

Audubon

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May/June 2016

May 14

Second Saturday bird walk in Chisholm Creek Park - this month part of the Great Plains Nature Center celebration of International Migratory Bird Day. Meet in the parking lot at 8 a.m. Leader: Pete Janzen, 519-1970, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

May 14

Warbler Walk at Oak Park. Meet at the pond at the north end of the park at 9 a.m. to search for the highly sought after spring migrants. Leader: Paul Griffin, 263-1251, pgriffin1@cox.net

**May 17**

Regular meeting, "A History of Kansas Herpetology," by Travis Taggart, Tuesday, May 17, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. Join us for dinner before the meeting at Barn'rds, 2037 N Woodlawn, 5:30 p.m.

**June 3 & 4**

Twilight Kayak Float at Chaplin Nature Center, 7 - 9:30 p.m. See page 4.



May Meeting

Our May program will be "A History of Kansas Herpetology," presented by Travis Taggart. The program will be a chronological account of our collective understanding of the Kansas Herpetofauna through recorded history. The talk will feature the people, places, and species that have helped to make Kansas the most herpetologically studied and best understood 82,000 square miles on the planet.

Travis is the president and executive director of the Center for North American Herpetology and Curator of Herpetology for the Sternberg Museum of Natural History in Hayes. He also works as a .NET programmer for Fort Hayes State University.

The program will take place on Tuesday, May 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.



Travis Taggart

Birders of All Skill Levels Needed

Our laboratory at Vanderbilt University is looking for birders of all levels of experience to participate in a project examining how perception and memory for birds differs between beginners and experts. We really do mean all levels of experience, from the true beginner to the expert with decades of study, and everything in-between.

These experiments are online on the web. They measure your ability to remember and identify birds and sometimes other animals or objects. Many experiments are fairly short. They can be done on any computer, wherever and whenever you decide to do them.

One of our current experiments is a bird identification test. true beginner to the expert with decades of study, and everything in-between. **Go online and test your birding skills.**

This is the web site for our experiments: <http://expertise.psy.vanderbilt.edu>

Once you register your own login id and password on the site, and complete a short survey of your birding expertise, you will be able to participate in any experiments that are available. We expect to add new experiments over time. Some future experiments may include modest compensation.

If you have questions, please contact Professor Thomas Palmeri (thomas.j.palmeri@vanderbilt.edu) at Vanderbilt University.

Thomas Palmeri, Ph.D, professor of Psychology
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37240
<http://catlab.psy.vanderbilt.edu>

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www.wichitaaudubon.org

Send address changes to Tom Ewert, 1021 N. Lakewind, Wichita, KS 67212, trewert@yahoo.com

Birdathon

It's that time of year again for our annual Birdathon. This fund-raiser is a very important source of funding for Chaplin Nature Center. Just contact a team member and tell them you would like to help. Pledges can be made based on the number of species the team finds or can be a fixed amount.

For the CNC team contact Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, cnc@wichitaaudubon.org, or Kevin Groeneweg, kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net.

For the Painted Bunting team contact Carol Cumberland, 685-4867, carol.cumberland@swbell.net or Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com.

Our third team, Tom Ewert, Rod Wedel and Gregg Friesen, will be doing a Big Day entirely in Harvey County. Contact Tom at trewert@yahoo.com, 670-3140 or Gregg at friesen_fenton@yahoo.com 316-217-3301 to support them.

All teams are planning on early May for their marathon bird search.

May Meeting

Our May meeting is also the annual meeting for our corporation and includes the election of officers for the next year. The nominating committee of Catherine Lewis, Carol Cumberland and Kevin Groeneweg have presented the following slate of officers:

Vice-president: Jim Marlett

Treasurer: Kevin Groeneweg

Secretary: Anne Woods

Board of directors (3 year term): Bill Langley and Atcha Nolan

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. The new officers will begin their term of office in July.

Dillon's Community Rewards Really Help!

Thanks to the twenty-five people who have signed up to give Wichita Audubon benefits from their Dillon's Plus cards, we have received \$564.38 for the first quarter of this year. That really helps!

If you haven't signed up yet, it is very easy and costs you nothing. Wichita Audubon Society will get credit for every purchase* its members make using their registered Plus card. The more YOU shop with Dillon's, the more 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).*

E-mails needed

We have a digital version of our newsletter available. If you would like to save some trees and get your news by email, let us know. Email us at newsletter@wichitaaudubon.org

Thanks to Our Volunteers



Chaplin Nature Center Clean-up

A big thank you to twenty-seven volunteers who helped with all kinds of chores at CNC on April 2. The helpers included Boy Scout Troop #318 from Winfield and students from Cowley County Community College.



Oak Park Invasive Plant Removal

Ten people worked really hard tearing out our invasive Asian Honeysuckle on April 9: Tom Ewert, Pete Janzen, Bev DuGay, Harry Gregory, Art Weigand, Cathy Catt, Jeffree Coba, Kevin Groeneweg, Curt VanBoening, Patty Marlett. Thank you!

Chaplin Nature Center Programs

Friday, June 3 and Saturday, June 4, 7 - 9:30 p.m. Twilight Kayak Float

Enjoy a relaxing float down the Arkansas River as the sun sets on the water. The center will provide life jackets, kayaks and paddles. You should bring a complete change of clothes, including shoes, small flashlight and be prepared to get wet and muddy. To make a reservation, call the center at 620-442-4133. Cost is \$20 per person. All proceeds help support Chaplin Nature Center.



For more information about any Chaplin Nature Center programs call Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, or e-mail cnc@wichitaaudubon.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.

