

# Audubon

Vol. 61 No. 6

March 2022

**March 12**

*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](mailto:nolen.mark@gmail.com)*

**March 15**

*Monthly program, "Your Brain on Nature," by John Gallagher.. 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center*

**Page 1**

**March 19**

*Bald Eagle Nest Viewing at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 a.m. - noon*

**Page 4**

**April 2**

*Spring Clean-up at Chaplin Nature Center*

**Page 4**

## March Program

Our March presentation is from John Gallagher, director of the Dillon Nature Center. His talk is entitled "Your Brain on Nature", which looks at the science of nature's influence on your health and well-being. We'll look at some of the latest research from around the world that connect the links between the human brain and the natural world, which are building a growing body of evidence that support the theory that time in nature is critical to human creativity, health, and happiness.

John Gallagher has been sharing the wonders of science and the natural world for 27 years. He has lived in Hutchinson, Kansas since April of 2018 when he joined the Hutchinson Recreation Commission and Dillon Nature Center staff as the center's Superintendent. John manages an amazing staff of dedicated individuals who provide incredible opportunities that engage



*John Gallagher*

visitors in environmental education and healthy nature activities.

Previously John was the Executive Director for the Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo (now the Nature and Wildlife Discovery Center) and has worked for nonprofit nature and science centers in Colorado, Utah, Indiana, Wyoming, California and New York. John studied Science Education at the Teton Science School's Graduate Program and earned his BS in Biology from Prescott College. John is Hutchinson's biggest Nature for Health advocate.

The presentation will be on Tuesday, March 15, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. If you don't feel comfortable with coming in person, the program will be live-streamed on our Facebook page.

After the live program, the recorded program will be available on YouTube ([www.youtube.com/channel/UCBzA8JCBgw-5aUHVW11M7jw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBzA8JCBgw-5aUHVW11M7jw)) and on our Facebook page. Links are available on our webpage at [www.wichitaudubon.org](http://www.wichitaudubon.org).

# Slate of Officers

This year’s nominating committee has been exceptionally efficient, and already has a slate of officers to present. The chair is Tom Ewert, assisted by Carol Cumberland and Jim Marlett.

The slate for the 2022-23 year is:

Vice-President: Cheryl Miller

Secretary: Barbara Gobbert

Treasurer: Kevin Groeneweg

Board of Directors (3 yr term)s:

Mark Nolen and 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.

## 2021-2022 WAS Officers

President	Daniel Housholder	316-648-0434	dhousholder@cox.net
Vice-president	Kevin Groeneweg	316-706-9116	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Barbara Gobbert	316-841-5099	bgobbert@gmail.com
Treasurer	Patty Marlett	316-200-3419	pmarlett@cox.net
Directors	Bill Langley	316-889-5434	78gmouse43@gmail.com
	Mark Nolen	785-346-7213	nolen.mark@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
Field trips	Mark Nolen	785-346-7213	nolen.mark@gmail.com
Hospitality	Sarah Blackmon	316-264-4408	
Membership	Carol Cumberland	316-685-4687	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Newsletter	Patty Marlett	316-200-3419	pmarlett@mac.com
Programs	Kevin Groeneweg	316-706-9116	kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaaudubon.org

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

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

# CNC House Update

It’s still not finished! This project has been hit with supply chain problems and labor shortages like everywhere else. We expect to have the final walk through any day, but so far it hasn’t happened. Watch this space.



# Dillon’s Community Rewards

Thanks to the many people who have signed up to give Wichita Audubon benefits from their Dillon’s Plus cards, we receive quarterly donations of several hundred dollars. That really helps!

If you haven’t signed up yet, it is very easy and costs you nothing. Wichita Audubon Society will get credit for every purchase its members make using their registered Plus card. The more you shop with Dillon’s, the more Wichita Audubon and Chaplin Nature Center will earn.

Go to <https://www.dillons.com/communityrewards>.

Sign in or create an account to enroll  
Click on “Enroll Now”

Enter the 5-digit NPO CC339

Select Wichita Audubon and click on “Enroll”

If you have questions about the process, you can call 1-866-221-4141

# The first annual Kansas Prairie-Chicken Festival is to be held in Hays, Kansas April 7-10, 2022.



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.

Sponsored by Audubon of Kansas, you can find out more and register at <https://www.kansaslektreks.org/>

## Banquet Speaker: Nate Swick, Host of the American Birding Podcast

### Birding for Life: How Birding Can Make you a Better Person

We've all heard about birding as a lifetime activity, a fun and rewarding way to stay healthy. But there's more to birding than just that. Birding challenges us not only physically, but mentally. It encourages behavior that helps us make good decisions and it rewards critical thinking. And it allows us to be present of our surroundings and engaged with the world around us, often without even realizing it. The ABA's Nate Swick will make the case that there's no better activity than birding to make you a better person.

Nate Swick is the Digital Communications manager for the ABA and the host of the ABA's American Birding Podcast. He lives in Greensboro, North Carolina, with his wife, Danielle, and two young children. He is the author of *A Beginner's Guide to Birding* (Page Street, 2018) and *The ABA Field Guide to Birds of the Carolinas* (Scott & Nix, 2019). He occasionally serves as the chair of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee and will be trying to get 100 species in all of North Carolina's 100 counties for the rest of his natural life.

## What is a lek?

A lek is an area where males display and maintain territories. Males, themselves, are the most valuable thing on the territory as it does not contain substantial amounts of food or adequate nesting sites. Females visit these lek sites to select a male to mate with. She will incubate the eggs and raise the young on her own. We will also journey to these lek sites to see the mesmerizing display – we will make our own lek trek!

There is so much to see besides prairie-chickens! Northwestern Kansas also hosts a multitude of bird watching, nature exploration, and other sights to see. Two wetlands of international importance are an hour or so away - Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. It is also home to Niobrara chalk formations which host fossils from the Cretaceous Period, 80 million years ago. Museums nearby document the natural history and human history of the area.

We look forward to meeting you at the festival!

*Jackie Augustine*

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

*Bald Eagle Nest Viewing, Saturday, March 19,  
10 a.m.- noon*

During this program we will visit one of the many Bald Eagle nests in Cowley County for a chance to see adults and eaglets through spotting scopes. Nest sites are Federally protected so spotting scopes will be a safe distance from the nest. Meet us at Veterans Lake in Arkansas City.



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

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. Call the Center for 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 on 21st Rd, east 0.6 miles on 272nd Rd.