

Audubon

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March 2020

March 14

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.

**March 17**

Monthly program, "Nature Highlights of Scotland and Ireland" by Bob Gress, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

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March 14

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

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**March 21**

Pawnee Prairie Park field trip. Meet at the west parking lot, located east of the intersection of Maize Rd & Pawnee

Leader: Bill Langley, 889-5434, 78gmouse43@gmail.com

March 28

Oak Park invasive plant removal.

Leader: Pete Janzen, 316-519-1970

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March Meeting

For our March program Bob Gress will present "Nature Highlights of Scotland and Ireland."

From rugged coastlines to Caledonian forests to mountain highlands, the Scottish islands maintain some of the most pristine wilderness in the United Kingdom. Wildlife thrives in much of this country of castles, lochs, moors, heaths, glens and firths. The Emerald Isle's physical appeal endures, but by no means is entirely green. The gray limestone Burrens in County Clare and the black peat bogs of the Midlands accent this beautiful landscape. This program highlights Scotland and Ireland's traditional culture, landscapes, rural life and wildlife encountered on a month-long adventure during spring of 2019.

Bob Gress is a naturalist, photographer, and birder and is the former director of the Great Plains Nature Center. He holds an M.S. in Biology from Emporia State University. Along with David



Bob Gress

Seibel and Judd Patterson he cofounded the website BirdsInFocus.com which features over 2,100 species worldwide. Since retirement in 2012, he has expanded his interest in world birds while continuing to search for U.S. birds that have eluded him. He has photographed birds and mammals for publications for over 30 years and over 4,500 of his photos have appeared in a variety of publications including most major nature magazines and more than 50 books. He has coauthored: *Birds of Kansas*,

The Guide to Kansas Birds and Birding Hot Spots and *Faces of the Great Plains: Prairie Wildlife*. Bob was a major contributor of photos to *The Smithsonian Book of North American Mammals* and *The Guide to Colorado Mammals*.

Be sure to check out Bob's bird images at: www.BirdsInFocus.com

The presentation will be on Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

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 an estimated charge of \$150 to cover vans, blind fees and entrance fees. A block of rooms has been 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.



2019-2020 WAS Officers

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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

Oak Park Invasive Plant Removal

Asian bush honeysuckle is an invasive plant that is causing serious habitat damage in many Wichita parks. Join us on Saturday, March 28, at 9 a.m. in Oak Park. We'll spend 3 - 4 hours removing these plants, directed by the Wichita Parks Department staff. Tools, gloves and bottled water will be provided. This is good exercise and a positive contribution to preserving habitat quality at one of our best local birding spots. Meet by the stone arch at the south-west corner of the park.

For information: Pete Janzen , 519-1970, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

Chaplin Nature Center Needs Your Help

One of the most important pieces of equipment at Wichita Audubon Society's Chaplin Nature Center is its John Deer Gator. Nature Center Director Shawn Silliman has kept it running for over 20 years, but nothing lasts forever. It needs to be replaced and we have a challenge grant for half the money needed. We need your help to meet the challenge and we have a deadline.

Consisting of a spring fed creek, a riparian forest, prairies and the sandy sandbars of the Arkansas River, the Chaplin Nature Center is an oasis of natural diversity. This diversity is our greatest asset and biggest attraction to visitors. The trails at the Center serve an integral part in allowing visitor access to these natural communities. The trail system also serves the important function of providing access throughout the area for management, emergencies and security. But maintaining these trails is one of our biggest challenges.



The Center has depended on the Gator, which has been used to transport people needing help on the trail, carry tools and equipment, clear flood debris and fallen trees, transport the sprayer during prairie burns, and is used to support our public programs.

Replacing the old worn out Gator will cost \$20,000. The V.J. Wilkins Foundation has awarded a challenge grant in the amount of \$10,000, but we need to raise the other \$10,000 by June 30, 2020 or we don't get the grant.

Please help Wichita Audubon and Chaplin Nature Center replace the Gator with your donation. Checks can be mailed to WAS at P.O. Box 47607, Wichita KS 67201, or you can donate on our website at wichitaaudubon.org. All donations are tax-deductible.



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Chaplin Nature Center Programs

Saturday, March 14, 10 a.m. - Noon

Bald Eagle Nest Viewing

Bald Eagle nesting activity starts in early winter and by mid-March the eggs have hatched, and the eaglets should be several weeks old. This is a great opportunity to view both the adults and young. As the nest site is protected by Federal law, we will take special care not to disturb them by setting up our spotting scopes at a safe distance. If you are interested in getting a close-up view through our scopes, we will be at Veteran's Lake in Arkansas City.



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.