

Audubon

Vol. 64 No.4

November/December 2024

November Meeting

For our November program Dr. Thomas Luring, Assistant Professor of Biology at Wichita State University, will present "Climate change in Aquatic Systems."

The world is rapidly changing, and organisms are facing novel challenges related to more extreme and variable climates. Dr. Luring's research investigates how organisms navigate drought and warming within the context of their ecosystems. He'll talk about some of his research on giant salamanders and drought in the SE US and finish with some of his grad students' recent work on intermittent aquatic ecosystems in Kansas.



Tom grew up in the suburbs of Augusta, GA (Martinez) and caught frogs and salamanders and turtles. He started undergraduate work at the University of Georgia. Fortunately the Institute of Ecology was also at UGA and he eventually found his way there by his junior year. He worked with Golden Mice as an undergraduate researcher with Dr. Gary Barrett. During his MS at the Savannah River Ecology Lab, he lived and breathed field work 24-7, sleeping under a desk and spending free time photographing frogs calling at night. For his Ph.D., he continued work on amphibians with Dr. Ray Semlitsch at the University of Missouri investigating the effects of amphibian migrations on the movement of nutrients between aquatic and terrestrial systems. It was also during this time that he became a birder and spent free time working on year lists. He is still an occasional birder. He worked as a postdoc at Michigan State University in the Wagner lab, then

UPCOMING EVENTS

There is a schedule of events that you can print or download [HERE](#).

Information about all our activities is available on our website at www.wichitaaudubon.org

Nov 9 & Dec 14, 8 am Second Saturday bird walk in Chisholm Creek Park.

No birding experience needed. Expect 1-2 miles of walking on paved paths for about 90 minutes. Meet in the parking lot at 8 a.m. Note that the December walk will coincide with the Wichita Christmas Bird Count *Questions? Tom Ewert, 316-670-3140, trewert@yahoo.com*

November 10 , 7 am – 3 pm Wellington City Lake Field Trip

This 650 acre lake in Sumner County deserves more birding attention than it gets. It has a history of attracting a good variety of waterfowl, gulls and other late fall migrants. We may also visit Anthony City Lake in adjacent Harper County, stopping for lunch at one of the restaurants in Anthony. Meet at the Dillon's parking lot at 47th St. S. and S. Broadway in Wichita. Dress for the weather. Mostly driving, but expect a few short hikes as well.

Leader: Pete Janzen, 316-519-1970, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

joined the DeLong lab at the University of Nebraska. He finally landed in Wichita Kansas in 2019 and was ready to stop moving (Kansas is his 9th state of residence). Several great students that have worked on some excellent projects related to the effects of prior drying on ecosystem function and he'll share much of that work in the presentation.

The presentation will be on Tuesday, November 19, 7 pm at the Great Plains Nature Center. A recording of the program will be available on [YouTube](#) the next day.

Christmas Bird Counts

These annual events are all-day efforts to census all birds in an established 15-mile wide diameter circle, and is organized by a count compiler. Volunteers count every bird they see or hear all day. It's not just a species tally—all birds are counted all day, giving an indication of the total number of birds in the circle that day. You don't have to count all day - just let the compiler know your plans so they can plan for it. All help is welcome.

If your home is within the boundaries of a CBC circle, then you can stay at home and report the birds that visit your feeder on count day as long as you have made prior arrangement with the count compiler.

The results are reported to the National Audubon Society and the Kansas Ornithological Society.

Inform the compiler if you plan to attend so they can plan ahead. That also allows them to plan routes and to contact you in case cancellation is necessary. Remember to dress for the weather and expect to do a fair amount of walking. There may or may not be in-person compilations at the end of the day. There are lots of counts to choose from, so come join us! And you can find still more counts on the Kansas Ornithological Society webpage at www.KSBirds.org.

December 14, Saturday, 7:30 am Wichita Christmas Bird Count

Meet at the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot. Compilation: 5:30 pm at the Great Plains Nature Center.

Compiler: Kevin Groeneweg, 316-706-9116, kgroeneweg1616@gmail.com

December 15, Sunday, 7:30 am Winfield-Udall CBC

Meet at the Beech Science Center, Southwestern College in Winfield.

Compiler: Max Thompson, 620-221-1856, maxt@cox.net

December 17, Tuesday, 8 am Sedan CBC

Meet at One Stop/Phillips 66 gas station in Sedan at 8am. Contact the compiler via e-mail or text (785-501-0867) if you are planning to attend so she can have a head count.

Compiler: Vickie Cikanek, 785-501-0867, vickie.cikanek@ks.gov

December 18, Wednesday, 8 am Slate Creek CBC

Meet at the Slate Valley Baptist Church, 7 miles south of Oxford on the main road. (S. Oxford Rd and E 80th St.)

Compiler: Gene Young, 620-660-0547, youngg6264@yahoo.com

Changes at CNC

Our director at Chaplin Nature Center, Elizabeth Walker, will be leaving us in November. Please join us in wishing her well in all her future endeavors.

We will begin the process of searching for a new director in the near future. In the meantime, the trails at CNC will remain open every day. The visitor's center will be open on Saturday 9 - 5 and Sunday 1 - 5.

Membership Changes

We are making two changes to our local membership: raising the dues a bit, and having all memberships renew on January 1. If you join in August or later your membership will last through the following year. Hopefully this will reduce the confusion about renewing!

New membership prices:

Individual - \$30

Family - \$40

Student (18 & under) - \$10

Life membership - \$300

Your dues help us with our continuing efforts to maintain Chaplin Nature Center, provide free nature education for children and adults across south central Kansas, and provide speakers and field trips open to all.

You will receive eight issues a year of our email newsletter to keep you informed about all our news and upcoming events.

You can join online at www.wichitaudubon.org or make checks payable to the Wichita Audubon Society and send to PO Box 47607, Wichita, KS 67201.

December 19, Thursday, 8 am El Dorado CBC

Meet at the McDonald's on Central in El Dorado. Contact the compiler via e-mail or text (785-501-0867) if you are planning to attend so she can have a head count.

Compiler: Vickie Cikanek, 785-501-0867, vickie.cikanek@ks.gov

December 21, Saturday, 8 am Arkansas City CBC

Meet at Newman Park on Hwy 77 just north of the Arkansas River.

Compiler: Gene Young, 620-660-0547, youngg6264@yahoo.com

December 30, Monday, 7:30 am Marion CBC

Meet at Wendy's in Hillsboro at 7:30 am.

Compiler: Tom Ewert, 316-670-3140, trewert@yahoo.com

January 4, Saturday, 7:30 am Red Hills CBC

Meet at the Casey's General Store, 314 S. Iliff St in Medicine Lodge. Groups will depart at 7:30 am.

Compiler: Pete Janzen, 316-519-1970, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

Annual Report

The 47th annual report of the Wichita Audubon Society and Chaplin Nature Center is available for [download](#) or you can view it in your browser [here](#).

Accounting Help Needed

For many years we have employed Joe Andrews to do the accounting and taxes for Wichita Audubon. Joe is looking at retiring, and so we are looking for help. If you know of anyone who takes on small jobs like this at a reasonable price let us know. Contact our treasurer, Kevin Groeneweg, at kgroeneweg1616@gmail.com, 316-706-9116.

Note: if you are a member of the National Audubon Society you are automatically a member of Wichita Audubon Society and do not need to pay additional dues.

For additional information call Carol Cumberland, (316) 685-4867 carol.cumberland@swbell.net,