

Audubon

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April 2022

April 9

Second Saturday Bird Walk in Chisholm Creek Park. Meet in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 8 a.m. Questions? Mark Nolen, 765-346-7213, nolen.mark@gmail.com

April 19

Monthly program, Kansas Great Horned Owls: Color and genetic evolution of owls and their parasites, by Emily Ostrow, 7 p.m.

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Spring Cleanup at Chaplin Nature Center

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Chautauqua County Backroads field trip.

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April Meeting

Our April presenter will be Emily Ostrow, a PhD candidate from the University of Kansas.

Great Horned Owls are morphologically diverse throughout their range in both color and size. Recent studies have shown however that little genetic differences occur within North American owls despite nine recognized subspecies in North America. Like many species of birds such as Northern Flickers, there is a transition zone between different populations of Great Horned owls in western Kansas. The population in the eastern United States is a darker, reddish bird, while the population in western Kansas and eastern Colorado is a sandy-colored bird. Great Horned Owls exhibit a wide transition zone of coloration in Kansas. These owls are not the only organisms experiencing this transition zone. Owls



Great Horned Owls

host many parasites such as chewing lice. Chewing lice are often removed from feathers visually by owls and this means that lice

commonly mimic the colors of the birds they live on. The populations of lice on owls are highly affected by how their hosts move and what color they are. Through a combination of coloration and genetic information, Emily will be sharing how owls and their lice evolve together throughout Kansas.

The presentation will be on Tuesday, April 19, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. The

mask mandate has been lifted, but we are still not offering refreshments after the program.

The program will also be live-streamed. This month the live-stream will be on YOUTUBE (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBzA8JCBgw-5aUHVW11M7jw>), or just search YouTube for Wichita Audubon Society. The recorded program will be uploaded to our FaceBook page later, and the recording will be available in both locations.

Chautauqua County Backroads Field Trip

Join us to explore the scenic Cross Timbers region in search of early spring warblers and other migrants. We often find Yellow-throated Warblers along with Black-and-white Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, and a few others, too.

Meet at 6:30 a.m. in the Dillon's parking lot at Andover Road & US 400 and we will carpool from there. We will have lunch at a restaurant in Sedan.

Leader: Kevin Groeneweg, 316-706-9116, kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net



2021-2022 WAS Officers

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Send address changes to Carol Cumberland, 1106 Gretchen, Wichita, KS 67206
carol.cumberland@swbell.net, 316-685-4867

Nominations

The nominating committee has presented the following slate for the 2022-23 year:

Vice-President: Cheryl Miller

Secretary: Barbara Gobbert

Treasurer: Kevin Groeneweg

Board of Directors (3 yr term)s:

Mark Nolen, who will be serving his second three year term,

Jennifer Bruey

Dan Housholder will continue as president for the second year of his two-year term.

The election will occur at the May meeting, and the officers will begin their terms on July 1.

Save the Date

The new house at Chaplin Nature Center is finally finished. Shawn and Susan have moved in. We are planning an open house for Saturday, June 18. Put it on your calendar and we'll provide more details in the next newsletter.



Birdathon

It is time again for our annual Birdathon. This fund-raiser is a very important source of funding for Chaplin Nature Center. Just contact a team member and tell them you would like to help. Pledges can be made based on the number of species the team finds or can be a fixed amount.

For the CNC team contact Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, cnc@wichitaaudubon.org.

For the Painted Bunting team contact Carol Cumberland, carol.cumberland@swbell.net, 685-4867. Our third team, the Roadrunners, are organized by Tom Ewert, trewert@yahoo.com, 670-3140.



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Chaplin Nature Center Programs

Saturday, April 2 , 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Spring Clean up

Come celebrate spring at the Nature Center while lending a helping hand. The Center needs your help to get the facility ready for visitors and school groups. Clearing trails of debris, raking up the area around the building, trimming trails and small repair projects will be on our to-do list. No matter what your age, you can contribute. A simple lunch will be provided for those staying for the whole day. Be sure to wear old clothes and bring a pair of work gloves. Branch clippers and yard rakes are needed.



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.