

Audubon

Vol. 62 No.7

April 2023

April 1

Chaplin Nature Center
spring cleanup,
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Page 4**April 8**

Second Saturday Bird Walk
in Chisholm Creek Park.
Meet in the Great Plains
Nature Center parking lot
at 8 a.m.

Questions?:
Cheryl Miller,
avian67226@
gmail.com

April 8

Chisholm Creek Park
Cleanup following the bird
walk

Page 2**April 18**

Monthly program, "My
Low Key Big Year," by
Nick Stroot,
7 p.m. at the Great
Plains Nature Center.

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April Meeting

Our April program will be "My Low Key Big Year," presented by our own Nick Stroot. Nick has always enjoyed traveling, but being a birdwatcher adds even more excitement to getting out of Kansas. With travel opening up and providing more opportunities than ever, he challenged himself to see how many bird species he could find in 2022. From Mexico to Montana, spring migration in High Island, and a visit to many states we share a border with, join Nick on his quest to see and photograph many new birds.



Nick Stroot

personal chef delivery service and got a camera to take pictures of the food he prepares. Finding photography enjoyable, he really had a blast when he took his camera to the neighborhood pond to photograph some ducks and anything else he could find. That was a spark that led to Nick getting into bird photography and eventually learning more about the birds he was photographing.

You can see some of Nick's photos at

www.nickstrootphotos.com/

Nick Stroot is currently on the Wichita Audubon Board of Directors. He has always enjoyed the great outdoors but wasn't always interested in birds or photography. A few years ago, Nick started his own

The presentation will be on Tuesday, April 18, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. This year we will not live-stream the program, but a recording will be available for later viewing on Youtube (www.youtube.com/channel/UCBzA8JCBgw-5aUHW1IM7jw).



Chisholm Creek Park Cleanup

Join us after the second Saturday bird walk (April 8, approximately 9:45 am). Meet in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot to collect trash and keep our adopted park looking nice. Bring gloves, we'll provide trash bags, along with coffee, water, and snacks. We'll finish with a raffle for a prize and a group picture! *Leaders: Brian & Nohora Talarico, btalarico34@outlook.com*

2022-2023 WAS Officers

President	Daniel Housholder	316-648-0434	dhousholder@cox.net
Vice-president	Mark Nolen	765-346-7213	nolen.mark@gmail.com
Secretary	Barbara Gobbert	316-841-5099	bgobbert@gmail.com
Treasurer	Kevin Groeneweg	316-706-9116	kgroeneweg1616@gmail.com
Directors	Jeremy Coleman	316-469-3666	jcolezoo@hotmail.com
	Jennifer Bruey	316-706-6403	jenbruey@gmail.com
	Jeremy Birket	316-371-2829	tceinict@gmail.com
	Rod Wedel	316-215-4362	redb819@sbcglobal.net
	Bob Gress	316-765-2046	bobgress@cox.net
	Nick Stroot	316-992-1650	nicholasstroot@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

AOK Rep	Daniel Housholder	316-648-0434	dhousholder@cox.net
CNC	Patty Marlett	316-200-3419	pmarlett@cox.net
Hospitality	Laura Groeneweg	316-687-4268	lgroeneweg123@gmail.com
Membership	Carol Cumberland	316-685-4687	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Newsletter	Patty Marlett	316-200-3419	pmarlett@cox.net
Programs	Mark Nolen	785-346-7213	nolen.mark@gmail.com
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaudubon.org

www.wichitaudubon.org

Send address changes to Carol Cumberland
carol.cumberland@swbell.net, 316-685-4867

Slate of Officers

The nominating committee of Tom Ewert, Barbara Gobbert, and Patty Marlett, chair, present the following slate of officers:

President (two year term) - Barbara Gobbert

Vice-president (one year term) - Mark Nolen

Secretary (one year term) - Dan Housholder

Treasurer (one year term) - Kevin Groeneweg

Board member (three year term) - Bob Gress

Board member (three year term) - Rod Wedel

The slate will be voted on at the May meeting, and the officers will assume their duties July 1.

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@wichitaudubon.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, 670-3140, trewert@yahoo.com.

Newsletter Going Digital

Only one more issue of the newsletter until we go all digital. This will save a lot of money, and make life easier for your newsletter editor. Make sure we have your email address by emailing us at newsletter@wichitaudubon.org.

You can sign up for the digital newsletter directly at wichitaudubon.org/signup/

Audubon will retain the name 'National Audubon Society'

Excerpts from a letter by Elizabeth Gray, CEO of the National Audubon Society

This past year, the National Audubon Society embarked on a process to reexamine the name of our organization, in light of the personal history of the organization's namesake, John James Audubon. Our organization was named after John James Audubon, a naturalist and illustrator, more than 50 years after his death. His work was an important contribution to the field of ornithology in the mid-19th century and there can be no doubt of the impact of his life's work and passion for birds. And yet—he was also an enslaver whose racist views and treatment of Black and Indigenous people must be reckoned with.

Early last year, the Board of Directors of the National Audubon Society began an evaluation process to determine whether our organization should move forward bearing his name. This process was thorough, spanning more than a year and involving extensive feedback from stakeholders within and outside the organization.

In March 2023, the Board of Directors voted to retain the organization's current name—the National Audubon Society. I understand people may be wondering how that is possible if Audubon remains in our name. That is a question the Board has grappled with, and ultimately, they decided that the organization transcends one person's name. "Audubon" has come to symbolize our mission and significant achievements that this organization has made in its long history.

Today, Audubon is committed to uniting people from all walks of life who share a love of birds and a commitment to protecting their environments. As we move forward, we will build on the exceptional accomplishments in conservation that this organization has made since its founding by bringing together communities across the Americas to protect birds and the places they need.

You can read the whole letter and more at www.audubon.org/news

Woodcocks!

The event on March 6 in Chisholm Creek Park was a big success! Thirty-five people turned out, and the birds cooperated. Everyone got a good look at one bird on the ground and saw four birds flying and making their distinctive calls.



Sharp-tailed Grouse Lek

Audubon of Kansas is offering the opportunity to see Sharp-tailed Grouse at their Hutton Niobrara Ranch near Bassett, Nebraska. Available dates are March 18-May 8. Lek activity peaks mid-April. For details, check out their web site: www.audubonofkansas.org/grousetours

P.O. Box 47607
Wichita, KS 67201

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Chaplin Nature Center Programs

Saturday, April 1, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Chaplin Spring Cleanup

We are not fooling you, we need your help getting the facility cleaned-up for another year of schools and visitors. Trimming trails, fixing fences, and even cleaning windows. Lots of little and big tasks need to be accomplished. Call the Center if you have additional questions.



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

