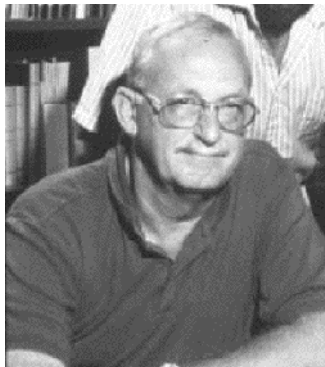


Wichita Audubon

Volume 40 No. 8 May 2006



MAY MEETING



Our own Max Thompson is going to take us on a journey half way around the world to Bhutan, a tiny country nestled between India and China. It's just about as far from Kansas as you can get. Dr. Thompson is an ornithologist, teacher, writer, and also an orchid grower. He will show us a lot of fascinating things about Bhutan.

The program will be May 16, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center, 29th Street and Woodlawn. You can join Max for dinner at Jason's Deli in Bradley Fair, 21st St. and Rock Road, at 5:45 p.m.

CHAPLIN NATURE CENTER RECEIVES GRANT

As part of the National Audubon Society's Collaborative Funding project, Wichita Audubon has received an additional \$964. The funds will be used to purchase a microscope and flexcam for use in educational programs at Chaplin Nature Center. The flexcam is a television camera that can be attached to the eyepiece of the microscope to project the image on a television screen so a large group can view it. This equipment will be a great enhancement to Shawn's already great programs.

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Twilight Dinner

June 17, Saturday, 5 p.m. - ?

Join us at Chaplin Nature Center for a beach party, barbecue, scavenger hunt, birdwatching and lots of fun. Kids can be paleontologists and dig for bones in the sand. We'll do some seining in the river and see what kind of fish we can find. After dinner we will have a program by Patty Marlett, who is a naturalist at the Great Plains Nature Center, featuring live snakes (all harmless and used to being handled.) Almost everyone fears snakes, but they are fascinating creatures. Learning more about them is one way to get over the fear. Later, we'll have an owl prowl and call up some owls. *Continued on page 3.*

COMING EVENTS

May 6

Ark River Cleanups. See page 4.

May 13

Warbler Walk in Chisholm Creek Park. See page 4

May 13

Prairie Wetlands Conservation Project (Vulcan Chemical) field trip. See page 4.

May 16

Regular program, "Birding Bhutan," by Max Thompson, 7:30 p.m. Great Plains Nature Center

May 21

Quivira/Cheyenne Bottoms field trip. Meet at the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge headquarters at 8 a.m. Leader: Jay Newton, 316-322-9090, jmnewton@yahoo.com

June 3

Chaplin Nature Center field trip. Meet at the CNC visitor's center at 7 a.m. Leader: Shawn Silliman, 620-442-4133.

June 17

Twilight Dinner at Chaplin Nature Center, 5 p.m. - ?

June 27

Butterfly ID workshop. 7 p.m. Great Plains Nature Center - see page 3 for more information

July 15

Butterfly count at Chaplin Nature Center. See page 3

July 18

Annual picnic, 6 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. See page 2



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.

ANNUAL PICNIC

Everyone is invited, including family and friends, for our annual picnic. Last year we had an indoor, air conditioned picnic and it was a big success, so we decided to repeat that strategy this year. We'll meet on Tuesday, July 18, at 6:00 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. Bring a covered dish or dessert to share and your own service. We will provide iced tea, or you can bring your own beverage.

After dinner we will watch the movie "*March of the Penguins*" in the auditorium, and forget about how hot it is outside. It's a great movie, full of drama as well

as facts about the Emperor penguins of Antarctica. Bring the whole family for good food and good times.



CNC WORK DAY

Twenty people volunteered for the Chaplin Nature Center Spring Clean up on April 1. Volunteers worked on sprucing up the trails and Visitor's Center for the upcoming year. The day was a success thanks to these volunteers: Cowley County Community College students Stacey DeBousse, Angel Perryman, Jeff Wright, Brady Modellmeg, Girl Scout Troop 652, Eddie and Savilla Stegall, Dwight Shoup and Rex Herndon.



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email any officer: was@wichitaadubon.org

Send address changes to Sister Patricia Stanley, 6739 Perryton, Wichita, KS 67226
pstanley@csjwichita.org

NOMINATIONS

The nominating committee will present the following slate for election at our annual meeting in May:

Director (1 year term): Dan Kilby

Director (3 year term): Carol Cumberland

Director (3 year term): Duane DeLong

The nominating committee of Carol Cumberland, Sister Patricia Stanley, and Harry Gregory are still searching for someone to serve as Vice-President. Please let them know if you have suggestions or are willing to serve.

Butterfly count

July isn't a great month for watching birds, but it is great for watching butterflies. We're going to hold a Butterfly Count at Chaplin Nature Center on Saturday, July 15.

And to help us prepare for it, Jim Mason, a naturalist at the Great Plains Nature Center, is going to give us a workshop on butterfly identification. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, June 27, 7 p.m., at the Great Plains Nature Center. Bring close focus binoculars if you have them. For more information about the workshop call Patty Marlett or Jim Mason at GPNC, 316-683-5499.

The count will be conducted just like a Christmas Bird Count, identifying species and counting the number of individuals seen in a circle fifteen miles across. We will use the same circle that we use for the Arkansas City Christmas Bird Count. Results will be reported to the North American Butterfly Association.

Meet on July 15, 8:30 a.m. at the Chaplin Nature Center Visitor's Center for the count. People living in Arkansas City can also help by counting the butterflies they see in their gardens. For instructions on garden counting, or more information about the butterfly count, call Shawn Silliman, 620-442-4133 or cnc@wichitaudubon.org.

You are welcome to participate even if you can only spend part of the day with us, so please join us and enjoy other kinds of flying creatures.

TWILIGHT DINNER, CONTINUED

As always, donors who gave more than \$100 in the last year will be invited to attend free. The meal is \$6.50 for adults, \$3.25 for children 12 and under.

Festivities begin with a social hour at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m., then the program and activities until dark.

Transportation will be provided to get you to the activities, so don't worry about long hikes. Also, if the weather is too hot or wet or windy we will move from the sandbar to a more comfortable location.

You can make reservations by calling Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, cnc@wichitaudubon.org, or by sending in the form below. Please make your reservations by June 9.



TWILIGHT DINNER RESERVATION JUNE 17

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Fee enclosed for

of adults _____ (\$6.50 each)

of children _____ (\$3.25 each)

Make checks payable to Wichita Audubon Society and mail to P.O. Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201

 *Wichita Audubon Society*
P.O. Box 47607
Wichita, KS 67201

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WARBLER WALK

On May 13 we will have our annual Warbler Walk in Chisholm Creek Park. Meet at 7 a.m. in the parking lot of the Great Plains Nature Center. At 1 p.m. we will reassemble at the Vulcan Chemicals parking lot on the east side of S Ridge Rd (south of 55th St S) for a tour of the Prairie Wetlands Conservation Project. We will carpool in from the parking lot, so be on time or the gate will be locked.

Leader for the warbler walk is Kevin Groeneweg, 687-4268
kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net;
leader for the afternoon is Bill Beard, 722-3081, w2bnn@cox.net.

BIRDATHON

Birdathon is a fund-raising activity that is also a lot of fun. It is open to any member that likes to bird and wants to help. A Birdathon team solicits pledges from friends, neighbors and coworkers for the number of bird species they can find in a 24 hour period. We would really like to have your help. To join a team talk to Carol Cumberland, Patty Marlett, Kevin Groeneweg or Shawn Silliman. If you can't join a team, consider soliciting pledges for one of the teams, or contribute yourself. Any and all assistance is appreciated.

RIVER CLEANUP

You can help get both of the Arkansas Rivers cleaned up and in shape for Wichita's annual River Festival. On Saturday, May 6, the Arkansas River Coalition is cleaning up the Big Arkansas River. Meet at Exploration Place at 9 a.m. The event will last until noon. For more information call 337-9264.

On the same day, the North Riverside Neighborhood Association is holding a cleanup of the Little Arkansas. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Minisa Park Building. The Riverside Cafe will offer a free lunch to participants (depending on how many - at most the lunch will be half price.)

For both events wear long sleeved shirts, long pants, sturdy shoes and gloves. Bring rakes, saws and/or shovels.