

Audubon

Vol. 65 No. 7

April 2026

April Meeting



Our April presentation will be from Gene Young, who will talk about “ESA, NEPA, and Environmental Laws: Are they Endangered? Implications for Kansas!”

Habitat loss, human population growth, pollution, natural resource reduction, and overall environmental degradation led to extinctions, species declines, and human health issues during the late 1800’s through the mid-1900’s. Philosophers, scientists, and biologists began to sound the alarm; noteworthy of which include the likes of Ralph

Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, Gifford Pinchot, Aldo Leopold, and Rachel Carson. In the early 1900’s there were some laws that benefited “wildlife” (ex. MBTA 1918), but ultimately the era of the 1970’s is when bipartisan agreement allowed for some of the most significant environmental laws to be passed. However, since that time several of these laws have faced increasing political pressure, at times resulting in amendments, with both positive and negative impacts. We will explore some of these laws from an environmental, political, social, economic, and religious aspect to ascertain a deeper understanding and the significance for us as individuals, but also for state, nation, and global citizenry.

Gene is currently a Biology Professor at Northern Oklahoma College (23rd yr), with a combined total of 30 years of college teaching experience. He has over 30 years of experience working for or in collaboration with local, state, and federal governmental agencies on environmental issues associated with avian mortality at transmission towers, powerlines and wind turbines. He was also an endangered species biologist for the Missouri

Continued on page 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

Information about all our activities is available on our [website](#).

April 4, 9 am **Saturday Bird & Wildlife walk at** **Chaplin Nature Center**

Join us for a bird and wildlife walk lasting 1 – 1.5 hours, weather permitting. Meet in the visitor's center. Wildlife photographers and beginning birders welcome! Ages 7 and up suggested due to the length of the walk.

For more information or to RSVP call or text Eden Johnson at 620-442-4133, or e-mail cnc@wichitaaudubon.org.

April 11, 8 am **Second Saturday bird walk in** **Chisholm Creek Park**

Expect 1-2 miles of walking on paved paths for about 90 minutes. Meet in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 8 am. *Questions? Patty Marlett, 316-200-3419, pmarlett@mac.com*

National Guard; and the Endangered Species Program Manager and Pest Management Program Manager for the Army National Guard Headquarters, with responsibilities of overseeing both programs in all 54 States and Territories. He's also worked extensively with NGO's in environmental education and awareness, and research, including studying fish populations in the Everglades (NAS). He has been a consultant for government agencies, NGO's, and industry on issues associated with endangered species, utility placement, and land management.

In addition, he has 20+ years of editorial experience for the peer-reviewed scientific journals of both the Kansas and Oklahoma Ornithological Societies respective *Bulletins*, and as the regional reviewer for NAS CBC Counts in ND/SD/NE/KS/OK. He's co-author of the *Birds of Kansas*, and wrote 15 species accounts in the *Oklahoma Breeding Bird Atlas*. His research interests are in vertebrate natural history, especially shorebirds and owls, wetland/prairie biology and management, and environmental education with a holistic approach.

The presentation will be on Tuesday, April 21, 7 pm at the Great Plains Nature Center. If you can't attend in person, a recording will be available on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@wichitaudubonsociety4372>) the next day.

Slate of Officers

We elect new officers at our May meeting, which is the annual meeting of the corporation. Our nominating committee will present the following slate:

President: Mark Nolen

Vice-President: Pete Janzen

Treasurer: Kevin Groeneweg

Secretary: Dan Housholder

Board of Directors: Jennifer Jones and Patty Marlett

The president serves a two year term. The officers each serve one year terms. The directors serve three year terms for a maximum of two terms.

Nominations are also accepted from the floor at the time of the vote.

About eighteen people went searching for woodcocks on the chilly and windy evening of March 11. We found three in Chisholm Creek Park, and got good looks, as well as seeing their flight displays and hearing their chirps and "peents".



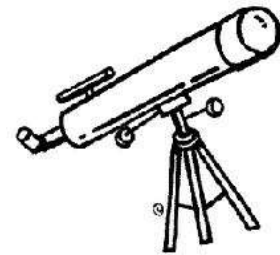
April 11, Saturday, 7 pm Astronomy Program at CNC

Join us for an evening of stargazing with the Ponca City Astronomy Club. The program will begin indoors with a short introduction to the night sky, followed by outdoor telescope viewing as dusk turns to dark. Observe the night sky, learn the constellations, and hear some of the folklore and stories that go along with them. Telescopes will be set up for public use to view the moon, planets, constellations, and deep-sky objects as conditions allow. Have your own telescope? Bring it along, and members of the Astronomy Club will be able to help you learn how to use it.

All ages welcome
RSVP appreciated

Note: this program is weather dependent. Please check for cancellations.

For more information or to RSVP call or text Eden Johnson at 620-442-4133, or e-mail cnc@wichitaudubon.org.



April 25, Saturday, 8 am Quivira NWR & Cheyenne Bottoms field trip

Meet at the Quivira NWR headquarters and see migrant shorebirds and other unique wetland wildlife in these nationally renowned locations. Bring a lunch.

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



The birders gathered for a bird walk and compilation in memory of Tom Ewert following his Celebration of Life at the Dyck Arboretum in Hesston on March 27.



Chaplin Nature Center hosted a presentation by Eric Neal, Cowley County Noxious Weed Coordinator, who gave an educational program on prairie management and invasive plant control.