

Audubon

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October 2018

October 13

Second Saturday Bird Walk in Chisholm Creek Park. Meet in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 8 a.m. Questions? Kevin Groeneweg, kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net, 706-9116

October 13

Chisholm Creek Park Cleanup, 9:45 a.m. Join us after the 2nd Saturday boardwalk to collect trash. Bring gloves, we'll provide bags, along with coffee and donuts. Leaders: Brian & Nohora Talarico, btalarico34@outlook.com

October 16

Monthly program, "History and Ecology of WSU's Biological Field Station," by Dexter Mardis, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. Join us for dinner with Dexter before the program at Panera Bread, 1605 N Rock Road, at 5:30 p.m.

October 19

Family Night Hike and Campfire at Chaplin Nature Center. 7 - 9 p.m.

Page 4**October 20**

El Dorado Lake Field Trip Meet at the McDonald's in El Dorado at 8 a.m. for a survey of the lake for gulls, waterfowl, sparrows and other fall migrants. Leader: Bill Langley, 889-5434, 78gmouse43@gmail.com



October Meeting

Join us on October 16 as Dexter Mardis presents "A Window to South-Central Kansas' Prairies: History and Ecology of WSU's Biological Field Station."

Dexter Mardis is the Manager of WSU's Biological Field Station. Starting with a donation of 172 acres, the WSU Field Station has served as an outdoor classroom and laboratory since 1984. Largely thanks to Dr. Donald "Doc" Distler, who passed away in 2017, the Field Station has grown into a network of four reserves that are spread across three counties, and encompasses 5,300 acres. Researchers and students from across the region have studied at the reserves, and some of the studies are sister-sites with projects across the globe. Dexter will take the audience on a perambulation that explores the history of Field Station, its current activities, and some future goals. He'll probably also show many photos of



Dexter Mardis

the plants (>600 species) and animals (>400 vertebrate species) found on the reserves.

Dexter has spent more than a decade romping through the wilds of Kansas (and the rest of the US) in an ever present drive to resurrect the once common place role of general naturalist that has all but disappeared from modern biology. He's led field courses to the panhandle of Florida, chased snowy owls across Kansas, and snorkeled in the Ozarks for crayfish that are longer than his especially large foot. Thoroughly intrigued by nature's cogs and wheels, he strives to restore and maintain ecosystems to be as natural as possible. Dexter espouses that in order to properly care for the land, you have to know about all of its inhabitants.

The presentation will be on Tuesday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can also join us for dinner with Dexter at Panera Bread, 1605 N Rock Rd, at 5:30 p.m.

Dillon's Community Rewards Really Help!

Thanks to the many people who have signed up to give Wichita Audubon benefits from their Dillon's Plus cards, we receive quarterly donations of several hundred dollars. 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 CC339

Select Wichita Audubon and click on "Enroll"

If you have questions about the process, you can call 1-866-221-4141



Check the Label!

Check the mailing label on this newsletter for your membership expiration date, and don't forget to renew! There are two ways you can become a member – if you join the National Audubon Society you automatically become a member of the local chapter, or you can join as a member of Wichita Audubon only.

To join Wichita Audubon only:

Individual membership – \$20

Family membership – \$25

Student (18 & under) – \$10

As a local member, all your dues support your local chapter. Make your check payable to the Wichita Audubon Society and mail to PO Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201. Don't forget that you can pay online - just go to www.wichitaudubon.org/Membership

2017-2018 WAS Officers

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www.wichitaudubon.org

Send address changes to Carol Cumberland, 1106 Gretchen, Wichita, KS 67206
carol.cumberland@swbell.net

Email Address Wanted

Don't forget that this newsletter is also available as an email. If you would like to save a tree let us know your address by emailing us: newsletter@wichitaudubon.org. Put anything in the subject line — just be sure to let us know the name or names associated with the email. If there are two or more of you in a household who would like to receive the newsletter just give us all the addresses. In addition to the newsletter we will send out occasional reminders of meetings and events, but you will never get more than two emails a month from us. And we will never give out your email to anyone else!

Cats!

The Animal Control Advisory Board is currently considering changes to the city ordinances concerning feral cats. The board of the Wichita Audubon Society is opposed to those changes. Our position is outlined below.

The Wichita Audubon Society is committed to providing nature education, promoting environmental conservation, and encouraging appreciation of the natural world. We promote our community's ability to enjoy the wildlife in general and birds in particular in our immediate area, the state and the country.

Response to:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 6.04.010 AND 6.04.025, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WICHITA, KANSAS, PERTAINING TO DEFINITIONS AND TRAPPING OF ABANDONED CATS.

We believe the current ordinance sections 6.04.010 and 6.04.025 as it deals with feral cats should remain in effect and that the suggested amending sections be rejected for several reasons. Domestic cats represent a non-native species and feral cats represent a real problem. Classifying feral cats (non-owned) as community cats removes any legal option that a citizen has to deal with such cats on their property. Furthermore, with the proposed ordinance amendments for community cats, individuals may provide food and shelter for feral cats in public areas which likely would lead to a greater number of cats in those areas. Citizens as whole enjoy watching wildlife which in the city is typically birds and small mammals. Much of watching wildlife is associated with the natural areas of city such as parks and public easements.

Cats in general and feral cats in particular impact small wildlife animals substantially. Recent studies have shown that cat predation has much greater impact on birds and small wildlife than previously estimated. Cat predation represents the single greatest source of anthropogenic mortality for U. S. birds and mammals. According the new study (Loss et al. 2014), cats kill between 1.4 billion to 3.7 billion birds and between 6.9 billion to 20.7 billion mammals annually with feral cats accounting for 69% of estimated bird predation. These estimates are greater than wildlife loss caused by vehicle collisions, collision with

building windows, communication towers and pesticide deaths in birds. These data are sound: they were generated using data from previous studies (10 to 17 studies) and a recognized sampling procedure of the data was used to generate statistically valid estimates.

Further evidence that the proposed amending sections reflect concerns of one interest group rather than the community as a whole is that a greater burden is placed on complying citizens compared with those favoring establishing community cat provisions. Under amending ordinance proposal "community cats" are exempt from enforcement of vaccination and removal if they are problem. In contrast, cat owners comply with vaccination and keeping track of their cats and thereby incur costs not encumbered by sponsors of community cat population. Problem cats (feral cats) are exempt from any regulation as proposed by amended ordinance whereas dog owners with problem dogs are subject to several ordinances. Why are problem cats being treated differently than problem dogs?

We recommend that the interests of the general public be served better by not exempting problem cats by establishing the community cat proposals in the recommended amendments.

Loss, S. R., Will, T. and Marra, P. P. 2014. Estimation of bird-vehicle collision mortality on U.S. roads, Journal of Wildlife Management 78: 763-771.

Moon Walk at CNC

On August 25 Chaplin Nature Center held an evening Moon Walk/Run. Fifty people turned out to enjoy an evening on the prairie under the full moon. Their rewards for answering trivia questions about the moon were glow necklaces and bracelets, which made for some colorful hiking!



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Chaplin Nature Center Programs

Friday, October 19, 7 - 9 p.m. Family Hike and Campfire

Take a twilight hike down to the sandy banks of the Arkansas River. Once at the river we will start our campfire the old fashion way with flint and steel. If successful, roast a few marshmallows, share some stories, and play a few games. Afterwards the group will hike back through the woods without flashlights. No fee, but reservations required.



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.