

Wichita Audubon

Volume 43 No. 3 October 2008



OCTOBER MEETING

The Nature Conservancy recently announced the opening of an office in Wichita. Janet Studnicka is the Senior Philanthropy Officer for the Kansas Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Janet will be the Wichita Audubon speaker at the our meeting on October 21, and will present a program called "Conservation By Design." She will discuss recent conservation successes in Kansas and will touch on the global approach and some recent successes in other states and countries. The Nature Conservancy is a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. Studnicka manages the Conservancy's Wichita office, which opened in October 2007. Previously, she was Associate State Director for the Conservancy's Oklahoma Chapter. With 16 years experience in fundraising and non-profit management, Studnicka's career with the Conservancy began nearly five years ago with the Texas Chapter. She was drawn to The Nature Conservancy because of its mission to protect nature and preserve life through a collaborative, science-driven approach. The program will be on Tuesday, October 21, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

You can join Janet for dinner before the program at Jason's Deli, in Bradley Fair at 21st and Rock Road, at 5:45 p.m.

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Clean Up from the Flood

Saturday, October 11, 9 a.m.

The heavy rains that hit Wichita September 12 resulted in record high water at Chaplin Nature Center. The water was lapping up the steps of the bluff staircase. Shawn needs some help cleaning up the trails. If you can rake, move branches or use a chain saw your assistance would be much appreciated.

Astronomy Program

Saturday, October 25, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Join the Kansas Astronomical Observers for a night under the stars. Several amateur astronomers will be on hand with their telescopes to share their interest in the night sky. Learn about astronomy, different types of telescopes or just relax and enjoy the evening. Bring your own telescope if you have one. Lawn chairs and blankets for sitting on the ground are also useful.

COMING EVENTS

October 11, 18, 25

Beginning Bird Walks in Chisholm Creek Park.
See page 2 for more information.

October 11

Trail clean up at Chaplin Nature Center, 9 a.m.

October 21

Regular meeting, "Conservation by Design," by Janet Studnicka, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center

October 25

Astronomy Program at Chaplin Nature Center, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

November 15

Wichita Area Mystery Trip.
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.

BEGINNING BIRD WALKS

If you are a backyard birdwatcher who would like to expand and learn some of the techniques and tips for finding and identifying birds, these walks are for you. We will stroll around Chisholm Creek Park, concentrating on the basics. Don't stay away if it rains - we can learn indoors at the Great Plains Nature Center. These will be held on three Saturdays - Oct. 11, 18, 25 - start at 8 a.m. and end by 11 a.m. Bring binoculars if you have them, or we can loan you a pair. We'll discuss optics and field guides as well as birds. Meet in the lobby of the Great Plains Nature Center.

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

WICHITA AREA MYSTERY TRIPS

This year we are continuing the popular mystery trips, which visit local birding locations within a 30 minute drive of Wichita. This gives flexibility to let us go after the latest sightings and make adjustments for weather. We're also meeting in a central location to allow for carpooling. The first of these trips will take place on Saturday, November 15. Meet at the King's-X Restaurant at 21st and Amidon, with departure at 7:30 a.m. The trip leader will be Pete Janzen, 832-1082, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net.

2008-2009 WAS Officers

President	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
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E-mail any officer: was@wichitaudubon.org

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

CALENDARS

The 2009 bird calendars are here, with excellent bird photos gracing each month. Proceeds go to support Chaplin Nature Center. They cost \$5 apiece. You can purchase them at meetings, or contact Patty Marlett, pmarlett@mac.com, 942-2164

CARPPOOLING

We want to urge carpooling for field trips this year, to conserve both gas and money. If you plan on driving for a field trip, please notify the trip leader, and let others know if you have room for riders through the KSBird listserv.

2009 EXTENDED FIELD TRIP

This year's longer field trip is going to the Rio Grande Valley in Texas. The "Valley" is always a hot spot for rarities and tropical species that don't occur anywhere else in the U.S. This year there is extra motivation to go, as construction of the border fence threatens to destroy some of the most popular birding spots. Pete Janzen and Kevin Groeneweg are planning the birding itinerary and will find all the birds for us. Patty Marlett will be handling accommodations and transportation. We are considering the possibility of renting vans for transportation. If you would be interested in sharing a van, please indicate that when you sign up. There will be a sign up sheet at meetings, so let us know if you are interested and we'll keep you up to date on plans.



The whole gang at the monument marking the three corners of Oklahoma, Colorado, and New Mexico. Kevin Groeneweg, John Dilks, Carol Cumberland, Jay Newton, Billie McDavitt, Sharon Dilks, Sandra Tholen, Rod Wedel, Max Miller, Tom McDavitt, Kay Miller, Patty Marlett, Pete Janzen, Bill Sutton, Cheryl Miller.

MORTON COUNTY FIELD TRIP

Fifteen people travelled to Elkhart in Southwest Kansas for a weekend of birding on September 13 & 14. We missed all the rain in Wichita and saw lots of good birds and wildflowers. A big thank you to Lawrence & Ruth Smith who were our hosts, and as helpful as they always are when we come to Elkhart.

Some of the best birds included a Magnolia Warbler, a Blackpoll, and a Northern Waterthrush in the Elkhart Cemetery and shelterbelt. Curve-billed Thrashers, Western Tanager, and Scaled Quail at an isolated farmstead in Stanton County, the dependable Lewis's Woodpeckers in Baca County, along with Lesser Goldfinches.



Chasing birds at Middle Springs in the Cimarron National Grasslands.



Enjoying the view from Point of Rocks.

BIRD SEED SALE

Help support Wichita Audubon and Chaplin Nature Center by buying your bird seed from us. We offer high quality seed, **delivered to your home** (within Wichita City limits.)

Please submit your order by **Thursday, November 13.**

The seed will be delivered on **Saturday, November 22**

25 lbs Black Oil Sunflower - \$15

25 lbs Audubon Mix - \$12

Order by phone, mail or E-mail. Call Carol Cumberland at 685-4867 or carol.cumberland@swbell.net Mail: Wichita Audubon Society, PO Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201

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Month/Year of expiration

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There are two ways of being a member of Wichita Audubon: by joining the National Audubon Society, or by joining or making a donation to the Wichita Audubon Society. IF YOU ARE A MEMBER of the NATIONAL Audubon Society, you receive Audubon magazine in the mail, as well as this newsletter. National will send you renewal notices when your membership is about to expire.

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER of the WICHITA Audubon Society ONLY, you do not receive Audubon Magazine. You should check the expiration date above. Use the form below to renew your membership, or go to www.wichitaaudubon.org and click on Membership. If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, check the appropriate box below.

Name: _____

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Yes, renew my membership in the Wichita Audubon Society at the following level:

☐ Individual - \$20 ☐ Family - \$25 ☐ Student (18 & under) - \$10

☐ Remove my name from your mailing list

Mail to: Wichita Audubon Society, P.O. Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201