

Wichita Audubon



Volume 46 No. 7 May 2012

MAY MEETING



Our May program will be “The Birds of Ecuador,” presented by Bob Gress. Ecuador straddles the equator and is bordered by Colombia on the north and Peru on the east and south. Ecuador is about twenty five percent larger than the state of Kansas yet this small South American country supports over twice the number of bird species found in the United States and Canada combined. In the fall of 2010 Bob Gress, along with BirdsInFocus partners Judd Patterson and David Seibel, spent two

weeks photographing birds in the High Andes of central Ecuador. This presentation features intimate looks of amazing birdlife, wildlife and stunning landscapes. You will not forget the spectacular colors of nearly 30 species of hummingbirds. This program is for all those who know the value of wild places and wild things! Be sure to check out Bob’s, David’s and Judd’s bird images at: www.BirdsInFocus.com

Bob Gress is director of the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita. He is a graduate from Emporia State University with an M.S. in Environmental Biology. Bob enjoys traveling and photographing wildlife in wild places across the continent. Over 3,800 of his wildlife photos have been published and are seen in a wide variety of magazines and in more than forty books, including Birds of Kansas, The Guide to Kansas Birds and Birding Hot Spots, Faces of the Great Plains, Kansas Wildlife, Watching Kansas Wildlife, and The Smithsonian Book of North American Mammals.

Join us on Tuesday, May 15, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. We will also have dinner with Bob at Ryan’s, 3323 N. Rock Road, at 6 p.m.

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

May 12, Saturday, 10 a.m. - Noon

Butterfly Walk

Check out the butterflies that make Chaplin Nature Center their home. Swallowtails, hairstreaks, blues, crescents, emperors and skippers will be in our top ten list. A pair of close-focus binoculars will help you get a closer look at these creatures.

COMING EVENTS

May 12

Warbler Walk in Oak Park field trip. Expect a long list of migratory birds, including warblers. Meet by the north pond at 8 a.m.

Leader: Paul Griffin, 263-1251, pgriffin1@cox.net

May 12

Wild Derby Tour
Looking for Painted Bunting, Summer Tanager and more. Meet at the Crane Park picnic shelter at noon.

Leader: Jeff Calhoun, 737-1307, jeffcalhoun11@gmail.com

May 12

Butterfly Walk at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 a.m. - noon

Leader: Shawn Silliman, cnc@wichitaudubon.org, 620-442-4133

May 15

Regular program, “Birds of Ecuador,” by Bob Gress, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

May 19

Quivira NWR and Cheyenne Bottoms field trip. Meet at 8 a.m. at Quivira headquarters. Bring a lunch and enjoy our annual spring trip to these renowned wetlands. We always see interesting birds!

Leader: Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com



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.

SLATE OF OFFICERS

The nominating committee this year was composed of Sandra Tholen, Curt VanBoening and Patty Marlett. They have presented the following slate:

Vice-president (one year term): Carol Cumberland

Secretary (one year term): Dennice Craig

Treasurer (one year term): Sharon Dilks

Board of Directors (three year term): Jeff Calhoun and Tom Ewert

Officers are elected at the May meeting, and their term of office begins July 1. Jay Newton will continue the second year of his two-year term as president.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

If you haven't yet responded to our spring appeal, we could use your help! Chaplin Nature Center and all the important educational programs that it provides are all supported by donations from people like you. The current economic climate has made grants very hard to come by, so more than ever we depend on the generosity of our members.

Help keep Chaplin Nature Center healthy and our efforts to reach the next generation on track! If you've lost the envelope, you can send donations to WAS, PO Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201.

Thanks!

2011-2012 WAS Officers

President	Jay Newton	733-2486	jmnewtonus@yahoo.com
Vice-president	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Secretary	Dennice Craig	788-0320	mdcraigster@gmail.com
Treasurer	Sharon Dilks	722-6927	johndilks@aol.com
Directors	Jeff Calhoun	737-1307	jeffcalhoun11@gmail.com
	Bob Gress	838-4130	bobgress@cox.net
	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
	Mike Heaney	733-6458	jeager@southwind.net
	Larry Londagin	729-9984	llondagin@cox.net
	Curt VanBoening	644-1986	curtvb55@yahoo.com
Committee Chairs			
CNC	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Conservation	Curt VanBoening	644-1986	curtvb55@yahoo.com
Development	Mike Heaney	733-6458	jeager@southwind.net
Field Trips	Jeff Calhoun	737-1307	jeffcalhoun11@gmail.com
Finance	Duane DeLong	684-7456	duane.delong669@gmail.com
Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	687-4268	lgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Membership	Sister Patricia Stanley	613-7059	pstanley@csjoseph.org
Newsletter	Patty Marlett	942-2164	pmarlett@mac.com
Programs	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaaudubon.org

WWW.WICHITAAUDUBON.ORG

E-mail any officer: was@wichitaaudubon.org

Send address changes to Sister Patricia Stanley, 3700 E Lincoln Apt 123, Wichita, KS 67218, pstanley@csjoseph.org

THANK YOU

Thanks to the following people who helped pick up trash in Oak Park for our annual cleanup on March 17. We donated 10 hours and picked up 11 bags of trash. It was a nice green way to spend St. Patrick's Day!

Belinda Tomasi

Eddie Stegall

Pete Janzen

Bev Dugay

John & Sharon Dilks

Sheryl the Butterfly Lady

Patty Marlett

BILLIONS OF BIRDS WINGING THEIR WAY NORTH

Audubon Offers Tips on How You Can Help Birds

Each spring from March to June, birds of every kind – songbirds, raptors, and shorebirds – fly from their winter homes in the south to their summer breeding grounds in places as far north as the Arctic. Along the way they encounter many perils including bright lights and tall buildings, cats and toxic lawns.

Fortunately, people can help ensure a safer journey for migrating birds. Backyards and parks, often key stopover points for many species, can become bird-friendly rest stops with a few simple steps. Audubon urges people to take the following actions this spring:

- 1) Reduce or eliminate pesticide and herbicide use. Using fewer chemicals in your yard and home helps keep wildlife, pets and people healthy.
- 2) Plant native plants. Natives provide birds with food in the form of fruit and seeds, and are also home to tasty invertebrates like bugs and spiders.
- 3) Keep cats inside. Keeping cats indoors ensures that birds outdoors stay safe and cats benefit too; indoor cats live much longer than cats that go outside.
- 4) Make your windows visible to birds to prevent collisions. Put up screens, close drapes and blinds when you leave the house, or stick multiple decals on the glass (decals need to be no more than two to four inches apart to be effective).
- 5) Let your yard get a little messy! Leave snags for nesting places and stack downed tree limbs to create a brush pile, which is a great source of cover for birds during bad weather.
- 6) Close your blinds at night and turn off lights you aren't using. Some birds use constellations to guide them on their annual migrations, and bright lights can disrupt them.
- 7) Create or protect water sources in your yard--birds need water to drink and bathe in, just like we do. Be sure to change the water two to three times per week when mosquitoes are breeding.
- 8) Use lots of layers, including understory, ground cover, shrubs, and trees. Multiple levels of plants let birds use different layers for different purposes, such as nesting, feeding, and singing.
- 9) Extend a safety net for birds beyond your backyard. Contact your local Audubon Chapter to learn about opportunities to create healthy habitat in parks, beaches and other places in your community.
- 10) Take the Audubon At Home Healthy Yard Pledge! When you take the Pledge, you commit to conserving water, planting native species, removing invasive plants, reducing pesticide use, protecting water quality, and keeping birds safe in your yard.

Find details on all the above tips at <http://athome.audubon.org/ten-ways-make-difference-migrating-birds>

Now in its second century, Audubon connects people with birds, nature and the environment that supports us all. Our network of community-based nature centers, chapters, scientific, education, and advocacy programs engages millions of people from all walks of life in conservation action to protect and restore the natural world. Visit Audubon online at www.audubon.org.

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Wichita, Kansas
Permit No. 921

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Printed on recycled paper

LOOKING FOR A NEW VACATION LOCATION?
Consider visiting the Hutton Niobrara Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary, owned by Audubon of Kansas.

Located near Bassett, Nebraska, it is a 5,000 acre sanctuary of prairie and diverse wildlife habitat along the scenic Niobrara River.

It has two self-catering accommodations:

The Hutton House: spacious and beautiful, with modern comfort and amenities; four bedrooms with prairie views.

The Lazy Easy Ranch House: comfortable simplicity, relaxed and peaceful, shady trees, four bedrooms.

Enjoy wildlife and birding experiences, photography and wildlife viewing blinds, hiking and equestrian trails and outdoor opportunities.



Learn more at www.niobrarasanctuary.org