

# Audubon

Vol. 58 No. 57

April 2019

**April 6**

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

**Page 4****April 6**

Chautauqua County field trip. We will explore the Cross Timbers region in search of early spring migrants. Meet at the Dillon's parking lot at Andover Rd & US 400 and carpool from there. Lunch at a restaurant in Sedan. Leader: Kevin Groeneweg, kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net, 706-9116

**April 13**

Second Saturday Bird Walk in Chisholm Creek Park. Meet in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 8 a.m. Questions? Kevin Groeneweg, kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net, 706-9116

**April 13**

Join us after the second Saturday bird walk to collect trash and keep our adopted park looking nice.

**Page 2****April 16**

Monthly program, "Birdsong: Birds Are Liars, and Girls Sing Too," by Rachel Roth,, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. Join us for dinner before the program at Panera Bread, 1605 N Rock Road, at 5:30 p.m.

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## April Meeting

Our April program will be "Birdsong: Birds Are Liars, and Girls Sing Too," presented by Rachel Roth.

We've all enjoyed the dawn chorus of birds, but have you wondered what they are saying? How do they make such elaborate sounds? How do they know what to sing? We'll discuss why the sounds of birds are more complicated than our field guides can say.

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, April 16, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. You can also join us for dinner at Panera Bread, 1605 N Rock Rd, at 5:30 p.m.

Rachel Roth

## New Roof at CNC

Thanks to a grant from the Lattner Family Foundation for \$16,000 we were able to replace the roof on the Visitor's Center at Chaplin Nature Center. Shawn has been fighting leaks for months, so we are really glad to finally have it fixed. This is our first metal roof, and we hope it has a long life!



## Chisholm Creek Park Cleanup

Right after the 2nd Saturday bird walk on April 13 (approximately 9:30 a.m.) we will meet in the parking lot of the Great Plains Nature Center to pick up trash in our adopted park. Bring gloves - we'll provide trash bags, tools, and coffee and donuts!

Questions? Our organizers are Brian and Nohora Talarico, [btalarico34@outlook.com](mailto:btalarico34@outlook.com).

### 2018-2019 WAS Officers

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Send address changes to Carol Cumberland, 1106 Gretchen, Wichita, KS 67206  
[carol.cumberland@swbell.net](mailto:carol.cumberland@swbell.net), 685-4867

## Birdathon

It's that time of year again for our annual Birdathon. This fund-raiser is a very important source of funding for Chaplin Nature Center. Just contact a team member and tell them you would like to help. Pledges can be made based on the number of species the team finds or can be a fixed amount.

For the CNC team contact Shawn Silliman at 620-442-4133, [cnc@wichitaudubon.org](mailto:cnc@wichitaudubon.org). For the Painted Bunting team contact Carol Cumberland, 685-4867, [carol.cumberland@swbell.net](mailto:carol.cumberland@swbell.net). Our third team is organized by Tom Ewert, [trewert@yahoo.com](mailto:trewert@yahoo.com), 670-3140.

# Wetlands and Streams in the Great Plains Threatened by Proposed Rule: Your Voice May Help Save Them

The EPA and Corps of Engineers recently held the one and only public hearing on a Proposed Rule that, if adopted, will redefine “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) in a way that will eliminate regulatory protection for most wetlands in the Great Plains and many thousands of miles of streams, including most tributaries that flow into larger streams and rivers.

If adopted by the agencies, isolated wetlands (not connected to major rivers), along with countless streams and sections of rivers that would be removed from WOTUS, will no longer be protected by the Clean Water Act of 1972. The wetlands and streams removed from recognition as WOTUS will not be protected from pollution by EPA or the Section 404 permit requirement for dredging, draining and/or filling administered by the Corps of Engineers.

- (1) **It is vitally important for as many people and organizations as possible to file comments to express their individual and/or collective views on the proposed changes in the definition of “WOTUS.”** Specifically, individuals and other entities need to indicate if they think that isolated wetlands and streams that are not constantly flowing are worthy of protection—as previously recognized by the Clean Water Act of 1972 and later revisions (including the revisions of 2015).
- (2) **(2) We need to indicate that these ecological and associated resources are important and outline why they should continue to be protected by the Clean Water Act.** Without protection from pollution in tributary streams, it will be more difficult and expensive to treat downstream water for domestic purposes. We believe that “Clean Water for All” is an objective that should remain at the forefront of water policy in this country. Clean water is not only important for drinking water, but also for recreation, fish and wildlife, our economy and all of the ecological services that are provided by a healthy environment.
- (3) **(3) EPA and the Corps will be required in the review process to answer questions and comments for the record.** It is appropriate to ask if they have evaluated the economic costs and other impacts of reduced protection of streams and wetlands from pollutants, dredging, filling, channelization and drainage. Wetlands and natural stream courses provide major benefits in reducing downstream flooding, and reduction of siltation of lakes.

As we all know, wetlands in the Great Plains are critical for waterfowl (ducks, geese, and swans), wading birds (including Whooping Cranes, Sandhill Cranes, herons and egrets), shorebirds, other water birds (including pelicans) and many other species of birdlife and wildlife.

For more information on isolated wetlands see the Audubon of Kansas website at :

<https://www.audubonofkansas.org/news/2019/wetlands-and-streams-in-the-great-plains-threatened-by-proposed-rule>

Comments from the public and organizations will be accepted until April 15, 2019. To file comments online, or view instructions for submitting comments by mail:

<https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=EPA-HQ-OW-2018-0149-0003>

*From Ron Klataske, Executive Director of Audubon of Kansas*



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## Chaplin Nature Center Programs

*Saturday, April 6, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.*  
*Spring Clean up*

With Earth Day right around the corner, why not get an early start and volunteer at the Chaplin Nature Center. The center needs your help with a variety of outdoor projects to help get the trails and facility in tip-top shape for school programs and visitors. Be sure to wear old clothes and bring a pair of work gloves. Soft leaf rakes and/or tree pruners needed. Call the center if you have 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.