

# Audubon

Vol. 62 No.5

January/February 2023

**Jan 14 & Feb 11**  
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

**January 17**  
Monthly program,  
"Shorebird Big Year  
at Cheyenne  
Bottoms," by Dr.  
Robert Penner,  
7 p.m. at the Great  
Plains Nature  
Center.

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**January 28**  
Ark River Winter  
Bird Hike at Chaplin  
Nature Center, 10  
a.m. - noon

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**January 28**  
Cheney Reservoir Field  
Trip.. Meet at the  
Dillon's at 21st and  
Amidon at 7 a.m.

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**February 10**  
Owl Walk at  
Chaplin Nature  
Center, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

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**February 18**  
Birding the Tropics  
at the Sedgwick  
County Zoo,  
9:15 a.m..

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**February 21**  
Monthly program,  
"Chasing Warblers,"  
by Bob Gress,  
7 p.m. at the Great  
Plains Nature Center.

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## January Meeting

Our January presentations will be "Shorebird Big Year at Cheyenne Bottoms," by Dr. Robert Penner, with a bonus presentation on the Great Bend Sand Prairie by Elsi Miller.

Cheyenne Bottoms experienced one of the biggest shorebird migrations in a long time, with over 500,000 birds documented in the spring of 2022 alone. TNC has teamed with Fort Hays State University on a new survey protocol that will use a combination of on-the-ground counts, refined with ground-based photos, and aerial photography using a drone. Dr. Robert Penner will present the results of his surveys and explain the new drone techniques, experimenting with different flight patterns, cameras, lenses, and even using infrared. Robert has also been studying if these drones disturbed the birds. As a bonus, Elsi Miller will present a short program on the conservation work in the Great Bend Sand Prairie, an important landscape here in Kansas, but one that most people don't know about.



Dr. Robert Penner

Robert Penner has been interested in birds since the age of fifteen. That interest led to degrees in Wildlife Management and Environmental Studies, both with an emphasis on ornithology. He has worked as The Nature Conservancy's Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve manager since 1996. He oversees avian monitoring on other TNC preserves across the state and is author of The Birds of Cheyenne Bottoms. Currently, Robert serves as chair of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network's United

States Committee, which allows him to work on shorebird conservation issues on national and international scales.

Elsi Miller is a current graduate student at Miami University, Ohio, in the program Project Dragonfly. And she is the Great Bend Sand Prairie Assistant Manager for the Nature Conservancy.

**The presentation will be on Tuesday, January 17, 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-5aUHVW1IM7jw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBzA8JCBgw-5aUHVW1IM7jw)).**

# February Meeting

Our own Bob Gress will present “Chasing Warblers,” for our February program.

In the United States and Canada, there are over 50 species of regular occurring members of the Wood-Warblers family, Parulidae. Many are brightly colored and searching for them and seeing them for the first time is both challenging and memorable. They’re small, active and most occupy the highest parts of trees or the densest parts of the understory. Their variety of colors, behaviors, and habitats make them favorites for many birdwatchers. Warblers are also some of the most challenging birds to photograph!

Bob Gress is the former director of the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita and co-founder of [www.BirdsInFocus.com](http://www.BirdsInFocus.com). Bob has photographed wildlife in wild places throughout North American, Central America, South America, New Zealand and Africa. Over 4,900 of his wildlife photos have been published and are seen in a variety of magazines and in more than seventy books. Currently, Pete Janzen is hard at work on the text, while Bob is finishing up the photos for The Guide to Kansas Birds and Birding Hot Spots, Expanded Edition. Watch for the publication of this book in 2024.



*Bob Gress*

**The presentation will be on Tuesday, February 21, 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-5aUHVW1IM7jw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBzA8JCBgw-5aUHVW1IM7jw)).**

## 2022-2023 WAS Officers

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[www.wichitaudubon.org](http://www.wichitaudubon.org)

Send address changes to Carol Cumberland  
[carol.cumberland@swbell.net](mailto:carol.cumberland@swbell.net), 316-685-4867

## New Hospitality Chair

Laura Groeneweg has graciously agreed to be our hospitality chair - organizing refreshments for after our meetings. Please thank her when you see her and volunteer to help!.

## Newsletter Going Digital

In the next few months we will be transitioning from print to an all digital newsletter. This will save a lot of money, and make life easier for your newsletter editor. We haven't set a date yet, but if you want to get ahead of the curve make sure we have your email address by emailing us at [newsletter@wichitaudubon.org](mailto:newsletter@wichitaudubon.org).



## Winter Field Trips

### Saturday, January 28, Cheney Reservoir

Meet in the parking lot of the Dillon's at 21st and Amidon at 7 a.m. We'll caravan to Cheney from there. We will be looking for winter waterfowl, and will also check out nearby lakes and woodlands. A Kansas Parks permit is required for each vehicle. *Leader: Pete Janzen, 316-519-1970, [pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net)*

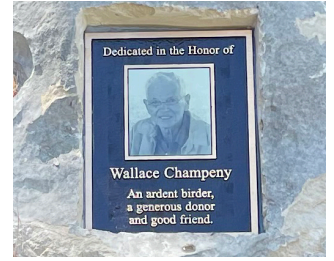
### Saturday, February 18. Birding the Tropics at the Sedgwick County Zoo

Escape winter and enjoy some tropical birds in the Sedgwick County Zoo's Tropics Building. Meet in the lobby of the Tropics Building at 9:15 a.m. (the zoo opens at 9). You will have to pay zoo admission or use your membership. Bring binoculars. We'll get an overview from a keeper and a list of birds, and then see how many we can find. *Leader: Patty Marlett, [pmarlett@cox.net](mailto:pmarlett@cox.net), 316-200-3419*



## Zeh Bequest

Chaplin Nature Center is the recipient of another very generous bequest from the estate of Janith Zeh. Janith and her husband David were active in Wichita Audubon in the 1970's, when CNC was first purchased. David was WAS president in 1977. They moved to Houston a short while later, but never forgot about Chaplin Nature Center. David was the founder of Zeh Software Company with offices in Houston, Texas and Dorking, England. He passed in 2005. Janith was a psychologist for 20 years. She died in 2021. Their bequest totals \$277,000, which has been added to the CNC Endowment Fund.



## Wallace Champeny Memorial

We have installed a memorial to Wally, who so generously bequeathed \$374,000 to Chaplin Nature Center. That money allowed us to build a new house for Shawn. Look for the memorial at the west end of the front porch of the visitor's center the next time you visit.



At the October meeting we recognized Shawn for his 25 years of service with a certificate and a cake. Thank you Shawn for all your hard work!

## CNC 50th

2023 marks the 50th anniversary of Chaplin Nature Center. Wichita Audubon purchased the family farm from Hazel and Stedman Chaplin in 1973. We are really proud of what we have been able to accomplish, and we're looking strong for the next 50 years. Watch this space for information about celebrations. And go visit your nature center!



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Wichita Audubon Society

January/February 2023

## Chaplin Nature Center Programs

### *Saturday, January 28, 10 a.m. - noon Ark River Winter Bird Hike*

This is a 1.5 mile hike to the Arkansas River. Along the way we will look for some familiar winter birds such as woodpeckers and wrens. Once at the river we'll look for hawks and eagles. Dress for the cold and windy conditions. If you don't have binoculars, the Center has several pairs that can be loaned.

### *Friday, February 10, 6:30 - 8 p.m. Owl Walk*

Why have owls traditionally been considered to be bad omens? Or why did some people in the southeastern United States take off an article of clothing when they heard an owl? Find out the truth about owls and their many adaptations that have made them one of the most successful and mysterious nocturnal animals. A short indoor presentation on the owls of Kansas will be followed by an outdoor night hike to listen for their calls.

For more information about any Chaplin Nature Center programs call  
Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, or e-mail [cnc@wichitaaudubon.org](mailto:cnc@wichitaaudubon.org).  
CNC is located 3 miles west of Arkansas City on Hwy 166, north 2 miles

