

Audubon

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November/December 2014

November 7

*Moon Hike at Chaplin Nature Center,
7:30 - 9 p.m.*

Page 4**November 8**

*Cranes and Geese field trip to
QNWR*

Page 2**November 18**

*Regular meeting, "Wild Turkeys in
Kansas," by Lowell Wilder. Tuesday,
November 18, 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.*

**November 22**

*Butler County Hotspots field trip.
Saturday, November 22, 8 a.m.
Meet in the park off Ohio St on the
east side of Augusta City Lake for a
half-day exploring the Augusta area.
Dress for the weather and expect
moderate hiking. Leader: Atcha
Nolan, 323-4921, qanolan@cox.net*

November Meeting

Our November program features a video by our own Lowell Wilder titled "Wild Turkeys in Kansas." There were no documented wild turkeys in Kansas from 1900 to 1959; now there are more than 350,000. This film shows the social and physical characteristics of wild turkeys that helped the state wildlife planners to direct the dramatic return of wild turkeys to every county in Kansas. Their social structures and seasonal interactions are fascinating.

Lowell, a longtime member of WAS, left his medical practice in 1998 to concentrate on filming wildlife and producing films for not-for-profit organizations. This is his ninth film for Wichita Audubon. Join us for fun as we have a close encounter with wild turkeys in Butler County. The program will take place on Tuesday, October 21, 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.



Christmas Bird Counts

Christmas bird counts are all day efforts to census all birds within a 15-mile diameter circle. The results are reported to the National Audubon Society and the Kansas Ornithological Society. You are welcome to help with any count - contact the compiler so they know to expect you. For more Kansas counts, check out the KOS website at www.ksbirds.org

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DEC. 14, SUNDAY, 7:30 a.m. WINFIELD

Meet at the Beech Science Center, Southwestern College at 7:30 a.m. Compiler: Max Thompson, 620-221-1856, maxt@cox.net

DEC. 16, TUESDAY, 8 a.m. QUIVIRA NWR

Meet at the refuge headquarters at 8 a.m. Compiler: Mike Rader, 785-658-2595, mike_rader@hotmail.com

DEC. 17, WEDNESDAY, 8 a.m. SLATE CREEK

Meet at the Slate Valley Baptist Church, 7 miles south of Oxford on the main road. Compiler: Gene Young, 620-660-0547, youngg6264@yahoo.com

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Christmas Bird Counts, continued

DECEMBER 20, SATURDAY, 7:30 a.m. WICHITA

Meet at the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot. Compilation: 5:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. Chili and beverages will be provided. Compiler: Kevin Groeneweg, 706-9116, kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net

DECEMBER 20, SATURDAY, 6:30 A.M. NEWTON/HALSTEAD

Meet at the Kaufman Museum in North Newton. Compilation 5:30 at the museum. Bring a sack lunch. Compiler: Lorna Harder, 620-367-8479, lornah@hesston.edu

DECEMBER 21, SUNDAY, 8 a.m. ARKANSAS CITY

Meet at Newman Park on Hwy 77, just north of the Arkansas River, at 8 a.m. Compiler: Gene Young, 620-660-0547, youngg6264@yahoo.com

DECEMBER 27, SATURDAY, 7:30 a.m. EL DORADO

Meet at the El Dorado McDonald's on west Central. Notify the compiler if you plan to attend. Compiler: Atcha Nolan, 323-4921, qanolan@cox.net

DECEMBER 27, SATURDAY, 8 a.m. MARION

Meet at Wendy's in Hillsboro at 8 a.m. Compiler: Tom Ewert, 670-3140, trewert@yahoo.com

DECEMBER 28, SUNDAY, 7:30 a.m. DERBY/BELLE PLAINE

Meet at the Calhoun home in Derby. Contact Jeff for directions. Compiler: Jeff Calhoun, 737-1307, jeffcalhoun11@gmail.com

JANUARY 3, SATURDAY, 7:30 a.m. RED HILLS

Depart at 7:30 from the Wright Truck Stop on U.S. 160 in Medicine Lodge. Compiler: Pete Janzen, 519-1970, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

2014-2015 WAS Officers

President	Carol Cumberland	685-4867	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Vice-president	Pete Janzen	519-1979	pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net
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	Travis Ross	706-7813	rosstravis@yahoo.com

Committee Chairs

AOK Rep	Tom Ewert	670-3140	trewert@yahoo.com
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Finance	Duane DeLong	684-7456	duane.delong669@gmail.com
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Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaaudubon.org

www.wichitaaudubon.org

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

Extended Field Trip

The 2015 extended field trip will be to Colorado, June 21 - 27. This relatively slow paced trip will visit the Pawnee National Grasslands and Rocky Mountain National Park in addition to other locations for those Colorado specialties. Get your name on the list now to reserve a space and keep up on the plans. You can sign up at meetings, or contact the leader: Jeff Calhoun, 737-1307, jeffcalhoun11@gmail.com

Thank You

Thanks to the following volunteers who devoted their time on a beautiful cool Saturday to cleaning up trash in Chisholm Creek Park:

Bev DuGay
Kristina, Hasan, & Zahir Everingham
Tom Ewert
Pete Janzen
Patty Marlett
and Sandra Tholen, who was the organizer for this event.

Online Options

Don't forget that you can now donate and renew your membership online at www.wichitaaudubon.org. In a few you weeks you will be receiving 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!



Southern California Field Trip

Twenty of us spent nine days in sunny Southern California - September 20-28 - for a birding marathon that took us from the ocean to the desert to the mountain tops.

San Diego



We all flew or took the train to San Diego and stayed at the Dolphin motel, right across the street from the harbor. We visited the Tijuana river valley and Border Fields State Park near the Mexican Border for California Gnatcatchers, White-tailed Kites, Wrentits, and Tri-colored Blackbirds. At the Tecolote Nature Center we found Scaly-breasted Munia (also known as Nutmeg Mannikens), an introduced species that has become established. At Mission Trails Regional Park we saw lots of hummingbirds, including Costa's, Anna's and Allen's.

The Pacific



We took an all-day pelagic trip from Point Loma Sportfishing in San Diego that took us out 30 miles into the Pacific. No real zooties were seen, but everyone got lifers like Black-vented Shearwater, Black Storm-Petrel, Cassin's Auklet, Caveri's Murrelet. And we got good looks at a Brown Booby.

We went to Ventura and took the ferry - a two hour ride - across the sea to Santa Cruz Island to find the unique Island Scrub Jay. There were also lots of good birds on the Ventura beaches like Black Oystercatcher, Black Turnstone and Surfbird.

The Desert



Traveling to and from the Salton Sea we passed through desert. We drove Kitchen Creek Road through the Cleveland National Forest, hiked a long way on a old road and ended up at Cibbets Flat Campground. There was a little bridge with a pool that attracted lots birds: Oak Titmouse, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Verdin, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Townsend Warbler. After leaving the Salton Sea we stopped at Anzo Borrego State Park looking for LeConte's Thrashers, who like sandy, barren places. We discovered vans do not like sand. We escaped unscathed, and found a California Thrasher..

Salton Sea



We stayed in Brawley and explored the interesting landscape around the Salton Sea. We spent considerable time prowling a wetland looking for the Ridgway's Rail, recently split from the Clapper Rail. We got good looks at him, along with Sora and many Common Gallinule.

At Obsidian Butte we found the Yellow-footed Gull, along with many other species of gulls, herons, egrets and shorebirds. At the visitor's center for the national wildlife refuge there were Gambel's Quail. The temperature that day was over 100, so it felt like home.

The Mountains



From Ventura we ventured north to Mt. Pinos. On the way we stopped to find Yellow-billed Magpies and saw the entrance to Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch. At Mt. Pinos we found White-headed Woodpecker, which had been a goal for many of us.

The Old Bear B & B supplied us with two breakfasts and a dinner, along with good birds at their feeders including California Quail. We never found Mountain Quail despite considerable effort. We ended the trip with a total of 209 species.

Participants included Pete Janzen, Kevin Groeneweg, Gregg Friesen, Rod Wedel, Tom Ewert, Ernie Misk, Sharon Dilks, Dennice Craig, Doris Burnett, Sandra Tholen, Terry & Sam Mannell, Patty & Jim Marlett, Matt & Jennie Gearheart, Karl & Mary Herold, Dan Kilby, Sr., & Dan Kilby, Jr.

Chaplin Nature Center Programs

Friday, November 7, 7:30 - 9 p.m. Moon Hike

Take a hike down to the Arkansas River during the full moon. Instead of using flashlights the group will rely on the light of the moon to navigate the trails. This is a one and a half mile hike, so dress for the outdoors.



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.

