

# Audubon

Vol. 62 No.6

March 2023

**March 6**

Woodcocks in  
Chisholm Creek Park,  
6:30 p.m.

**Page 3****March 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

**March 18**

Bald Eagle Nest Viewing,  
Veteran's Lake in Arkansas  
City,  
10 a.m.- noon

**Page 4****March 21**

Monthly program,  
"Diversity of Wintering  
Red-tailed Hawks in  
Kansas," by Dr. David  
Rintoul,  
7 p.m. at the Great  
Plains Nature Center.

**Page 1****April 1**

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

**Page 4**

## March Meeting

Our March speaker is Dr. David Rintoul, presenting "Diversity of Wintering Red-tailed Hawks in Kansas." As most Kansas birders know, the state hosts a wide variety of Red-tailed Hawks in the winter, with representatives of 5 different subspecies making regular appearances. That's already a lot of different plumages! But some of these subspecies have multiple color morphs, and first-winter birds have different plumages from adults, making it a real challenge to ID these birds at the subspecies level. Additionally, individual Red-tailed Hawks of different subspecies regularly interbreed, producing offspring who don't fit any of the field guide plumage descriptions. So, each winter redtail could be viewed as unique, which presents an incredible opportunity for learning (or frustration) for birders in Kansas every winter. Dave spent the fall and winter months of 2021-22 photographing every Red-tailed Hawk he could find and will share some of the images and information gathered. The images, and (where possible) the subspecies IDs, document the amazing diversity of



Dr. Dave Rintoul

this species, and add a bit more to our knowledge about the many marvelous Red-tailed Hawks who spend each winter in our state.

David Rintoul was born in Garden City, where he lived for the his first 18 years. Dave's interests in the natural world and in photography date from then, and his career plans always centered on the study of biology. He was awarded a Summerfield Scholarship to attend the University of Kansas, where he earned a BA in Biology in 1972, then a Ph.D. in Biology from Stanford University in 1977, and a postdoctoral fellowship in Biochemistry at Washington University School of Medicine (St. Louis, MO). He joined the Division of Biology at KSU in 1980. Dave served the university as a teacher & researcher, as an administrator, and as Faculty Senate President. Upon retirement, Dave decided to continue to work on these photographic and biological interests, and also to continue to learn as well as educate via photography. He has had work exhibited at two art galleries in Manhattan, and has published three works of nonfiction.

**The presentation will be on Tuesday, March 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-5aUHW11M7jw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBzA8JCBgw-5aUHW11M7jw)).**



## Shawn is leaving!

It is with great sadness that we must announce that Shawn Silliman, our naturalist for 25 years, will be leaving us in June. He and Susan are moving to the Kansas City area to be near their son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren.

A search committee has been appointed, and has begun work to find a replacement. It won't be easy.

### 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	Tom Ewert	316-670-3140	trewert@yahoo.com
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@wichitaaudubon.org

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

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

## Nominating Committee

The president has appointed a nominating committee for next year's officers. The committee consists of Tom Ewert, Barbara Gobbert, and Patty Marlett, chair.

We need to fill the positions of president (two year term), vice-president, secretary, treasurer (one year terms) and two board members (three year terms).

The committee will present a slate by April, and it will be voted on at the May meeting. Any suggestions or volunteers would be welcome. Contact Patty at 316-200-3419, pmarlett@cox.net.

## 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.

You can sign up for the digital newsletter directly at [wichitaudubon.org/signup/](http://wichitaudubon.org/signup/)

# March Field Trip

**MONDAY, March 6, Woodcocks in Chisholm Creek Park  
6:30 p.m.**

American Woodcocks engage in a unique courtship display on early spring evenings. We'll try to catch sight of them just as it gets dark. Note that this is MONDAY to avoid the crowds of walkers in the park. Meet in the GPNC parking lot at 6:30 p.m. Dress for the weather, and bring a flashlight. This was originally scheduled for 7:30 p.m., but we realized that it would be fully dark by then and an earlier start would be better.

*Leaders: Cheryl Miller, avian67226@gmail.com, and Bob Gress, 316-765-2046, bobgress@cox.net*



# Extended Field Trip 2023

There is still room for a few more for our trip to High Island, Texas, April 17 — 24. High Island is a spectacular birding location in the spring when migrants come pouring across the Gulf. The Houston Audubon society

manages four bird sanctuaries in the area: Boy Scout Woods, Smith Oaks, Eubanks Woods, and the S.E. Gast Red Bay Sanctuary. We'll



also take in Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge and as many others as we have time for. We're staying in Winnie, TX, so we will be a good position to look for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and Bachman's Sparrows in the piney woods. This is a car trip and we will not be renting vans - you have to provide your own transportation.

There are two hotel rooms left in our block, and they must be reserved by March 26. To sign up check [www.wichitaaudubon.org/event](http://www.wichitaaudubon.org/event) for a link, or go directly to [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0c4cada92caaf58-high# /](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0c4cada92caaf58-high#/)

*Leaders: Kevin Groeneweg, 316-706-9116, kgroeneweg1616@gmail.com, and Patty Marlett, 316-200-3419, pmarlett@cox.net.*

# Kansas Lek Treks

Audubon of Kansas is holding the second annual Kansas Lek Treks Prairie-Chicken Festival in Hays, Kansas, April 13-16, 2023.

The highlight of this birding festival will include opportunities to view both Greater and Lesser Prairie-Chickens. No birdwatcher should miss seeing this yearly ritual unfold as males fight among themselves and display to females. The timing of the festival coincides with the peak of prairie-chicken breeding and female visitation to the lek.

For more information visit [www.kansaslektreks.org](http://www.kansaslektreks.org).



P.O. Box 47607  
Wichita, KS 67201

RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Wichita, Kansas  
Permit No. 921

## Chaplin Nature Center Programs

### *Saturday, March 18, 10 a.m.- noon Bald Eagle Nest Viewing*

Bald Eagles have made a tremendous comeback since the 1970's. Nesting activity in Cowley County has continued to grow over the years. During this program we will visit one of the nest sites to give participants a chance to see adults and eaglets. Nest sites are Federally protected so spotting scopes will be set-up a safe distance from the nest. Meet at Veterans Lake in Arkansas City between 10:00 a.m. and noon.

### *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](mailto:cnc@wichitaaudubon.org). CNC is located 3 miles west of Arkansas City on Hwy 166, north 2 miles

