

Audubon

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January Meeting

Join us as Dennice Craig presents "To Attract Wildlife to your Landscape, Flowers are Necessary—but not Sufficient."

We are beginning to realize that North American wildlife is in deep trouble. Most don't know that backyard gardeners might be the solution. Those who

own a small portion can turn it into a complex habitat where wildlife can find refuge, build homes, and survive. One caveat, all of us must do this—imagine that every backyard had a piece of functional habitat. Backyard gardeners will be the conservationists and preservationists who rescue North American wildlife from extinction. So, it is important to learn how to create that habitat.

Dennice Craig worked as a high school teacher of psychology and sociology, then as Assistant Principal (the disciplinarian). She started as a backyard birdwatcher and became an Audubon Society member. After being a Sedgwick County Master Gardener volunteer her interest in feeding birds with native plants lead to an obsession with growing natives. This, in turn, brought a realization that those native plants attract insects. Dennice's obsession with insects and creating a native garden for them makes a full circle— a landscape for birds, frogs, toads, giant beetles and more. Soon she found her mission— her core belief, that if human ignorance and need plowed/paved our beautiful natural world, then human intelligence and knowledge and decency could start fixing the mess.

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

There is a two page schedule of events that you can [print or download](#). And, of course, up to date information about all our activities is available on our website at www.wichitaaudubon.org/events.

**January 13, 8 am & February 10, 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

**January 6, 9 am & February 3, 9 am
First Saturday bird walk at
Chaplin Nature Center**

Join us for a leisurely stroll to find birds. No experience necessary - beginners are welcome! We also have binoculars to loan. If the weather is bad we may watch the feeders from inside the building.

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 [click here](#).

February Meeting

Bob Gress is going to share the birds, mammals and landscapes of Patagonia, telling about his recent trip to Chile.

Patagonia refers to the southern tip of South America and includes parts of both Argentina and Chile. In November of 2023 a group of 10 Kansans explored the Chile portion of Patagonia in search of birds, mammals, and landscapes of the southern tip of South America.

Wichita Audubon members on this trip included Jim and Patty Marlett, Kevin and Laura Groeneweg, Tom Ewert, Rod Wedel and Mary and Bob Gress. Join us as we explore Chiloé Island, Straits of Magellan, Tierra del Fuego and Torres del Paine National Park. Some of the sights seen included Darwin's Fox, Puma, three species of penguins, Emu, guanaco, and many more. Explore, discover and enjoy!

Bob Gress is the former director of the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita and co-founder of www.BirdsInFocus.com. Bob has photographed wildlife in wild places throughout North American, Central America, South America, New Zealand and Africa. Over 4,900 of his wildlife photos have been published and are seen in a variety of magazines and in more than seventy books. Currently, Pete Janzen and Bob are finishing *The Guide to Kansas Birds and Birding Hot Spots, Expanded Edition*. Watch for the publication of this book in 2024.

The presentation will be on Tuesday, February 20, 7 pm at the Great Plains Nature Center. A recording of the program will be available on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) the next day.



January 20, 7:30 am Cheney Reservoir Field Trip

We'll look for winter waterfowl and check out nearby lakes and woodlands. Meet at the Dillon's at 21st and Amidon for carpooling. Each vehicle must have a Kansas Parks permit.

Leader: *Pete Janzen*, 316-519-1970,
pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

February 24, 1:30 pm El Dorado Lake and Short-eared Owls

Meet at the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot. Or if it is more convenient, meet us at 2 pm at the El Dorado State Park Walnut River area by the main restrooms. We'll look for waterfowl on the lake and other winter birds in the surrounding areas, then hunt for Short-eared Owls at dusk. Each vehicle must have a Kansas Parks permit.

Leader: *Patty Marlett*, 316-200-3419,
pmarlett@cox.net

Annual Report

The 46th annual report of the Wichita Audubon Society and Chaplin Nature Center is available for download here: wichitaaudubon.org/pdf/22-23AnnualReport.pdf, or you can view it in your browser here: <https://wichitaaudubon.org/news/annualrpt/>

AOK Lek Treks

The third annual Kansas Lek Treks Prairie-Chicken Festival is to be held in Hays, Kansas, April 11-14, 2024.

The highlight of this birding festival will include opportunities to view both Greater and Lesser Prairie-Chickens. No birdwatcher should miss seeing this yearly ritual unfold as males fight among themselves and display to females. The timing of the festival coincides with the peak of prairie-chicken breeding and female visitation to the lek.

Activities include viewing from Prairie Chicken blinds, field trips to Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira NWR, field trips to Castle Rock and Little Jerusalem State Park, plus keynote speaker Larkin Powell, author of *Great Plains Birds* and prairie-chicken biologist from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Read all about it and register here: <https://www.kansaslektreks.org/>

Don't delay - the blinds fill up fast!



Dillon's Community Rewards

Thanks to the many people who have signed up to give Wichita Audubon benefits from their Dillon's Plus cards.

If you haven't signed up yet, it is very easy and costs you nothing. Wichita Audubon Society will get credit for every purchase its members make using their registered Plus card. The more you shop with Dillon's, the more Wichita Audubon and Chaplin Nature Center will earn.

Go to <https://www.dillons.com/communityrewards>.

Sign in or create an account to enroll. Click on "Enroll Now"

Enter the 5-digit NPO CC339

Select Wichita Audubon and click on "Enroll"

If you have questions about the process, you can call 1-866-221-4141