

Audubon

Vol. 63 No.7

April 2024

April Meeting

Chuck Otte is a well-known Kansas birder who will present "Bird Distribution in Kansas: Dynamic or Stable?" Starting with the publication of Thompson and Ely's two volume set, *Birds in Kansas*, in 1989 and 1992, Kansas birders finally had a compilation of what birds had been seen in which counties in Kansas. Building from that, the Kansas County Check-list project attempted to begin tracking bird species, county by county. This facilitated the range maps that were used in *Birds in Kansas*, Thompson, et.al. 2011. The Kansas County Check-list project, in conjunction with eBird records are giving us a much better understanding of bird distribution in Kansas in both space and time. Chuck will explain the history of the Kansas checklist project and show some of the patterns we are seeing in bird occurrence within Kansas, as well discuss how eBird is impacting our knowledge of bird distributions. Chuck Otte is recently retired from a career of over 40 years as a County Extension Agent for Geary County. He grew up on a family farm in York County, Nebraska. Chuck received B.S. and M.A. degrees from the University of Nebraska. Chuck is a past president for the Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS), served as the KOS newsletter editor for over twelve years, currently serves as secretary of KOS and the Kansas Bird Records Committee. He has coauthored two books about Kansas birds.

The presentation will be on Tuesday, April 16, 7 pm at the Great Plains Nature Center. A recording of the program will be available on [YouTube](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Keep up to date on all our activities on our website at www.wichitaaudubon.org/events

March 30, 10 am - 3 pm CNC Spring Clean-Up

CNC needs your help! Spring is here and there is a lot to do to get CNC cleaned up and ready for another year of school trips and visitors! From trimming trails to fixing fences and even cleaning windows, there are lots of little and big tasks that need completed.

For more information about any Chaplin Nature Center programs call Elizabeth Walker at 620-442-4133, or e-mail cnc@wichitaaudubon.org. For a map to CNC see wichitaaudubon.org/cnc/

April 6, 8 am - 10am First Saturday Bird Walk at Chaplin Nature Center "Natural Navigators"

Join us for our monthly bird watching hike around CNC! Did you know that CNC sits in the middle of a region called the central flyway? Over 400 species of birds use the central flyway during migration! This month's program will begin with a short indoor presentation focused on bird migration. Following this, we will hike 1-2 miles around the property. No experience or equipment necessary!

Nature Adventure Packs

Audubon of Kansas is putting these packs in libraries all over Kansas. They have a grant from Spirit AeroSystems and plan to bring them to south central Kansas soon, so watch for them in your local library.



NATURE ADVENTUREPACKS



Coming to Public Libraries All Over Kansas!

We want everyone to get a chance to “check out” birds, bugs, butterflies, trees and clouds with binoculars! We currently serve over 45 public libraries in 25 Kansas counties. Nature Adventurepacks are expanding across the state. Contact us for ways YOU can help!

-  1 Pair of Adult Binoculars
-  2 Pairs of Child Binoculars
-  Foldout ID Guide for KS Birds & Butterflies
-  Recommendations for Birding in Your County
-  Youtube Video Tips for Birding and Butterfly ID

April 6, 6:30 am - 5 pm Chautauqua County Backroads field trip

We will explore the scenic Cross Timbers region in search of early spring warblers and other migrants. Meet at the Dillon’s parking lot at Andover Rd and US 400 and carpool from there.

Leaders:

Kevin Groeneweg, 316-706-9116,
kgroeneweg1616@gmail.com & Pete
Janzen, 316-519-1970,
pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

April 13, 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. *Questions?*

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

April 13, ~ 9:45 am Cleanup in Chisholm Creek Park

Join us after the second Saturday bird walk (approximately 9:45 am). Meet in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot to collect trash and keep our adopted park looking nice. Bring gloves, we'll provide trash bags, along with coffee, water, and snacks. We'll finish with a raffle for a prize and a group picture! *Leaders: Brian & Nohora Talarico, btalarico34@outlook.com*

Monarch Calendar Project

Monarch Watch is **seeking the immediate assistance of hundreds of monarch enthusiasts** (community scientists) in collecting observations of adult monarchs in their area during 2024. This project is an attempt to assemble quantitative data on monarch numbers during the breeding season. The data from these observations will be used to inform the status of the monarch population this year following an extremely low population size on the overwintering grounds.

There are numerous gaps in our knowledge and some of these gaps can be addressed if we can convince a large number of monarch enthusiasts (community scientists) to record the number of monarchs they see each day. If you would like to participate this year, please see the complete details on the **Monarch Calendar Project** page at <https://monarchwatch.org/calendar> then download the [Monarch Watch App](#) and start watching for monarchs!



Woodcock Field Trip

About 40 people came to search for Woodcock in Chisholm Creek Park on March 13. We heard at least six, and Bob Gress got one to come out and show off for us. Everyone got good looks. It was encouraging to see new faces and young people!



May 4, 8 am - 10 am CNC First Saturday Bird Walk: "Nesting"

Join us for our monthly bird watching hike around CNC! Ever wondered which species nest here? This month's program will begin with a short indoor presentation focused on nesting- both at Chaplin and throughout the region. Following this, we will begin our bird walk around the property. Expect to hike 1-2 miles. No experience or equipment necessary! *For more information about any Chaplin Nature Center programs call Elizabeth Walker at 620-442-4133, or e-mail cnc@wichitaudubon.org. For a map to CNC see wichitaudubon.org/cnc/*

Birdathon

It is time 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 Elizabeth Walker at 620-442-4133, cnc@wichitaudubon.org. For the Painted Bunting team contact Carol Cumberland, carol.cumberland@swbell.net, 685-4867. Our third team, the Roadrunners, are organized by Tom Ewert, 670-3140, trewert@yahoo.com.