



Wichita Audubon Society

Annual Report 2016 – 2017

This is the 41st annual report of the Wichita Audubon Society and Chaplin Nature Center. This report highlights the activities for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. Chaplin Nature Center is owned and operated by the Wichita Audubon Society, with operations directed by the CNC committee of the board of directors.

July

The Arkansas City butterfly count was conducted by Chaplin Nature Center. This is a citizen science project of the American Butterfly Association. The twelve observers found 43 species, but low numbers of individuals.

Our annual summer picnic was held at the Great Plains Nature Center. We had an entertaining program of pictures submitted by our board members of birds and birding expeditions from the past year.



August

Thirteen birders hit the trails at Chisholm Creek Park for the 2nd Saturday bird walk. Not many migrants yet, but the Mississippi Kites put on a good show.

Wichita Audubon manned a table at Exploration Place for their Big Splash event celebrating the opening of their new aquifer exhibit. Four members interacted with the public and helped advertise our activities.

September

Only four braved the high water for the 2nd Saturday bird walk, but they were treated with numerous Nashville Warblers plus other migrants.

The Quivira/Cheyenne Bottoms field trip was foggy, but a few braved the weather. Highlights included an Osprey, Black-bellied Plovers, Sanderlings and Red-necked Phalaropes.

Our monthly program was presented by Jessica Mounts, executive director of the Kansas Alliance for Wetlands & Streams. She told us about the big minnows and small catfish that call Kansas waterways home.

About one hundred people came to Chaplin Nature Center for Fall Nature Day to hike the trails and tag Monarchs. There were few butterflies to tag, but everybody had fun and the rain held off till the end of the day.

October

The Second Saturday bird walk in Chisholm Creek Park had twelve participants. The big find of the day was several Sedge Wrens.



The October meeting featured Ken Brunson, Red Hills project manager for the Nature Conservancy. He gave us a fascinating look at the Anderson Creek fire that consumed nearly 400,000 acres in SW Kansas in 2015, and the amazing recovery that followed.

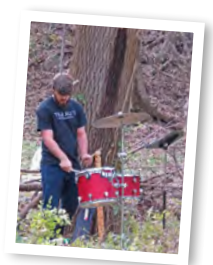
The Slate Creek Marsh field trip had a beautiful day. We saw lots of sparrows - LeConte's, Swamp, Lincoln's, Savannah, and more.

About 50 people joined the Kansas Astronomical Observers at Chaplin Nature Center to view the stars, planets, and constellations. The weather was perfect.

November

Thirteen of us joined a big crowd at the Quivira Big Salt Marsh to watch thousands of White-fronted Geese and a few hundred Sandhill Cranes. There were lots of lingering shorebirds, plus a lovely sunset.

The Percussion Ensemble from Southwestern College performed *Inuksuit* at CNC. Their outdoor presentation was beautiful and unique.



Thirty-six people hiked the trails at Chaplin Nature Center under an almost full moon to find deer and raccoon eyeshine and listen to owls and coyotes.

The program this month was about birds and bird conservation in New Zealand, presented by Dr. David Rintoul of KSU. He had beautiful pictures and very interesting information on their strategies to protect their native wildlife from invasives.

December

A surprise on the 2nd Saturday bird walk was a Red-shouldered Hawk, a species not often seen in town.

Six families came out to CNC to build Screech-owl nest boxes for their yards.

In December and January WAS members organized and/or participated in many Christmas Bird Counts: Wichita, Newton/Halstead, Quivira, Cheyenne Bottoms, Marion, Winfield, Slate Creek Marsh, Arkansas City, Red Hills, El Dorado, and a new count at Sedan. Arctic weather was a factor for some counts, even forcing some postponements. But the numbers of birds were good despite the ice and cold.

January

The January program was presented by Chuck Otte, the Geary County Extension Agent. He talked about landscaping for wildlife. Lots of good information for making our yards more bird friendly.

Our field trip to Cheney Reservoir had LOTS of birds - Common Mergansers and Common Goldeneyes in the thousands. Eight birders continued to the Reno County landfill for gulls and ended with lunch in Hutchinson.

The Eagle Watch at Chaplin Nature Center only saw distant eagles, but hiking to the river we saw a good show by woodland birds.

February

At the 2nd Saturday bird walk participants enjoyed beautiful weather and great looks at a Hermit Thrush and a Winter Wren.



Our speaker for February was Bill Busby, who is the Kansas coordinator for the North American Breeding Bird Survey. His discussion of the survey and it's role in monitoring bird population trends was very informative.

Our third Backyard Bird Workshop at the Great Plains Nature Center saw a turnout of 185. We helped people build 55 bird houses, and kids made an uncounted number of pinecone bird feeders.

March

More than 60 people attended the No Flashlight Night Hike at CNC. They were treated to coyotes howling, deer and small animals scurrying through the brush.

Eight people donated their Saturday morning to help cleanup Chisholm Creek Park.

Our March speaker was Bob Gress, who reported on his trip to Colombia. The birds and images were amazing!

Five WAS members assisted the Wichita Park Department by removing invasive Asian honeysuckle from Oak Park.

April

April began with the annual spring cleanup at Chaplin Nature Center. The thirty helpers included members and students from Cowley County Community College.

The highlight of the 2nd Saturday bird walk was a Brown Thrasher singing for the fifteen birders.

For the April program Lorrie Beck took us on a virtual visit to Antarctica. Her humor made it a delight.

We headed to Lawrence for a field trip to Baker Wetlands, complete with a guided tour serenaded by many Soras.

May

The annual Warbler Walk in Oak Park, led by Paul Griffin, found lots of birds but not many warblers. An interesting find was Yellow-crowned Night-herons nesting in the bur oaks.

The May program outlined ongoing bird conservation efforts in the Marianas Islands, presented by Scott Newland, Curator of Birds at the Sedgwick County Zoo.

Our fantastic hospitality chair, Sarah Blackmon, was honored with the 2017 Meritorious Service Award at the May meeting.

This year's extended field trip went to Magee Marsh in NW Ohio. Our group of 18 tallied a total of 150 species, with 30 species of warblers.

Three teams held Birdathons and spent 24 hours finding birds to raise money for Chaplin Nature Center. The Butler County team birded in Butler County, the Chaplin Nature Center team birded Cowley County, and the Painted Buntings went from Derby to Wichita to Quivira and Cheyenne Bottoms. They each found at least 120 species and raised \$5,400

June

Chaplin Nature Center hosted a lovely evening kayaking down the Arkansas River with the setting sun as a beautiful backdrop.

The 2nd Saturday bird walk found an unexpected Alder Flycatcher along with the regular summer species.



Chaplin Nature Center

During the 2017 fiscal year more than 5,100 people visited Chaplin Nature Center from all over Kansas and the United States. Shawn Silliman, our naturalist, presented 89 programs that reached 2,538 people. Volunteers donated 576 hours doing projects that ranged from trail clearing to staffing the visitor's center to serving food to rebuilding the Spring Creek foot bridge. Eight groups totaling 363 people used the nature center for business meetings, weddings and reunions.



Readers of the Cowley Courier Traveler Newspaper voted Chaplin Nature Center the best tourist attraction in Cowley County for 2017.

Listed below are the schools and community groups who visited CNC and benefitted from its programs:

- Arkansas City Christian Academy
- Arkansas City Library
- Arkansas City Recreation Center
- Arkansas City Scouts
- Central Burden School
- Conway Springs High School
- Cowley County Community College
- Deere Creek, OK
- Futures Unlimited
- Kansa Child Care, OK
- Newkirk, OK
- Oxford Schools
- PACE Home School
- Sacred Heart, Arkansas City
- South Central Hikers
- Trinity Lutheran School
- Winfield Co-op
- Winfield Scouts
- USD 259, Wichita
- USD 465, Winfield
- USD 470, Arkansas City





Thanks to our donors!

Hummingbirds (\$300-\$499)

Bill & Judy Docking, Arkansas City, KS
Lisa Eastep, Kingston, WA
Stephen English, Arkansas City, KS
Tom Ewert, Wichita, KS
Kevin & Laura Groeneweg, Wichita, KS
Dale Roark, Augusta, KS
Ed & Charleen Salguero, Wichita, KS
Eddie & Savilla Stegall, Wichita, KS

Cardinals (\$100 - \$299)

Anoka County Environmental Services, MN
Paul Attwater
Renee & David Baade, Newtown, CT
Gina Barkley, Wichita, KS
Carolyn & Roger Benefiel, Wichita, KS
Edwin & Eleanor Bolain, Derby, KS
Sharon Bolin, Clearwater, KS
Bruce & Meribeth Buhr, Wichita, KS
Carol Burket, Kingman, KS
Ron Chamberlain, Wichita, KS
Everett Cook, Wichita, KS
Marlene Ewert, North Newton, KS
Kenny & Laura Ferguson, Wichita, KS
Nathan French, Galaxie Business Equipment, Winfield, KS
Michael & Martha Grant, Wichita, KS
Bob & Mary Gress, Wichita, KS
Karl & Mary Herold, Wichita, KS
Utah Valley Hospital Laboratory, Provo, UT

Eagles (\$500 and up)

Michael Bayouth Charitable Fund, Wichita, KS
Boeing Gift Match
Pete & Julie Browne, Kansas City, MO
Doris Burnett, Manhattan, KS
Jeff & Christy Cox, Tulsa, OK
Carol & Hal Cumberland, Wichita, KS
Duane & Maxine DeLong, Wichita, KS
Dillon's Community Rewards
Hamilton Relay, Wichita, KS
Frederick O. Harper, Arkansas City, KS
Daniel & Martha Housholder, Wichita, KS
Kissick Construction Co, Pete Browne, Kansas City, MO
Langenwalter Charitable Trust, Arkansas City, KS
Lattner Family Foundation, Delray Beach, FL
Patty & Jim Marlett, Wichita, KS
Tom & Billie McDavitt, Wichita, KS
Mark Miller, Mulvane, KS
Calvin & Mary Olmstead, Wichita, KS
Sandra & Larry Tholen, Wichita, KS
Louise Wherry, Wichita, KS

JLS Investments, LLC, Wichita, KS
Jonathan & Sue Ann Jantz, North Newton, KS
Pete & Deb Janzen, Wichita, KS
Jefferson Schoo PTO, Arkansas City, KS
Paul & Cathy Lavender, Andover, KS
Andy Kemmer & Mary Engleman, Wichita, KS
Jim Mason, Wichita, KS
James & Bev Mershon, Wichita, KS
Carol Milbourn, Mesa, AZ
Charlotte Milne, Halstead, KS
Elmer Morris, Arkansas City, KS
Sorooptimists of Arkansas City, Arkansas City, KS
Carol Owens, Wichita, KS
Innes Phillips, Wichita, KS
Phillips 66 Refinery Flower Fund, Ponca City, OK
Ben & Mary Rogers, Overland Park, KS
Jeff & Vonda Silliman, Wichita, KS
Mikel & Leann Stout, Wichita, KS

Cardinals (\$100 - \$299)

Bill & Gayla Sutton, Topeka, KS
Don Tan, Wichita, KS
Taylor Drug, Arkansas City, KS
Brian Walker

Peggy Walker, Kansas City, MO
Robert Waltner, Mulvane, KS
Margaret & Richard Wieland, Wichita, KS
Marcia & Lowell Wilder, Wichita, KS

Harry & Mary Ellen Williford, Wichita, KS
William & Anne Woods, Wichita, KS
Network for Good, Washington, DC



Meadowlark (\$25 - \$99)

Arkansas City Lioness Club, Arkansas City
Black Traditional Magnet School Staff, Wichita, KS
United Agency, Arkansas City, KS
Madeline Akers, Wichita, KS
Ed & Marilyn Armstrong, Mulvane, KS
Allen Asmussen, Hutchinson, KS
Terrel Aten, Bison, OK
Janet Baird, Wichita, KS
Lorrie Beck, Wichita, KS
Roy & Pat Beckemeyer, Wichita, KS
Jack Bender III, Halstead, KS
Neda Jo Bills, Arkansas City, KS
Patrick Boyarski, Wichita, KS
Alan & Nancy Brown, Andover, KS
Pat Butin, Wichita, KS
C. R. Carrell, Wellington, KS
Jeffrey Christian, Wichita, KS
Sarah Ottaway & Christine Nickel, Wichita
Nancy Clarkson, Arkansas City, KS
Barbara Coats, Wichita, KS
Charles Craig, Newton, KS
Paul Craw, Wichita, KS
Robert & Carol Day, Mapleton, UT
Curt VanBoening & Dee Dunlap, Wichita
Jerry, & Kathy Devore, Winfield, KS
Sharon Dilks, Wichita, KS
Kevin & Alison Doyle, Fort Myers, FL
Joyce Dudeck, Wichita, KS
Dennis & Theresa Duffin, Springfield, IL
Bev DuGay, Wichita, KS
Claudia Dunton, Wallingford, CT
John Edmundson, Wichita, KS
Bill & Kathy Ethridge, Wichita, KS
Catherine & Douglas Everingham, Park City
Timothy & Kim Ford, Arkansas City, KS
Raymond & Janet Franz, Hesston, KS
Fred & Pat Frazier, Wichita, KS
Gregg & Joanna Friesen, Newton, KS

Ronald & Nancy Gerdes, Hickman, NE
Thomas Goranson, Wichita, KS
Delores Granger, Wichita, KS
Paul Griffin, Wichita, KS
Joanne Hackerott, Wichita, KS
Richard & Marjorie Hayes, Rose Hill, KS
Marlene Hayes, Wichita, KS
Dallas & Shelley Hewett, Andover KS
Dave & Sharon Hewitt, Goddard, KS
Greta Hiebert, North Newton, KS
Harvey & Alison Hiebert, N. Newton, KS
Martin & Nancy Holler, Marion, KS
Edna & Rick Holloway, Arkansas City, KS
Tonya Kerschner, Eldorado, KS
Dan Kilby, Wichita, KS
Vern Kysar, Wichita, KS
Dr Philip & Sue Lamar, Wichita, KS
Bill & Lisa Langley, Wichita, KS
Harry Ledeker, Arkansas City, KS
Greg & Linda Leighton, Wichita, KS
Joyce Lent, Wichita, KS
Catherine Lewis, Wichita, KS
Virginia Linnell, Arkansas City, KS
Connie Mann, Valley Center, KS
Sam & Terry Mannell, Topeka, KS
Angie Marlett, Wichita, KS
Rainer & Katherine Massey, Wichita, KS
Steve McClain
Laura Mendenhall, Augusta, KS
Cheryl Miller, Wichita, KS
Edward & Sharon Miller, Wichita, KS
Virginia Miller, Wichita, KS
Nancy Moore, Wichita, KS
Mt. Vernon Methodist Women, Wichita, KS
Jim & Dene Nelson, Wichita, KS
Jay & Marcia Newton, Wichita, KS
Janis & Ernest Oriente, Sarasota, FL
Charles Ott, Wichita, KS
Suzie & Larry Peak, Wichita, KS

Loretta Pendergraft, Wichita, KS
Phyllis Randle, Wichita, KS
Richard Rempel, North Newton, KS
Cynthia Rhodes, Whitewater, KS
Tom & Phoebe Richardson, Wichita, KS
Joseph Riedl, Leon, KS
Suzanne & Richard Riley, Provo, UT
Roosevelt School PTO, Arkansas City, KS
Charles Rosendale, Mulvane, KS
Carolyn Rundle, Wichita, KS
Chandy & Shanti Samuel, Winfield, KS
Freda Sanders, Buhler, KS
Cary Schreiber, Wilmington, DE
Ron & Marsha Sechler, Wichita, KS
Tom & Sara Shane, Garden City, KS
JoAnn Sheldon, Arkansas City, KS
Barbara Silliman, Wichita, KS
Shawn & Susan Silliman, Arkansas City, KS
Christen Skaer, Wichita, KS
Ernest & Beverly Snow, Arkansas City, KS
Clara Stuart, Wichita, KS
Jeanette Stucky, Wichita, KS
Brian & Nohora Talarico, Wichita, KS
Jeff & Merry Tipton, Arkansas City, KS
Richard & Nancy Uhrick, Wichita, KS
Frank & Ada V, Bison, OK
S. C. Wall, Blaine, MN
Larry & Deann Warfield, Wichita, KS
Joan Westover, Wichita, KS
Susan & Frank Wheeler, Wichita, KS
Karen & Marion Whiting, Wichita, KS
John & Sally Wiebe, Derby, KS
Marlin & Juanita Wilhelm, Wichita, KS
Deb & Randy Williams, Valley Center, KS
Donald Wittstock, Wichita, KS



In Memory of Bill & Nancy Beard

Pete & Deb Janzen, Wichita, KS

In Memory of Margaret & Lindley Cox

Jeff & Christy Cox, Tulsa, OK

In Memory of Duane DeLong

Cecil & Wilma Ambrose, Wichita, KS
Black Traditional Magnet School Staff, Wichita, KS
Pete & Julie Browne, Kansas City, MO
Carol & Hal Cumberland Wichita, KS
Maxine DeLong, Wichita, KS
Anna Dreiling, Wichita, KS
Dennis & Theresa Duffin, Springfield, IL
Fred & Pat Frazier, Wichita, KS
Ronald & Nancy Gerdes, Hickman, NE
Kevin & Laura Groeneweg, Wichita, KS
Richard & Marjorie Hayes, Rose Hill, KS
Hugh & Eveyln Hendrickson, Wichita, KS
Martin & Nancy Holler, Marion, KS
Kissick Construction Co, Pete Browne, Kansas City, MO
Paul & Cathy Lavender, Andover, KS
Jim & Patty Marlett, Wichita, KS
Steve McClain
Edward & Sharon Miller, Wichita, KS
Mt. Vernon Methodist Women, Wichita, KS
LC & Betty Petersen, Wichita, KS
Ron & Marsha Sechler, Wichita, KS
Shawn & Susan Silliman, Arkansas City, KS
Sandra Tholen, Wichita, KS
Richard & Nancy Uhrick, Wichita, KS
Brian Walker
Peggy Walker, Kansas City, MO
Larry & Deann Warfield, Wichita, KS
Joan Westover, Wichita, KS
Susan & Frank Wheeler, Wichita, KS
John & Sally Wiebe, Derby, KS
Marlin & Juanita Wilhelm, Wichita, KS
Donald Wittstock, Wichita, KS
Lonny Wright, Wichita, KS

In Memory of Stedman & Hazel Chaplin

Carol Milbourn, Mesa, AZ

In Memory of Marsha Ebaugh

Charles Ott, Wichita, KS
Janis & Ernest Oriente, Sarasota, FL
Patty & Jim Marlett, Wichita, KS

In Memory of Lawrence J Gray

Anoka County Environmental Services, MN
Robert & Carol Day, Mapleton, UT
Claudia Dunton, Wallingford, CT
Patty & Jim Marlett, Wichita, KS
Sarah Ottaway & Christine Nickel, Wichita, KS
Suzanne & Richard Riley, Provo, UT
Utah Valley Hospital Laboratory, Provo, UT
SC Wall, Blaine, MN

In Memory of William "Bill" Logan

Terrel Aten, Bison, OK
Jerry & Kathy Devore, Winfield, KS
Timothy & Kim Ford, Arkansas City, KS
Richard Guy, Hutchinson, KS
Edna & Rick Holloway, Arkansas City, KS
William & Julie Perdue, Arkansas City, KS
Ernest & Beverly Snow, Arkansas City, KS
Jeff & Merry Tipton, Arkansas City, KS
Frank & Ada V, Bison, OK
Linda Watson, Arkansas City, KS

In Memory of Max Milne

Charlotte Milne, Halstead, KS

In Memory of Helen Joan Shawver

Lisa Eastep, Kingston, WA

In Honor of Louise Wherry

Andy Kemmer & Mary Engleman, Wichita, KS

Gifts in Kind

Pike Construction, Arkansas City, KS
GE Aviation, Strother Field, Arkansas City, KS

Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2017

Profit & Loss Statement

Ordinary Income

Membership Dues	3,489.43
Contributions	37,884.81
Sales/Rental/Misc	3,061.33
Birdathon	5,391.05
Grants	10,000
Fund Raisers	527.00
Gross Income	60,353.62

Expense

Fund raising/Program/Misc	386.12
Office Supplies/Postage	1,570.68
Printing/Copying	3,937.95
Accounting	975.00
Subtotal	6,834.75

CNC Expense

CNC Programs	1356.60
CNC Insurance	4596.46
Office Expense	1425.56
Telephone	636.10
Utilities	5,241.39
Employee Compensation	43,152.32
Medical Reimbursement Acct	2,550.00
Repairs & Maintenance	16,623.96
Depreciation	13,075.80
Subtotal	\$88,678.19
Total Expense	95,547.94

Other Income/Expense

Interest & Dividends	8,795.61
Capital Gain (realized)	8,842.20
Capital Gain (unrealized)	48,937.96
Fees-	1,352.73
Net Other Income	65,223.04

Net Income \$ 30,028.72

Balance Sheet

Assets

Current Assets	
Checking	12,956.38
Petty Cash - CNC	100.00
Total Checking/Savings	\$13,056.38

Other Current Assets

Inventory	71.94
Prepaid Insurance	2,767.48
Total Other Assets	2,839.42

Total Current Assets \$ 15,895.80

Fixed Assets

CNC Land	75,231.00
CNC Buildings	80,578.71
CNC Furniture/Equipment	34,436.66
Total Fixed Assets	\$190,246.37

Endowment Funds

Endowment Funds Raymond James	595,386.04
Total Endowment funds	\$595,386.04

Total Assets \$801,528.21

Liabilities & Equity

Total Current Liabilities	1028.58
Total Equity	800,499.63

Total Liabilities & Equity \$801,528.21

Officers:

President: Gregg Friesen
 Vice-President: Jim Marlett
 Secretary: Anne Woods
 Treasurer: Kevin Groeneweg
 Directors:
 Tom Ewert Atcha Nolan
 Karl Herold Travis Ross
 Susan Hammer Bill Langley

Committee Chairs:

Bird Seed Sales: Carol Cumberland
 CNC: Travis Ross
 Conservation: Anne Woods
 Field Trips: Cheryl Miller
 Hospitality: Sarah Blackmon
 Membership: Tom Ewert
 Newsletter/Web: Patty Marlett
 Programs: Jim Marlett

Naturalist: Shawn Silliman

CNC Committee:

Travis Ross, Chair, Patty Marlett,
 Steve Johnson, Lisa Vetter, Shawn
 Silliman.