

Audubon

Vol. 59 No. 5

January/February 2020

Jan 11 & Feb 8

Second Saturday Bird Walk in Chisholm Creek Park. Meet in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 8 a.m. Questions? Tom Ewert, 670-3140, trewert@yahoo.com.

January 21

Monthly program, "Wetlands Food Chain," by Mike Blair, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

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Jan 26 & Feb 2

Bald Eagle Hike at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 a.m. - noon

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February 19

Monthly program, "Australia: Adventures Down Under," by Jim and Patty Marlett, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

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February 22

Birding the Tropics at the Sedgwick County Zoo

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January Meeting

Join us on January 21 for a great film by videographer Mike Blair entitled **Wetlands Food Chain**. A wetlands area like Kansas' Cheyenne Bottoms is among the world's most dynamic habitats. This new film explores wildlife interrelationships from microscopic animals to apex predators, filmed mostly at Cheyenne Bottoms, and how they depend upon each other for survival.



Mike Blair

Mike Blair is a photographer/videographer with a passion for explaining the wonders of the Midwestern Outdoors. He's been a wildlife communicator for most of his career. Blair holds a B.S. in Forest Management and M.S. in Entomology from University of Missouri-Columbia. Blair worked as a field forester for nine years before

assuming duties as photographer/associate editor for Kansas Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism. Freelance photos and written articles include about 100 magazine titles, as well as a number of outdoor books including *Prairie Chronicles* and *A Kansas Year*. Retired since 2012, Blair films and produces television broadcast material, mainly in his PBS series, *Wild Edge*, and also as a weekly contributor on a syndicated network program, *Positively Kansas*. He is currently engaged in a number of video projects for conservation organizations in Missouri and Kansas.

The presentation will be on Tuesday, January 21, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

February Meeting

Our February meeting will be a trip to Australia! Jim and Patty Marlett have made two trips to Australia, both times with Carol and Hal Cumberland. In 2015 they visited Queensland, Sydney, and Tasmania for four weeks. They returned in 2018 to spend three weeks in Victoria and South Australia, traveling from Melbourne to Adelaide. The wildlife in Australia was amazing, and like nothing in Kansas! They will show you everything from Emus and penguins to blue-tongued skink to Tasmanian devils.

Jim and Patty are both retired. He was the Deputy Director at the Sedgwick County Zoo; she was a naturalist at the Great Plains Nature Center.

The presentation will be on Tuesday, February 18, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center



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www.wichitaudubon.org

Send address changes to Carol Cumberland, 1106 Gretchen, Wichita, KS 67206
carol.cumberland@swbell.net, 316-685-4867

CNC Wish List

These are a few items that the Chaplin Nature Center could use to help maintain the trails and facilities. If you happen to have one that you don't use anymore, e-mail the Nature Center at cnc@wichitaudubon.org, or call Shawn at 620-442-4133. Thanks!

Power washer

Battery powered leaf blower

Leaf Rakes

Loppers

Birding the Tropics

Escape winter and enjoy some tropical birds in the Sedgwick County Zoo's Tropics Building. On Saturday, February 22, meet in the lobby of the Tropics Building at 9:15 a.m. (the zoo opens at 9). You will have to pay zoo admission, or use your membership. Bring binoculars. We'll get an overview from a keeper and a list of birds, and then we'll see how many we can find.

Leader: Patty Marlett, pmarlett@mac.com, 316-200-3419



Extended Field Trip: 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.

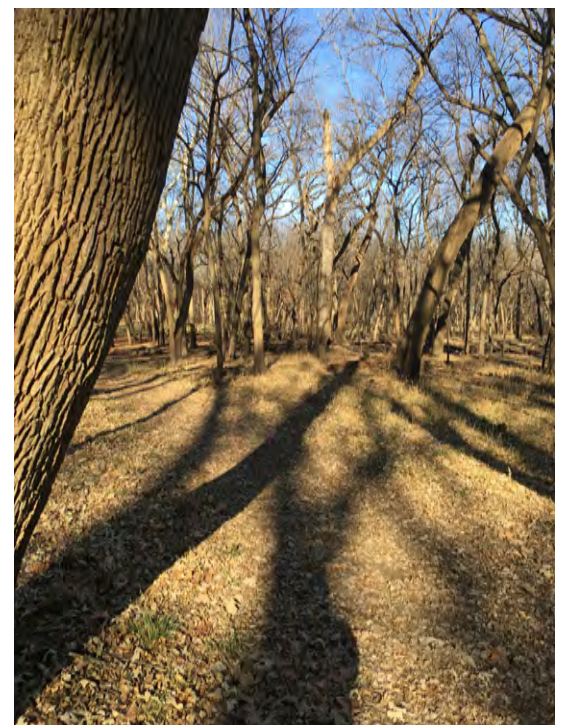


We have room for more people, so let us know if you are interested. Leaders for this trip are Patty Marlett, pmarlett@mac.com, 316-200-3419, and Bob Gress, bobgress@cox.net, 316-765-2046.



Winter - a Good Time to Visit CNC

The winter months are still a good time to get outdoors and visit the Chaplin Nature Center. With the leaves down, visitors can get a different perspective of the property. During the winter the forest really opens up and its possible to see much further into the landscape than any other time of the year. This is one of the best times to view wildlife. Turkey and deer are abundant and Bald Eagles have returned to winter along the Arkansas River. The Pileated Woodpeckers are very vocal along with the wrens, chickadees, and titmouse. Also, this is a great time to track down a mob of crows or Blue Jays to see what has them up in arms. The trails are open everyday from dawn to dusk and the Visitor Center is open on the weekends. See you on the trails.



P.O. Box 47607
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Chaplin Nature Center Programs

*Saturday, Jan 25 & Saturday, Feb 1, 10 a.m. - Noon
Bald Eagle Winter Hike*

Mid-winter is one of the best times to view Bald Eagles in Kansas. Searching for open water, many eagles migrate down to Kansas to spend the winter on the Arkansas River. The program will start with a 15-minute introduction to the history and adaptations of the Bald Eagle. We will then take a 1.5-mile hike down to the River to search for over-wintering eagles. Binoculars are helpful but not required.



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