

# Audubon

Vol. 57 No. 5

January/February 2018

**Jan 13 & Feb 10**

*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*

**January 16**

*Monthly program, "Wild Alaska," by Bob Gress, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. Join us for dinner with Bob before the program at Panera Bread, 1605 N Rock Road, at 5:30 p.m. Page 1*

**January 20**

*Gulls and More at Cheney Reservoir Leader: Pete Janzen, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net, 519-1970 Page 2*

**Jan 27 & Feb 3**

*Eagle Watch at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 a.m. - noon Page 4*

**February 20**

*Monthly program, "The Role of the Modern Zoo in Wildlife Conservation," by Jeff Ettling, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. Join us for dinner with Jeff before the program at Panera Bread, 1605 N Rock Road, at 5:30 p.m. Page 1*

**February 24**

*Backyard Bird Workshop, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center Page 2*



## January Meeting

Seeing wildlife that has adapted to the stunning landscape of the North is one of the exciting reasons to visit Alaska. Muskox, Arctic Fox and Northern Fur Seals join specialized birds in this harsh environment. Some northern-adapted birds seldom venture beyond their arctic habitats. Others are normally associated with Asia but have extended their ranges into and across the Bering Sea. Bob Gress will show us all with this presentation featuring the wilds of Nome and St. Paul Island. See his stunning photos of bluethroats, puffins, auklets, jaegers, kittiwakes, ptarmigan, muskox and lots more! This program is for all those who appreciate the value of wild places and wild things

The presentation will be on Tuesday, January 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.



Bob Gress



Jeff Ettling

## February Meeting

Our February presentation will be "The Role of the Modern Zoo in Wildlife Conservation," by Jeff Ettling Ph.D.

The conservation role of today's zoo is much greater than most people realize. The conservation work of the Sedgwick County Zoo and other Association of Zoos & Aquarium (AZA) accredited facilities extends beyond their front gate. Zoos truly are conservation organizations in the truest sense of the word. Sedgwick County Zoo's new executive director will provide us with insights into this important and evolving role of zoos.

The presentation will be on Tuesday, February 20, 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.

# Backyard Bird Workshop

Do you enjoy watching birds in your yard? Want to know more about how to attract and care for them? How about building a free bird house? We'll have all that and more at our workshop on Saturday, February 24, at the Great Plains Nature Center. We'll have materials and tools (and helpers) so you can build your own Carolina Wren house to be ready for spring. Younger kids can make a pine cone bird feeder to hang in the yard for the birds. Plus there will be lots of experienced people with lots of information on all aspects of backyard birds -- from housing to water to feeding to other wildlife.

Bring the whole family and have a good time regardless of the weather. We'll be there from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.



## 2017-2018 WAS Officers

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[www.wichitaudubon.org](http://www.wichitaudubon.org)

Send address changes to Carol Cumberland, 1106 Gretchen, Wichita, KS 67206

## Gulls & More Field Trip

Join us on Saturday, January 20, for a trip to Cheney Reservoir. We will meet at the Dillons parking lot at 21st. N. and Amidon, departing at 7:30 am. We will stop briefly at the LaFarge Sandpits and then move on to Cheney Reservoir. Late January is a good time of year to see a variety of gull species, Bald Eagles and wintering waterfowl at Cheney, along with a good variety of land birds.

Bring along something for lunch as we will probably be out until mid afternoon. A State Park Permit will be needed for each vehicle. Leader: Pete Janzen 519-1970, [pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net).

# Great Backyard Bird Count

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time. Now, more than 160,000 people of all ages and walks of life worldwide join the four-day count each February to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds.

We invite you to participate! For at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count, **February 16-19, 2018**, simply tally the numbers and kinds of birds you see. You can count from any location, anywhere in the world, for as long as you wish! If you're new to the count, or have not participated since before the 2013 merger with eBird, you must create a free online account to enter your checklists. If you already have an account, just use the same login name and password. If you have already participated in another Cornell Lab citizen-science project, you can use your existing login information, too.

For more information on how to get started, go to: <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/get-started/>

In 2017, Great Backyard Bird Count participants in more than 100 countries counted more than 6,200 species of birds on more than 180,000 checklists! During the count, you can explore what others are seeing in your area or around the world. Share your bird photos by entering the photo contest, or enjoy images pouring in from across the globe. You can even add photos and sounds to your checklist. Your help is needed every year to make the GBBC successful!

Then keep counting throughout the year with eBird, which uses the same system as the Great Backyard Bird Count to collect, store, and display data any time, all the time.

## Why count birds?

Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. Bird populations are dynamic; they are constantly in flux. No single scientist or team of scientists could hope to document and understand the complex distribution and movements of so many species in such a short time.

Scientists use information from the Great Backyard Bird Count, along with observations from other citizen-science projects, such as the Christmas Bird Count, Project FeederWatch, and eBird, to get the “big picture” about what is happening to bird populations. The longer these data are collected, the more meaningful they become in helping scientists investigate far-reaching questions, like these:

- How will the weather and climate change influence bird populations?
- Some birds, such as winter finches, appear in large numbers during some years but not others. Where are these species from year to year, and what can we learn from these patterns?
- How will the timing of birds' migrations compare with past years?
- How are bird diseases, such as West Nile virus, affecting birds in different regions?
- What kinds of differences in bird diversity are apparent in cities versus suburban, rural, and natural areas?



*Purple Finch by Bob Gress*



P.O. Box 47607  
Wichita, KS 67201

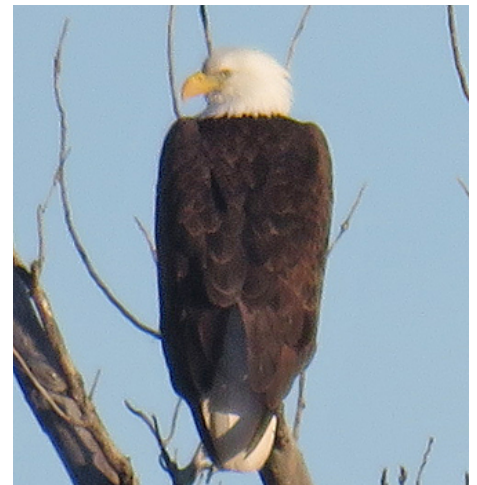
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## Chaplin Nature Center Programs

*Saturday, Jan 27 & Saturday, Feb 3, 10 a.m. - Noon  
Eagle Watch*

The combination of freezing temperatures and lack of tree foliage makes winter one of the best times to view Bald Eagles. After a 15-minute indoor presentation the group will hike down to the Arkansas River to search for wintering eagles. Be sure to dress for winter hiking.



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.