

Wichita Audubon

Volume 41 No. 6 March 2007



MARCH MEETING



Our March meeting will feature a presentation by Kevin Groeneweg, past president of Wichita Audubon and host to many Purple Martin families every summer. Humans have had a special relationship with the Purple Martin for centuries. Kevin will teach us about Purple Martin ecology and what it takes to become a successful martin landlord. He has been a martin enthusiast for the past twelve years

and credits the Purple Martin with sparking his current fascination with birds in general. You can join Kevin for dinner before the meeting at 5:45 p.m. at Jason's Deli in Bradley Fair, 21st and Rock Road.

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Full Moon River Hike

March 3, Friday, 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Moon madness is upon us. Take a hike by the light of the moon down to the Arkansas River. During this two mile hike we'll search for our moon shadow and discover the strange effects of the full moon,

Spring Clean-up

April 1, Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Volunteer to get the Chaplin Nature Center in shape for the upcoming year. Help is needed in all areas, from building clean-up to trail maintenance. Light work loads or heavy, your choice. There is a place you can help, no matter what your skills



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.

COMING EVENTS

March 3

Full Moon River Hike at Chaplin Nature Center, 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

March 10

Oak Park Cleanup, 9 a.m.
Leader: Rosa McHenry, 263-4042, rmchenryphoto@sbcglobal.net. See page 4.

March 17

Wichita Birding field trip. Meet at the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 8 a.m. The group will visit Wichita hot spots, according to what is best on that day. Leader: Dan Kilby, 943-5136, ddkilby@prodigy.net

March 20

Regular meeting, "Purple Martin's Majesty," by Kevin Groeneweg, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center

March 24

Bird Seed Sale - see page 2.

March 31

Pawnee Prairie Field Trip. Meet at the old nature center parking lot on South Tyler Road. We'll be looking for winter residents and early spring migrants like Fox Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, Phoebe and Kinglets. Leader: Bill Beard, 722-3081, w2bnn@cox.net

April 7

Spring Clean-up at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

BIRD SEED SALE

Help support Wichita Audubon and Chaplin Nature Center by buying your bird seed from us. We offer high quality seed, delivered to your home (within Wichita City limits.) Please submit your order by **Friday, March 16.**

The seed will be delivered on **Saturday, March 24**

25 lbs Black Oil Sunflower - \$12

25 lbs Audubon Mix - \$10

Order by phone, mail or email.

Call Carol Cumberland at 316-685-4867 or

email carol.cumberland@swbell.net

Mail: Wichita Audubon Society, PO Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201

OAK PARK CLEANUP

Join us March 11 to clean up Oak Park and get it ready for those spring migrants. We'll start at 9 a.m., meeting on the north side of the lily pond. We have invited the neighborhood association and the frisbee golfers to join us.

Wear your Audubon hat or shirt or name tag to help advertise our presence. Gloves are also recommended. We'll provide trash bags and pick up sticks.

As always, feel free to put in some time at your convenience if you can't join the group. Just let us know so we can document the hours contributed. The leader is Rosa McHenry, 263-4042, rmchenryphoto@sbcglobal.net, .

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

The award committee is accepting nominations for the annual Meritorious Service Award. The criteria for selection include outstanding or sustained leadership as a member, officer, committee chair, or special project leader.

Please include a brief description of the nominee's accomplishments and why you think they should receive this award. Send your nomination to

Carol Cumberland, 1185 Gretchen Ln, Wichita 67206, or email carol.cumberland@swbell.net

Previous recipients of this award:

1994 John Wherry

1995 Ralph Wiley & Geula

McDonald

1996 Nathan McDonald

1997 Louise Wherry

1998 Don Vannoy

1999 Bob Gress

2000 Dan Kilby

2001 Rex Herndon

2002 Wallace Champeny

2003 Patty Marlett

2004 Carol Cumberland

2005 Sandra Tholen

2006 Kevin Groeneweg

Correction: The Black-legged Kittiwake pictured in the Jan/Feb newsletter was seen at John Redmond Reservoir, not Marion Reservoir.

2006-2007 WAS Officers

President	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
Vice-president	Jay Newton	773-2486	jmnewtonus@yahoo.com
Secretary	Marsha Ebaugh	683-4782	43042@prodigy.net
Treasurer	Sandra Tholen	634-0049	stholen@cox.net
Directors	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
	Ben Rogers	630-0190	brogers7@cox.net
	Rosa McHenry	263-4042	rmchenryphoto@sbcglobal.net
	Dan Kilby	943-5136	ddkilby@prodigy.net
	Duane DeLong	684-7456	dwdelong@earthlink.net

Committee Chairs

Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
CNC	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Programs	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Conservation	Ben Rogers	630-0190	brogers7@cox.net
Development	Rosa McHenry	263-4042	rmchenryphoto@sbcglobal.net
Membership	Sister Patricia Stanley		pst Stanley@csjwichita.org
Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	687-4268	lgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Field Trips	Cheryl Miller	978-6659 (wk)	avian67226@gmail.com
Finance	Duane DeLong	684-7456	dwdelong@earthlink.net
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaudubon.org

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email any officer: was@wichitaudubon.org

Send address changes to Sister Patricia Stanley, 6739 Perryton, Wichita, KS 67226

pst Stanley@csjwichita.org

SILENT AUCTION

Our May meeting will feature a silent auction of bird and nature related items - bird feeders, bird houses, books, art, etc. If you have items you would like to donate, please contact Rosa McHenry, 263-4042, rmchenryphoto@sbcglobal.net, or Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com.

The money raised will go to support Chaplin Nature Center, so come on May 15 and be prepared to shop!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee chair is Kevin Groeneweg, assisted by Dan Kilby and Bob Gress. They are seeking candidates for President (2 year term), Treasurer (1 year term), and the board of directors (3 year term). Your help and suggestions are needed. Please contact Kevin at 687-4268, kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP

This year's extended trip will be to Southwest Colorado June 11-13. It will be three intense days searching for Chukar, Gray Vireo, Virginia's Warbler, Black Swift, Flammulated Owl, and more. We'll spend two nights in Cortez and two nights in Montrose. Pete Janzen is planning our itinerary. To get information on lodging and reservations contact Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com.

BIRDS OF SEDGWICK COUNTY

The Birds of Sedgwick County and Cheney Reservoir is hot off the presses, written by Pete Janzen. It has 118 pages, including species accounts of every species ever seen in Sedgwick County, maps, graphs and photographs. There is also an historical section and some information on productive birding locations in the area.

Pete is the author, with substantial contributions from Max Thompson, Cheryl Miller and Bob Gress. Others who helped were Jim Mason, Kevin Groeneweg, Patty Marlett, Chet Gresham, Tyler Hicks, Don Vannoy and Charles Ely. The book was most directly inspired by Cable & Seltman's excellent volume on the Birds of the Cimarron Grasslands.

The price is \$10.00 plus sales tax. Copies will be available at Wichita Audubon meetings, at the Garden Show, and at several local retailers.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy by mail, send \$12.70 per copy (in Kansas) or \$11.85 (out of state) to Pete at 3137 Mascot, Wichita, Ks. 67204. These figures include postage and handling costs. Make all checks payable to KOS -no cash, no credit cards. Your order will be mailed promptly upon receipt of your payment in full.

All proceeds will benefit the KOS Book Royalty Fund, which paid for publication of the book.

NOTES FROM THE WICHITA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 2006 Christmas Bird Count, held December 16, tallied 93 species plus three additional count-week species. There was a really a good turn-out, with 32 people helping.

The team of Roy and Pat Beckemeyer, Bob Hoopes, Ruth White and Becky Stanfield birded Sim, Riverside and Oak Parks in the morning, then went to Swanson Park in the afternoon. There they were joined by 6 students from Becky's 6th grade Science/Outdoor Wildlife class from Wilbur Middle School, who spent two hours counting birds in the park.

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Students from Wilbur Middle School helped out one team on the Wichita Christmas Bird Count (left to right): Becky Stanfield, Damion Perez, Roy Beckemeyer, Tesa Mayer, Taryn Thomas, Jacob Bemis, Amber Knott, and Ruth White. Not pictured: Tyler Meckenstock.

Photo by Bob Hoopes.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Wichita Christmas Bird Count, continued

They kept track of the birds seen and checked the pictures in their field guides; and also made a report for class.

The relatively balmy weather made the count easier than some. There weren't any real misses except for Cedar Waxwing. Some species were very scarce in comparison with typical numbers. Pete Janzen's group had several Harlan's Hawks, including a striking immature, and a beautiful immature Krider's race Red-tailed Hawk.

Highlights:

Ross's Goose- 2 at Coleman Lake
Barrow's Goldeneye- a pair at Go Lake in South Wichita
22 species of waterfowl in all

Bald Eagle -17 seen, which is a new high count

Black-crowned Night Heron- 3 at Twin Lakes

Great Egret- count week

Red-shouldered Hawk- 1 at Chisholm Creek and 1 at Hellar's Park. More evidence of range expansion.

Merlin- 2

Prairie Falcon- 3

Least Sandpiper- 1 on an Arkansas River sandbar. Harry Gregory got a great digital video of it.

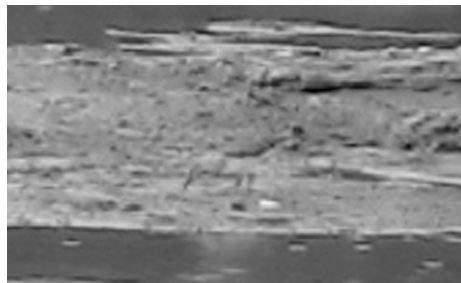
Long-eared Owl- 2

Red-breasted Nuthatch- 1 at Hellar's Park

Marsh Wren- 2



A Barrow's Goldeneye seen on the Wichita CBC



A Least Sandpiper on an Arkansas River sandbar.