called in a barred owl. They ended their day with 130 species.

This year's Chaplin Nature Center team consisted of Gene Young, Kevin Groeneweg, Rex Herndon, Dwight Shoup, Max Thompson, Travis Ross and Shawn Silliman. Some members of the team just went out as individuals to search on their own while few met at the Nature Center to bird as a group before setting out on their own. Those that met at the Nature Center, started on the back porch at 6:00 am calling owls. They heard both Barred and Great-horned Owls. They spent the next hour hiking the trails and picked up 36 species, which included Summer Tanager, Belted Kingfisher, Indigo Bunting, Orange-crowned Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Nashville Warbler.

At the Kaw Wildlife Area, a team member picked up Bell's Vireo and Painted Bunting. On 304th Rd a Blue Grosbeak and down by the Lower Grouse Creek a Kentucky Warbler was found. Meanwhile in the Udall/Belle Plaine area, Bobolinks, American Pipit, Spotted Towhee, and Loggerhead Shrike were added to the list. Later that day, some people met at the Slate Creek Wetland where, Blue-winged and Green-winged teal, White-faced Ibis, Sora, Sedge and Marsh Wren and the majority of the shorebirds were found. Along Grouse Creek Rd toward Dexter a Whip-poor-will was spotted. In Ark City a Lazuli Bunting at 13<sup>th</sup> and Poplar was a pleasant surprise.

Since this Birdathon was done mostly as individuals rather than as a team they covered a lot more territory than in the past, so this was one of the highest counts at 143 different species.

This year the Painted Buntings consisted of just Patty Marlett and Carol Cumberland. They began the day at the Derby Canoe launch with a namesake Painted Bunting, Pileated Woodpecker and a whole tree full of Cedar Waxwings. Next they made several stops around Wichita: Elpyco for Yellow-crowned Night Herons, the Great Plains Nature Center for Purple Martins, Oak Park for American Redstarts, and White-eyed Vireos. The Cooper's Hawk was on her nest, and the pond held a Wood Duck mom with eight darling, fluffy chicks. Next they stopped at Twin Lakes for the Neotropic Cormorants that have been hanging around for months. Then on to Patty's house for White-winged Doves on the feeders.

Next it was off to Quivira NWR. On the Quivira wildlife drive there were hundreds of godwits, mostly Hudsonian, but some Marbled. There were thousands of Wilson's Phalaropes spinning in the water, and many Black Terns in the air. One of the most surprising birds was a Common Nighthawk out cruising around in the broad daylight.

With a few hours of daylight left, they headed north to Cheyenne Bottoms. They found one Eared Grebe along with thousands of Franklin's Gulls and two Willets. They watched a pair of Orchard Orioles hunting caterpillars in a patch of weeds. The last bird of the day was a Sora who answered a tape from the cattails. They ended the day with 137 species.

A big thank you to all our supporters that made this year so successful, despite the challenges!



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## Chaplin Nature Center Programs

*Saturday, July 11 , 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

*Arkansas City Butterfly Count*

This is a citizen science survey of the Arkansas City area and all data collected is sent to the North American Butterfly Association. During the survey, we hike the trails of the Nature Center identifying and counting all butterflies we encounter. Close focus binoculars are used to aid in identification. You can join us for the full day or just a half day. Please call if planning to attend. For more information, call the Center.



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.