

Wichita Audubon



Volume 43 No. 6 March 2009

MARCH MEETING



Last January, Jim and Patty Marlett traveled to Peru and got to visit an area they had never seen before: the southern coast, including the Ballestas Islands Bird Sanctuary with its Humbolt Penguins. This coastal desert is also the site of the Nazca Lines, giant figures drawn in the desert sand two thousand years ago. Join us for a trip to Peru as Jim Marlett presents “Peru with Penguins,” on Tuesday, March 17, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can also join Jim and Patty and other members for dinner at Doc Green’s, 10096 E. 13th, in the Waterfront at 5:45 p.m. Note that this is a new location.

IN MEMORIAM

Leonabelle Chaplin Turnbull, daughter of Hazel and Stedman Chaplin, passed away Feb. 6 in Corpus Christi, Texas, at age 83. Hazel and Stedman owned the farm that is now Chaplin Nature Center, and made it a nature sanctuary that they shared with their daughters. Leonabelle was an avid birdwatcher and led weekly bird walks for many years. She was so good that in 2004 the Port Aransas Birding Center was renamed in her honor as the Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center. She assisted the CNC committee last year with pictures of her parents for the new exhibits in the CNC visitor’s center. A memorial has been established in her honor with Chaplin Nature Center.

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

March 6, Friday, 7 - 8 p.m.

Night Hike

Take a walk on the dark side! Hike through the woods without a flashlight to learn about your five senses. Listen to night sounds and learn about nocturnal animals. Dress for the outdoors and wear sturdy shoes.

April 4, Saturday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Spring Clean-up

Volunteer to help get CNC in shape for spring with building cleanup or trail maintenance. Light workloads or heavy, your choice.

COMING EVENTS

March 6

Night Hike at Chaplin Nature Center, 7 - 8 p.m.

March 14

Oak Park cleanup, 9 a.m.
Leader: Rosa McHenry, 263-4042,
rmchenryphoto@sbcglobal.net

March 17

Regular meeting, “Peru with Penguins” by Jim Marlett, 7:30 pm. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

March 28

Wichita Area Mystery Trip.
Trip will depart the Kings-X at 21st and Amidon at 7:30 a.m.
Leader: Kevin Groeneweg, 687-4268,
kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net

April 4

Chautauqua County backroads field trip. Meet at the convenience store on the west edge of Cedarvale at 7:30 a.m.
Leader: Pete Janzen, 832-0182,
pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

April 4

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



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.

WINGS & WETLANDS

This three day festival is dedicated to bird watching and appreciation of the natural world at two of the hottest birding sites in the world - Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. From Friday, April 24, through Sunday, April 26, birdwatchers will find exceptional birding and many chances for education, networking with other birders, and fun activities in Great Bend.

The weekend starts with a bird identification workshop, a late afternoon bird watching tour, entertainment and refreshments. Opportunities to experience the incredible wetland complex continue throughout the weekend. Late afternoon and early morning guided tours have both drivers and guides on board to make the experience perfect for participants. Registration for the festival is required and preregistration is strongly recommended. Festival registration includes all transportation for birding tours, guides, reception & dessert on Friday evening, reception & buffet dinner on Saturday evening, buffet breakfast on Saturday & Sunday, afternoon break on Saturday, guided field trips (including transportation) and all workshops.

To receive information and registration material for the Wings & Wetlands Weekend, contact the Great Bend Convention and Visitors Bureau at 620-792-2750 or e-mail cvb@visitgreatbend.com. An online registration form is available at www.visitgreatbend.com.

OAK PARK CLEANUP

Join in our annual effort to keep this priceless birding spot litter-free. On Saturday, March 14, we'll meet at 9 a.m. by the north lily pond. 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.



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

Thursday, March 12.

The seed will be delivered on

Saturday, March 21

25 lbs Black Oil Sunflower - \$14

25 lbs Audubon Mix - \$12

Order by phone, mail or E-mail. Call Carol Cumberland at 685-4867 or carol.cumberland@swbell.net Mail: Wichita Audubon Society, PO Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201.

2008-2009 WAS Officers

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Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaaudubon.org

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E-mail any officer: was@wichitaaudubon.org

Send address changes to Sister Patricia Stanley, 3700 E Lincoln Apt 233, Wichita 67218
pstanley@csjwichita.org

BIRDS & CLIMATE CHANGE

Birds are among the most adaptable of wildlife - as long as they can find suitable habitat, they are able to travel substantial distances north, inland, or to higher latitudes. That is one of the things that makes them sensitive environmental indicators - alerting us to ecological disruption, often before it directly affects us.

Audubon's new analysis reveals that many species that winter in the U.S. are moving significantly north - strong evidence that global warming is already altering their - and our - environment. However, Audubon's analysis also showed that some birds, including the majority of grassland species, are not following the trend — even as temperatures climb. For these species disappearing habitat is taking an enormous toll and leaving them with nowhere to go - even as climate change is altering what habitat remains.

On the Move North

The following are the **some** of the species for which Audubon's Birds and Climate Change study revealed the greatest northward movement.

Purple Finch: A frequent visitor to bird feeders, this colorful bird is an “irruptive species,” meaning that it winters far to the south in some winters and farther north in others. As temperatures have increased in recent years, however, the birds have not gone as far south during their irruptions - resulting in overall northward movement of over 433 miles in the last 40 years.

Wild Turkey: Reintroduction programs and an ability to thrive

in human-influenced landscapes have yielded increases in the Wild Turkey population throughout its range over the last 40 years. That said, over 400 miles of northward movement over the same period suggests that climate change is another important factor shaping its natural history.

Ring-billed Gull: Like most of the large gulls, Ring-billed Gull adapts well to a human-influenced environment. The Ring-bill is not a typical “seagull”; it is more likely than most other large gulls to be found inland, far from any water. Its northward movement of over 350 miles is another sign of its ability to adapt to changes in its environment, including climate change - sometimes at the peril of other less adaptive species, however, as it can often out-compete them for food and habitat.

Red-breasted Merganser: This striking fish-eating duck most often winters in saltwater, but is increasingly found in winter on large bodies of freshwater including the Great Lakes. The species' overall northward movement of approximately 317 miles is driving winter populations up in Minnesota, for example, while its numbers in states like Kentucky and Nevada are substantially down over the last 40 years.

Nowhere to Go...

The following are a few of the grassland species whose habitat

options are dwindling even as temperatures rise.

Burrowing Owl: Unlike most owls, the Burrowing Owl is most frequently seen standing on a raised mound in front of its burrow in the ground or on a low fencepost. These owls are usually found in the dry grasslands of the western United States or the sandy grasslands of Florida. Already declining, this species faces the prediction that much of its western habitat will become drier as climate change progresses.

Eastern and Western Meadowlark:

These popular robin-sized grassland birds form winter flocks and always feed on the ground. Neither species has been wintering farther north over the past 40 years, probably because the quality of northern grasslands is not sufficient to support these birds through the winter. The Eastern Meadowlark is one of Audubon's Common Birds in Decline; its population has plummeted 72% in population over the last 40 years.

Vesper Sparrow: This species is one of many sparrows found primarily in grassland habitats. Although widespread, it is a little-known bird, perhaps because of its drab brown plumage and lack of visits to feeders. Like most grassland birds, it is showing population declines overall and through most of its range, due to loss of habitat to agriculture, urban and suburban growth, and reversion to forest.


Wichita Audubon Society
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IF YOU ARE A MEMBER of the WICHITA Audubon Society ONLY, you do not receive Audubon Magazine. You should check the expiration date above. Use the form below to renew your membership, or go to www.wichitaaudubon.org and click on Membership. If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, check the appropriate box below.

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Yes, renew my membership in the Wichita Audubon Society at the following level:

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