

Audubon

Vol. 58 No. 1

July/August 2018

July 14

Butterfly Count at Chaplin Nature Center
8.30 a.m. — 3 p.m.

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**July 14 & August 11**

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

July 17

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

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**August 25**

Moon Walk/Run at Chaplin Nature Center, 8 - 10 p.m.

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July Picnic

Join us on Tuesday, July 17, 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 the Texas Hill Country, with pictures!

It's always fun to have extra time to visit and share a meal, so come and enjoy an evening with friends.

2018 Extended Field Trip: Concan, Texas

Our 2018 Wichita Audubon extended field trip to Concan, Texas was well attended, with 22 members making the trip. Concan is in the heart of the Texas Hill Country, which is part of the Edwards Plateau. The predominant trees in the area are ashe juniper and Texas live oak, home to our target bird species Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo. There are numerous caves in the area that are home to bats and our other target bird species: Cave Swallow. Our home base was Neal's Lodges along the Frio River, where a birder could spend quite a bit of time birding the amazing and scenic grounds. We birded the area for four full days beginning Friday April 20 and covered several miles walking various trails through this wonderful habitat.



Golden-cheeked Warbler - photo by Jim Marlett

Day 1:

We spent the morning at nearby Garner State Park. The weather was cool and cloudy, but the birding was good. Walking the old entrance road, it didn't take long to hear singing Golden-cheeked Warblers. The many accommodating Hutton's Vireos was a nice surprise. We had great looks at a Brown-crested Flycatcher and a low flyover of a Zone-tailed Hawk. Most agreed that this was the best look ever at this species. After finishing up at the park we drove to Sabinal. At

the nearby feed yards we saw lots of blackbirds and our first look at Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks. Our driving loop ended back at Neal's, where we had supper at the Neal's Dining Room. After supper we drove to nearby Frio Bat Flight to watch the spectacle of 10 to 12 million Brazilian (Mexican) Free-tailed bats.

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Birdathon

This year we once again fielded three teams to raise money for Chaplin Nature Center with a one day birdwatching marathon. Their efforts raised more than \$5,600 this year. The

Roadrunners (Tom Ewert, Bill Langley and Kevin Groeneweg) spent the day of May 14 in Harper County, beginning at dawn at the county line. They wandered many back roads, crisscrossing Spring Creek, visiting Anthony Lake and a small wetland northwest of Harper. One of their more interesting finds was a lone Bobolink on a fence. They had good luck finding resident species, but migrants were not as abundant. They ended with 104 species.

The CNC team (Gene Young, Kevin Groeneweg, Rex Herndon, Dwight Shoup, David Seibel, and Shawn Silliman) split their day, beginning at 3 p.m. on Friday,

May 11 and ending at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 12. Slate Creek Marsh and the Winfield Gun Club yielded many shorebirds and wetland species. The Kaw

wildlife area gave them many woodland species. They ventured as far as Kaw lake in Oklahoma. One of their most interesting finds was two Black Vultures, one in Arkansas City and one east near Camp Horizon. Their efforts resulted in 135 species.

The Painted Buntings (Carol Cumberland,

Dennise Craig, Anne Woods and Patty Marlett) headed out on May 9 for their epic journey. The day began at the Derby canoe launch where they found their namesake Painted Bunting, along with many others. They took in the Yellow-crowned Night Herons on Larry Lane, then traveled to Maple Grove Cemetery and Oak Park before heading to Quivira

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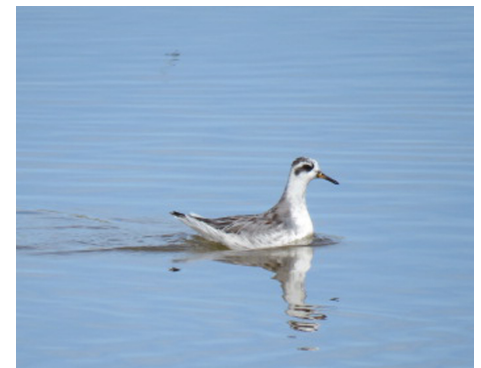
Send address changes to Carol Cumberland, 1106 Gretchen, Wichita, KS 67206



The Chikaskia River in Harper County

All agreed that it was the calmest they had ever seen at Quivira. Their best bird was the Red Phalarope that everyone had been talking about for weeks at Quivira - a lifer for all! They ended their beautiful day with 135 species.

Thanks so much to everyone who contributed. It is a very fun way to raise much needed funds for Chaplin Nature Center. We look forward to next year!



Red Phalarope

Extended Field Trip: Concan, TX, continued

There were dozens of Cave Swallows circling the area, eventually going into the cave entrance. We also saw several raptors taking advantage, including a Peregrine Falcon catching a bat in flight. It was a great end to our first day.



A river of bats - photo by Patty Marlett

Day 2:

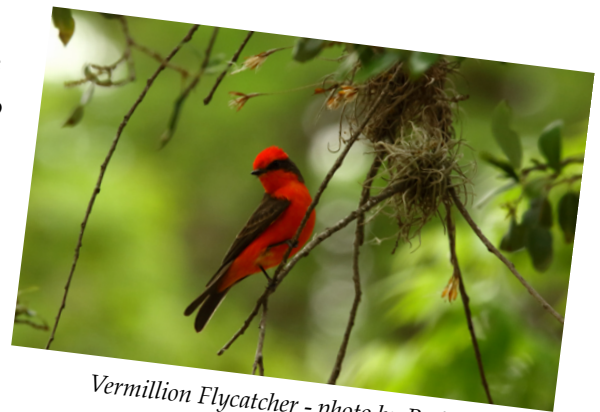
We made the scenic drive to Lost Maples State Natural Area. On the way two of our vehicles got flat tires. There was light rain all morning, so the delay in getting that dealt with was no big deal. We birded the East Trail and heard several Golden-cheeked Warblers, seeing one well. The park is known for its remnant stand of bigtooth maples, so after lunch we hiked the Maples Trail, seeing many fine examples. We also had great looks at a Golden-cheeked Warbler now that the sun was out. We heard from a park naturalist that the vireos were easy to see at South Llano River State Park, so we decided to make the drive. This park has four bird blinds, two of which are reliable for the vireo. Along the trail to one of the blinds we had great looks at two Black-capped Vireos. We spent time in the blinds photographing the many birds coming to the water feature. With the weather finally warming up we called it a day and headed to Leakey for supper at a restaurant there.

Day 3:

Our destination was Park Chalk Bluff, a privately-owned park along the Nueces River northwest of Uvalde. We first birded most of the mile-long road leading to the park entrance, getting a great look at an Olive Sparrow. We saw Green Kingfisher, Great Kiskadee and a couple of people saw Ringed Kingfisher. We also saw Aoudad, otherwise known as Barbary Sheep, an introduced North African species from the many big game farms in the area. After a great morning of birding we had lunch in the park. Afterward, we drove a road leading to a crossing of the Nueces River, adding several species to our list and seeing a pair of Black Phoebes on the river. We birded the Fort Inge Historical Park, and then moved on to nearby Cook's Slough Nature Center, which is a water reclamation project for the city of Uvalde. After returning back to Neal's, some of us went birding in the evening, seeing a pair of Ringed Kingfishers flying up and down the Frio River.

Day 4:

The weather was perfect as we headed to Love Creek Preserve, a 2,500 acre preserve owned by The Nature Conservancy. Making arrangements ahead of time, we were told that finding the Black-capped Vireo was easy along a loop road and the Golden-cheeked Warblers was easy along a trail leading down to Love Creek. The scenic overlooks afforded great views of this pristine preserve, and the birding was great about everywhere. We proceeded east to Medina for lunch at The Apple Store. Having nothing to do with cell phones, they sell all things relating to apples, not to mention serving a great lunch. Many had their signature apple ice cream. We then drove back to Neal's, taking a couple of scenic roads along the way. We birded the grounds at Neal's in the late afternoon before having our final group supper at Neal's Dining Room, after which we declared the trip a success.



Vermillion Flycatcher - photo by Rod Wedel

By Kevin Groeneweg



Participants:

Doris Burnett, Carol & Hal Cumberland, Sharon & John Dilks, Tom Ewert, Lisa Flores, Kevin Groeneweg (trip leader), Bill Langley, Sam & Terry Mannell, Patty & Jim Marlett, Cheryl Miller, Ernie Misek, Sue Ann Nicely, Diane Pedicord, Gayla & Bill Sutton, Sandra Tholen, Rod Wedel, Lisa Weeks.

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Chaplin Nature Center Programs

Saturday, July 14, 8:30 a.m. — 3 p.m. Butterfly Count

This is a citizen scientist survey of the butterflies in the Arkansas City area. 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 you are planning to attend.

Saturday, August 25, 8:30 - 10 p.m. Moon Walk/Run

Beat the heat — get outdoors and get moving with this 2-mile moon fun run or walk. Individuals and families can go at their own pace along the edge of the Center's tall grass prairie trail. Along the way, they can stop to test their moon knowledge and be awarded glow sticks. This non-timed event will start at 9:00 pm, but you will want to arrive by 8:30 to get officially registered. Those who register by August 10th will receive a moon run t-shirt.



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.