

Wichita Audubon



Volume 46 No. 3 October 2011

OCTOBER MEETING



For our next meeting Roy Beckemeyer takes us on a fascinating exploration of the complex biodiversity of the Solomon Islands and New Guinea. Papua New Guinea was one of the last inhabited places on earth to be explored by Europeans. Its terrain is so rugged, its jungles so impenetrable, that even now it remains largely unknown by the West. As late as 1993, new tribes were still being discovered in this land of more than 700

languages and as many cultural and racial groups.

Wichita Audubon member Roy Beckemeyer is a retired Aeronautical Engineer with a deep and abiding interest in natural history. He studies the taxonomy and biology of dragonflies and other insects. He is on the editorial boards of *The Journal of the Kansas Entomological Society*, *Odonatologica* and *Notulae odonatologicae*, and is Co-editor of *The Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science*. Roy and his wife Pat are world travelers and avid birders.

Join us for a tour of these south Pacific Islands on Tuesday, October 18, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. We will also have dinner with Roy before the program at Ryan's, 3323 N Rock Road at 5:45 p.m.

CNC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

October 22, Saturday 7:30 - 9 p.m.

Astronomy

Join the Kansas Astronomical Observers for a tour of the night sky. You are welcome to bring your own telescopes or binoculars, or the members of KAO will be glad to share their equipment and help you see the sights. Lawn chairs or blankets to sit on will also be useful. The dark skies at Chaplin are perfect for viewing the stars.

COMING EVENTS

October 15

Chisholm Creek Park cleanup. Help clean up our adopted park. Meet at the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot. Bring gloves. Leader: Cheryl Miller, avian67226@gmail.com

October 18

Regular meeting, "Birds of the Solomon Islands and New Guinea," by Roy Beckemeyer, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center

October 22

Astronomy at Chaplin Nature Center, 7:30 - 9 p.m.

October 22

Marion County field trip. Meet at the Marion Reservoir Dam, 4 miles west of Marion on Hwy 56. Leaders: Jeff Calhoun, 737-1307, jeffcalhoun11@gmail.com and Tristan Weinbrenner, ksbirder.tw@gmail.com

November 5

Lake Afton, Cheney Reservoir and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge field trip. See page 2 for more information.



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.

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP REPORT

Ten of us went on a morning bird walk on September 10th. We met at the GPNC and walked Chisholm Creek Park, then a few of us went over to Maple Grove Cemetery. Birding was a little slow, but the weather was fantastic and we managed to turn up a few migrants. The water levels were pretty low in the park, making things easy for a Great Egret, Snowy Egret and Little Blue Heron. A brushy area farther along had an American Redstart and a couple of Nashville and Wilson's Warblers. A few vireos were seen, including a Blue-headed. An enjoyable walk, with 44 species to show for it.



by Kevin Groeneweg

NOVEMBER 5 FIELD TRIP

This is our annual field trip to see the spectacle of Sandhill Cranes at Quivira National Wildlife refuge. The day begins with visits to local lakes searching for waterfowl and concludes at Quivira to witness the cranes and geese returning to roost at sundown. Birders interested in a full day trip meet at the Lake Afton Observatory at 10 a.m., with a late lunch in Hutchinson after checking out Cheney Reservoir. If you are interested only in the afternoon session meet at Quivira headquarters at 3 p.m. Carpooling is encouraged. Contact the leader, Jeff Calhoun, for arrangements: 737-1307, jeffcalhoun11@gmail.com.

2012 EXTENDED FIELD TRIP

This year the extended field trip is another ambitious one - the Pacific Northwest. We plan to fly to Washington and rent vans. Planning is still in the very earliest stages, but we hope to include the Olympic peninsula, Puget Sound, the Cascades and an optional pelagic trip out of Westport. Kevin Groeneweg and Jeff Calhoun are planning the itinerary. Patty Marlett is planning logistics like lodging and van rental. Space will be limited, so reservations with a deposit will be required. You can sign up at a meeting, or by e-mail or phone to Patty: pmarlett@mac.com, 942-2164.

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	jecalhoun@wichita.edu
	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	776-0993	curtvb@earthlink.net
Committee Chairs			
CNC	Kevin Groeneweg	687-4268	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Development	Mike Heaney	733-6458	jeager@southwind.net
Field Trips	Jeff Calhoun	737-1307	jecalhoun@wichita.edu
Finance	Duane DeLong	684-7456	duane.delong669@gmail.com
Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	687-4268	lgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Membership	Sister Patricia Stanley	744-2192	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@wichitaudubon.org

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

CALENDARS

The 2012 Chaplin Nature Center calendars are ready, featuring a beautiful bird photograph for each month. They are still just \$5 each. They make excellent gifts, and help support the work of Wichita Audubon at the same time. They will be available at all meetings, or you can contact Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com. We will also deliver them to you as part of the birdseed sale (see below).



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 **Friday, September 30.**

The seed will be delivered on **Saturday, October 8**

25 lbs Black Oil Sunflower - \$16

25 lbs Songbird Delight Mix - \$13

25 lbs Safflower Seed - \$19

2012 Chaplin Nature Center calendar - \$5

Order by phone, mail or E-mail. Call Carol Cumberland at 685-4867 or carol.cumberland@swbell.net

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

UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY TO PROTECT THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

For the first time in the history of the Arctic Refuge, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) could recommend Wilderness protection for the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—the Refuge's biological heart that has also been in Big Oil's sights for decades. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is revising the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Refuge for the first time in 20 years. This two-year process, which started in 2010, will result in a 15-year management plan.

The USFWS recently released its draft CCP for public input. The draft plan contains six alternatives for long-term management, ranging from the continuation of current practices to the designation of three geographic areas (including the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain) for potential inclusion within the National Wilderness Preservation System, and the potential designation of four additional Wild and Scenic Rivers on the refuge.

If the final CCP recommends additional Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River designations, the recommendations would require approval by the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Secretary of the Interior, and the President. The President would then submit the recommendation to Congress, which alone has the authority to make final decisions on any proposed Wilderness or Wild and Scenic River designation.

Some places are too special to drill, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of them. For the past 50 years Audubon has remained committed to protecting this unparalleled habitat and the abundant wildlife that depends on it. We will need your help to ensure that a Wilderness recommendation for the Arctic Refuge's Coastal Plain is ultimately included in the final version of the CCP. Stay tuned for your opportunity to help ensure this untrammeled wilderness remains intact for future generations.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Printed on recycled paper

MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR MIGRATING BIRDS

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 in the spring, and then back south in the fall. 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:

- 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) Prevent window collisions. Make sure birds can see (and avoid) your windows by putting up screens, closing drapes and blinds when you leave the house, or stick multiple decals on the glass (decals need to be spaced closely together to be effective - no more than two to four inches apart).
- 5) Provide cover in your backyard. 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) Help birds stay on course. 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) Landscape for birds. 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.