

# Audubon

Vol. 54 No. 5

March 2015

**March 14**

*Wichita Area Hotspots field trip. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot for this half-day event. Dress for the weather and moderate hiking. Leader: Cheryl Miller, [avian67226@gmail.com](mailto:avian67226@gmail.com).*

**March 17**

*Regular meeting, "Weather Patterns and Weather Surveillance Radar Basics," by Mike Umscheid. Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. Join us for dinner before the meeting at Barn'rds, 2037 N Woodlawn, at 5:30 p.m.*

**March 20**

*Family Night Hike and Campfire at Chaplin Nature Center, 7:30 - 9 p.m. Reservations needed! See page 4.*

**April 4**

*Spring Cleanup at Chaplin Nature Center, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. See page 4.*

**April 11**

*Oak Park Cleanup, 9 a.m. Help us get this premier birding spot ready for those spring migrants. Bring gloves and meet by the pond at the north end of the park. Leader: Patty Marlett, 942-2164, [pmarlett@mac.com](mailto:pmarlett@mac.com)*

## March Meeting

Mike Umscheid is a senior meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Dodge City, KS. Born and raised in Kansas City, Mike moved to Dodge City in 2002 to pursue his career in meteorology upon graduating the University of Kansas with a bachelor degree in Atmospheric Science.

Mike was directly involved in the Greensburg tornado disaster in May 2007 when he and his colleagues issued critical life-saving warnings prior to the town being destroyed. Mike's interests outside of work include storm chasing and photography, wildlife and landscape photography -- traveling many miles a year to seek the perfect shots of storms and birds, in particular. Mike's work can be seen at his website, <http://www.mikeumscheidphotography.com>.

His program is titled "Weather Patterns and Weather Surveillance Radar Basics for Birders." Birders can use weather forecasts to their advantage to anticipate

when good birding opportunities may come up during spring and fall migration. Weather surveillance radar can also aid birders in helping time when a large

concentration of songbirds may be on the move toward Kansas (and if a weather pattern may be conducive to local fall-outs). Since songbird migration occurs at night, a long loop of weather radar images very early in the morning before a birding trip may help in anticipating how productive a birding outing may be.

Numerous internet sources for weather information will be shared along with basic interpretation of current weather maps, numerical weather prediction charts, as well as weather radar.



The program will take place on Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

You can also join us for dinner before the program at Barn'rds, 2037 N. Woodlawn, at 5:30 p.m.

# Help Us Earn Money!!



Wichita Audubon has been accepted into Dillons Community Rewards Program!

Wichita Audubon Society will get credit for every purchase\* its members make using their

registered Plus card. The more YOU shop with Dillons, the more opportunity Wichita Audubon and Chaplin Nature Center will earn.

Go to <https://www.dillons.com/communityrewards>

Sign In or Create an Account to Enroll

Click on "Enroll Now"

Enter the 5-digit NPO 76181

Select Wichita Audubon and click on "Enroll"

\*Specific purchases that cannot be included are: alcohol, tobacco, fuel, Pharmacy purchases with gov't assistance (i.e. Medicare, Medicaid, Tricare), postage, bottle deposits, lottery, Western Union, other customer services, promotional tickets, sales tax, banner gift cards, reloadable gift card products (i.e. Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Green Dot).

## Amazon Smile

You can also help earn money for Wichita Audubon when you make purchases from Amazon. Amazon Smile is a program that donates 0.5% of each purchase to the charity of your choice. When you are ready to shop, go to <http://smile.amazon.com>, choose Wichita Audubon Society as your charity, then shop!

### 2014-2015 WAS Officers

President	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	<a href="mailto:carol.cumberland@swbell.net">carol.cumberland@swbell.net</a>
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#### Committee Chairs

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

Send address changes to Tom Ewert, 1021 N. Lakewind, Wichita, KS 67212, [trewert@yahoo.com](mailto:trewert@yahoo.com)

# Volunteers Needed

In Spring 2015, Exploration Place is hosting an exhibit called Wildlife Rescue. In conjunction with this exhibit they would like our help in providing some urban nature activities during school spring break. We will have binoculars and a spotting scope so we can show birds along the river outside the windows, plus a table with a bird quiz to challenge the kids. This will take place the week of March 16 - 20, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. each day.

We could use any and all help. And don't feel like you have to be an expert to assist - it's not hard!

Contact Carol Cumberland, 685-4867, [carol.cumberland@swbell.net](mailto:carol.cumberland@swbell.net)



## Online Options

Don't forget that you can now donate and renew your membership online at [www.wichitaudubon.org](http://www.wichitaudubon.org). In the last few weeks you should have received a letter asking for your support for Chaplin Nature Center and our nature education programs. We really need your help - so please be generous, and save time and postage by donating online!



# Chaplin Nature Center Receives Grant

The V. J. Wilkins Foundation of Arkansas City has given \$21,323.59 for the purchase of a new tractor for Chaplin Nature Center. This equipment is going to be a tremendous help to Shawn, our naturalist. Previously trails were mowed with a mower purchased in 1997. It is on its last legs, and replacement is most welcome. The tractor will be useful for many more tasks than just mowing, and will be a big help in keeping the property in shape for our visitors and the many school children who come for nature education programs.



## Silent Auction in May

At the May meeting on May 19, we are having a silent auction as a fundraiser for Chaplin Nature Center. We would appreciate donations of bird and birding related items: books, art, gear. If you have anything to contribute please contact Carol Cumberland, 685-4867, [carol.cumberland@swbell.net](mailto:carol.cumberland@swbell.net) (for east side donations) or Patty Marlett, 942-2164, [pmarlett@mac.com](mailto:pmarlett@mac.com) (for west side donations.)



Does this mean birds have personal space issues?



The January field trip to the Red Hills was cold and rainy. We saw some good birds, but they were few and far between! Best bird was a Ladder-back Woodpecker coming to a feeder. Thanks to Pete Janzen for a good day despite the challenges!



## Chaplin Nature Center Programs

### *Friday, March 20, 7:30 - 9 p.m. Family Night Hike and Campfire*

Take a twilight hike down to the sandy banks of the Arkansas River. Once at the river we will start our campfire the old fashion way with flint and steel, tell some nature stories, roast marshmallows, and do a few activities around the campfire. On the way back we will hike in the dark flashlights. Space is limited, so call to make reservations.

### *Saturday, April 4, 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. Spring Cleanup*

With Earth Day right around the corner why not get an early start and volunteer at the Chaplin Nature Center? The center needs your help with a variety of outdoor projects to help get the trails and facility in tip-top shape for school programs and visitors. Be sure to wear old clothes and bring a pair of work gloves. Call for more information.



For more information about any Chaplin Nature Center programs call Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, or e-mail [cnc@wichitaudubon.org](mailto: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.

