

# Audubon

Vol. 60 No.6

March 2021

**March 13**

*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*

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*Bald Eagle Nest Watch at Chaplin Nature Center*  
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**March 13**

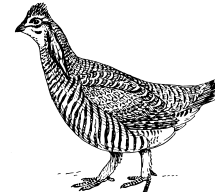
*Woodcock Walk in Chisholm Creek Park. Meet in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 8 p.m.*  
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**March 16**

*Monthly program, "Life History and Status of Prairie Chicken in KS," by Vickie Cikanek, 7 p.m. Online*

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*Marion County field trip.*  
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**April 3**

*Spring Clean-up at Chaplin Nature Center*  
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## March Meeting

Due to the continuing dangers of Coronavirus, the board has decided that all our programs through May will be online.

Vickie Cikanek will present "Life History and Current Status of Prairie Chicken in KS," for our March meeting.

Greater and Lesser Prairie chicken are an iconic symbol of the Kansas prairie. Their mating habits alone make them a must-see when visiting the great plains, but there is so much more to their lives than what goes on in the spring. They have been coined by some as umbrella species of the central plains, and it is because of that there has been a lot of concern over their population statuses across their range over the last 10 years. This program will give more details into all of this and more!

Vickie is currently a District Wildlife Biologist with Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. She spent 4 years working around Wilson Lake



**Greater Prairie Chicken**

and the last 3 years working in the Southern Flint hills. Prior to that, she held several seasonal or temporary field positions doing bird surveys on the Rio Grande in New Mexico, trapping game animals on Fort Bragg in North Carolina, and trapping and tracking Greater Prairie Chicken in the Flint Hills of Kansas. She is originally from northern Delaware. She received her bachelor's degree from Colorado State University in Wildlife Biology and worked on her Masters at Fort Hays State University studying Prairie Chicken in the hybrid zone.

The program will be live-streamed March 16 at 7 p.m., and will also be saved so you can watch it at your convenience. You can watch on the Wichita Audubon Facebook page, or on YouTube. The link for our YouTube channel is: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCBzA8JCBgw-5aUHVW11M7jw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBzA8JCBgw-5aUHVW11M7jw)

You can also find links on [wichtaudubon.org/events](https://wichtaudubon.org/events).

# New Director for Audubon of Kansas

Ron Klataske, Executive Director of Audubon of Kansas since it's founding in 1999, has retired. He has been replaced by Dr. Jackie Augustine. Originally from Wisconsin, she received her undergraduate degree from Miami University in Ohio, her master's from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, and her PhD at K State. Under the supervision of Brett Sandercock, she studied Greater Prairie Chicken behavior. Since 2009 she has taught at Ohio State Lima, and has been studying the Greater/Lesser Prairie-Chicken hybrid zone in Gove and Trego Counties of Kansas. Most recently she studied whether males can tell the difference between females of their own species and the other species (and if they care). She is active in Audubon in her local chapter, Tri-Moraine Audubon, serving as speaker coordinator and on the board. She worked with South Science Technology Magnet, a public school in Lima, OH, that serves a diverse student body that is 60% minority. She worked with teachers to develop a curriculum where students learned which native plants are hosts to particular native caterpillars, received a



grant from National Audubon to fund the planting of a native plant school garden. She also worked to reorganize the statewide Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC), eventually becoming president. She acted as a resource for chapters, supplying presentations, connect chapters with presenters, referring chapters to resources

from National Audubon, and providing advocacy or strategic planning training. For AOK, she brings a new perspective, and will push the organization to think about why AOK does what it is doing. What can be changed to make more of an impact? She would like to see a stronger connection between AOK and the Audubon chapters in Kansas. Additionally, she would like to explore what chapters would like from AOK so that the relationship is truly cooperative and not unidirectional.

## 2020-2021 WAS Officers

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Hospitality	Sarah Blackmon	316-264-4408	
Membership	Carol Cumberland	316-685-4687	carol.cumberland@swbell.net
Newsletter	Patty Marlett	316-200-3419	pmarlett@mac.com
Programs	Rachel Roth	316-213-9527	lilbluestem@gmail.com
Naturalist	Shawn Silliman	620-442-4133	cnc@wichitaudubon.org

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

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

## March Field Trips

### Woodcock Walk

Come see and hear the Woodcock perform its display at dusk in Chisholm Creek Park. Meet in GPNC parking lot off 29th St at 8 p.m., on Saturday, March 13. Bring a flashlight.

### Marion County

On Saturday, March 28, meet at the city park in Marion at 8 a.m. We will visit the county lake, the reservoir and several other hot spots with possible greater prairie chicken views. Reservations not required but it would be helpful to notify Tom if you plan to attend so that we can make some plans to limit our impact.

Leader for both trips: Tom Ewert,  
trewert@yahoo.com, 316-670-3140.

# Wings & Wetlands Festival

The 2020 Wings & Wetlands Festival is going virtual this year! Scheduled for March 24-26, 2021, registrants will have access to a series of live Zoom classes, as well as live socials and on-demand web resources accessible from wherever you are. Registration is only \$20 at [www.wingsandwetlands.com](http://www.wingsandwetlands.com).



Live Zoom programs will be offered each evening.

- Kenn Kaufman, renowned field guide author, naturalist, and artist, will headline the evening presentations with a program titled Kansas Wetlands: Crossroads of the Bird World.
- Alvaro Jaramillo, biologist, conservationist and guide, will present on the psychological benefits of birding.
- Sharon “The Bird Chick” Stiteler, will provide a comical presentation titled Today’s Office.
- Bob Gress with The Diversity of Birds on Kansas Wetlands.

- Gene Young with Shorebird Identification.
- Jason Wagner with Past and Future Management of Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area.
- Mike Oldham with Overview of Quivira NWR.
- Chuck Otte with Be a Better Birder: Techniques and Tricks for the Beginning Birder.
- Pat Silovsky with Masters of the Sky: Raptors.
- Sharon Stiteler with SmartPhone Birding.



Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge are two Wetlands of International Importance, and provide thousands of birds a stopover along their North and South migration routes. Traditionally the festival dates coincide with the historical peak of shorebird migration, and is sure to provide some excellent viewing of well over 150 species of birds. As the 2021 festival is held virtually in March, festival participants are encouraged to make plans to visit the Great Bend, KS area and our wetlands in April and May to witness the migration!

Beyond the scheduled presentations, there will also be interactive Zoom socials each evening to allow participants time to interact with fellow bird enthusiasts. Various on-demand web links will also provide registrants with added birding skills, local birding information, and advice for planning your next trip to the central Kansas wetlands.



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## Chaplin Nature Center Programs

*Saturday, March 13, 10 a.m. - Noon*

*Bald Eagle Nest Viewing*

There are eight Bald Eagle nests in Cowley County. We will visit one of the nest sites for a chance to see adults and eaglets. Nest sites are Federally protected so spotting scopes will be a safe distance from the nest. Meet us for a view of the eagles anytime between 10 a.m. and noon at Veterans Lake in Arkansas City.

*Saturday, April 3, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Spring Clean-Up*

We need your help to get the facilities in tip-top shape for the upcoming year. We are looking for volunteers to work on a variety of outdoor and indoor projects. Trimming trails, checking bridges, raking leaves, and working on the front flowerbeds are just a few of the projects. Be sure to wear old clothes and bring a pair of work gloves. Soft leaf rakes and tree pruners needed.



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).