January Meeting

Dennice Craig will teach us how to create back yard gardens that will grow insects as well as flowers. Following eight guidelines, gardeners can provide food and create habitat for all the beneficial insects, not just the pollinators. If you grow natives, insects will come. And then, everyday strolls in your garden become wildlife safari. Dennice is a rank amateur at birding, but an avid learner. When she became a Master Gardener Volunteer at the Sedgwick County Extension Office, she discovered she was also a rank amateur at gardening. Dennice was a teacher and an administrator at Campus High School for 25 years, and is a believer in life long learning.

The presentation will be on Tuesday, January 15, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can also join us for dinner at Panera Bread, 1605 N Rock Rd, at 5:30 p.m.

February Meeting

Jim and Patty Marlett have made two trips to Australia, both times with Carol and Hal Cumberland. In 2015 they visited Queensland, Sydney, and Tasmania for four weeks. They returned in 2018 to spend three weeks in Victoria and South Australia, traveling from Melbourne to Adelaide. The wildlife in Australia was amazing, and like nothing in Kansas! They will show you everything from Emus and penguins to blue-tongued skink to Tasmanian devils.

Jim and Patty are both retired. He was the Deputy Director at the Sedgwick County Zoo, she was a naturalist at the Great Plains Nature Center.

The presentation will be on Tuesday, February 19, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can also join us for dinner at Panera Bread, 1605 N Rock Rd, at 5:30 p.m.
City Cat Ordinance Proposed Changes
The Wichita Animal Control Advisory Board is recommending changes to the current city ordinances that would institute Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) policies. The board of the Wichita Audubon Society is opposed to these changes. We expect the new ordinance to be completed by January. You can help by attending DAB (District Advisory Board) meetings and expressing your opinion to your city councilman. You can also contact the city council members directly. The proposed ordinance, the WAS board position, and a number of reference documents can be viewed on our website at www.wichitaaudubon.org/cat_issues

Members Photography
Our May program will be comprised of photos from our own members. Have you ever wanted to share an image, or a few images, but didn’t want to commit to a full Audubon program? This program is made for you, and we need your help! Please share with us. Jim Marlett is coordinating and organizing this special program. He’ll put together all images into a single presentation and we hope you will share a few words when your photo or photos are featured. Please join the fun and email Jim with your ideas at jmarlett@cox.net!

Extended Field Trip
Join us May 29 – 31, 2019 as we explore the Ozark woodlands in and around Roaring River State Park, Missouri, in search of the many colorful resident birds of that area. Our targets include the Cerulean Warbler and the Worm-eating Warbler. Details to be announced. Let us know if you are interested so we can make plans for lodging. Leaders: Patty Marlett, 942-2164, pmarlett@mac.com Kevin Groeneweg, 706-9116, kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net

Red Hills Field Trip
Join us on Saturday, January 26, for a trip that will wander through portions of Barber, Comanche and Kiowa Counties in search of wintering birds, with an emphasis on Mountain Bluebirds and hopefully a Roadrunner or two. Meet at the Quik Trip at Maize Road and Kellogg (US 54) at 7 am. This trip will cover about 250 miles, so fill up with gas and carpool as much as possible. We will have lunch at Buster’s in Sun City. Leader: Kevin Groeneweg, kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net, 706-9116.

Apology
Sandra Tholen was inadvertently omitted from the list of Eagle donors in our 2017-18 Annual Report. We are so sorry! We couldn’t keep operating Chaplin Nature Center and providing all the free programs that we offer without the generosity of Sandra and all the rest of our donors. Thank you for your support.
Awards-Winning Photographs on Display at the Great Plains Nature Center

Roadshow of 2018’s Best Avian Photography Coming to Wichita

Visit the Great Plains Nature Center between February 8 and February 26 to walk among the winning bird photographs from the 2018 Audubon Photography Awards and learn more about local birdlife.

The winning photographers and their stunning photographs were selected from more than 8,000 entries submitted by photographers from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and 10 Canadian provinces.

This year’s exquisite photographs celebrate the splendor of many bird species protected under the 100-year-old Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), the most important bird conservation law, which is currently under siege in Congress and by the Department of the Interior.

Great Gray Owl. Photo: Steve Mattheis
Audubon Photography Awards
Professional Winner
Chaplin Nature Center Programs

Saturday, Jan 26 & Saturday, Feb 2, 10 a.m. - Noon
Bald Eagle Hike

Mid-winter is an exciting time to view Bald eagles in Kansas. Searching for open water, many eagles migrate down to Kansas to spend the winter. The program will start with a 15 minute introduction to the history and adaptations of the Bald eagle. We will then take a 1.5 mile hike down to the Arkansas River to search for over-wintering eagles. If you have binoculars, bring them; if not the Center can loan you a pair.

For more information about any Chaplin Nature Center programs call Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, or e-mail cnc@wichitaudubon.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.