September Meeting

Join us for a presentation from our own Rachel Roth titled “Jurassic Lark: Why Birds Are Dinosaurs.” From brooding behaviors to pneumatic bones, the similarities between modern birds and dinosaurs go well beyond feathers. In the last two years huge leaps in research and hundreds of new fossils continue to paint a picture of ancient birds that blur the line between “avian” and “non-avian.” Rachel will explain why dinosaurs still exist; they simply took to the sky.

Rachel Roth is the Great Plains Nature Center’s resident bird nerd who got hooked on all things feathered while studying Wildlife Management & Ecology at K-State. An award-winning science interpreter and GPNC Naturalist for 4 years, Rachel also worked as a wildlife field technician studying birds in the tallgrass prairie and arctic tundra before returning to her Wichita hometown.

The presentation will be on Tuesday, September 17, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. Note that this year we will not have a dinner before the program.
Chaplin Nature Center Program - Friday the 13th Full Moon 2k Fun Walk/Run

It’s a full moon AND its Friday the 13th…. a perfect time to get outdoors and get moving with this 2k plus moon fun run/walk. Individuals and families can go at their own pace along the edge of the Center’s tall grass prairie trail. Along the trail, stations will award glow sticks to those who choose to stop and answer moon or nature questions related to the night. If you plan on running the trail be sure to bring a head lamp. Participants will be placed into groups and staggered a few minutes apart. Use the link below to register and/or to pre-order a t-shirt. T-shirt orders must be received by September 4th. The t-shirt will look just like the picture below. Register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/friday-the-13th-full-moon-2k-fun-walkrun-tickets-57638394991

Or go to wichitaaudubon.org/events and follow the link there.

Help Needed

Carol Cumberland has been our bird seed salesperson for 20 years now, but it is time for her to pass the torch. This project nets about $5,000 each year, so it is very important to our efforts.

We generally have four sales a year between September and April. Orders are taken from our customer list, the seed is delivered to us by our supplier, and we have volunteers deliver it to the customers inside the Wichita city limits.

We would like to put together a committee of at least three people who could divide up the duties and make it an easier job. If you would consider helping or have suggestions, please contact our president Bob Gress.

And the next time you see Carol, tell her thank you!
Extended Field Trips 2020

We have planned two multi-day field trips for the coming year. Both involve traveling in vans, so space will be limited. If you are interested, get your name on the list so you will have a space and we can keep you informed as our plans progress. There is no deposit required or penalty if your plans change, we just need to have an idea of numbers. We will have sign up sheets at the monthly meetings, or you can email or call Patty Marlett, 316-200-3419, pmarlett@mac.com for both trips.

Rio Grande Valley, Texas

January 25 - 31, 2020

The Valley is always a hot spot for rarities and tropical species that don’t occur anywhere else in the U.S. In the winter months there is more potential for Mexican vagrant species. This year there is extra motivation to go, as construction of the border wall threatens to damage or destroy some of the most popular birding destinations. Pete Janzen and Kevin Groeneweg are planning the birding itinerary and will lead the birding effort. Patty Marlett will be handling accommodations and transportation.

We will be renting vans for transportation. If you would be interested in sharing a van, please indicate that when you sign up. Of course, you can drive your own car, but the idea of vans is to reduce the size of the caravan and make traveling easier. It is also fun to share a van and get to know your fellow birders, plus it is more eco-friendly. There will be a charge for van rental and gas. We will reserve blocks of rooms at each place we plan to stay, but you will be responsible for making your own reservation and paying for your room and food. We will help match up people to share rooms, if desired.

Sandhill Cranes, Kearney, Nebraska

April 1-3, 2020

Each spring, the Platte River in central Nebraska hosts the largest gathering of cranes in the world. This WAS field trip in early April plans to visit the top viewing areas near Kearney, Nebraska. We plan to visit the riverside crane blind of Rowe Sanctuary, the Fort Kearney Hike and Bike trail bridge, the Central Platte Natural Resources District Platte River viewing deck, and the Rainwater Basin’s Funk Wildlife Production Area. Depending on weather conditions and recent bird sightings, these locations may change as needed. There will be a charge to cover vans, blind fees and entrance fees. A block of rooms will be reserved but food and room expense will be on your own.

Additional information will be provided when plans are more complete. Leaders for this trip are Patty Marlett and Bob Gress.

Note that our schedule of all field trips, programs, and Chaplin Nature Center programs for the next year is available on our website at wichitaaudubon.org
Chaplin Nature Center Programs

September 13, 8 - 10 p.m. Friday the 13th Full Moon 2k+ Fun Walk/Run

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September 28, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monarch Tagging & Fall Nature Day

Celebrate the wonders of nature by participating in the monarch migration. The butterfly tagging program is part of on-going research conducted by the University of Kansas. Participants will learn about the migration and be given an opportunity to capture and tag a monarch. Leaders from the Wichita Audubon Society will be offering a variety of nature hikes throughout the day. Whether you like birds, butterflies, or reptiles there will be a little something for everyone to enjoy. Lunch will be available for purchase. Free admission.

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