

# Audubon

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March 2024

## March Meeting

Come learn about one of our favorite birding destinations as Curtis Wolf presents "Welcome (back) to Cheyenne Bottoms and the Kansas Wetlands Education Center." Many people in the hunting and birding communities are very familiar with Cheyenne Bottoms as a must-see destination for their trades.

However, many others know very little about the awesome wetland resource that lies right here in Central Kansas. Did you know Cheyenne Bottoms is the largest wetland in the interior of the U.S.? Curtis will describe the importance of Cheyenne Bottoms, showing many photos, videos, and recordings of some of the unique avian visitors that call the Bottoms home. We will also discuss some of the recent improvements that have been made at Cheyenne Bottoms to improve wildlife habitat. Finally, we will reintroduce the work of KWEC.

Curtis Wolf is the director at the Kansas Wetlands Education Center (KWEC) at Cheyenne Bottoms near Great Bend, KS. The KWEC opened in April 2009 and is operated as a branch of Fort Hays State University's Werth College of Science, Technology and Mathematics. Curtis received a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology at FHSU and his Master of Science degree in Biology at FHSU, studying freshwater mussels. Curtis sees his KWEC job as a wonderful opportunity to combine his passions of biology and education. Curtis loves anything outdoors, including hunting, fishing, camping, gardening, and lawn work. He also enjoys cooking and processing smoked meats. Curtis lives with his two dogs, Cheyenne and Moose, on a farm near Ellinwood, KS.

The presentation will be on Tuesday, March 19, 7 pm at the Great Plains Nature Center. A recording of the program will be available on [YouTube](#) the next day.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Keep up to date on all our activities on our website at*

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

### **March 2, 9 am First Saturday bird walk at Chaplin Nature Center "Seasonal Changes"**

Join us for our monthly bird watching hike around CNC! With the first official day of spring only two weeks away, this month's program will begin with a short indoor presentation on the seasonal changes occurring and what it means for the species we can expect to find at CNC. Following this, we will begin our bird walk around the property. Expect to hike 1-2 miles. No experience or equipment necessary!

*For more information about any Chaplin Nature Center programs call Elizabeth Walker at 620-442-4133, or e-mail [cnc@wichitaudubon.org](mailto:cnc@wichitaudubon.org). For a map to CNC [click here](#).*

### **March 9, 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](mailto:trewert@yahoo.com)*

# Extended Field Trip

There are still a couple of spaces open for our extended field trip to the Audubon of Kansas Hutton Niobrara Sanctuary. We will drive up May 28, spend three days exploring the ranch and nearby areas including Valentine NWR and Fort Niobrara NWR. We will stay at the Hutton ranch house (very economical), and return home on June 1. You can sign up online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4CADA92CAAF58-2024#/> Or follow the link at [wichitaudubon.org/event/extended-field-trip/](http://wichitaudubon.org/event/extended-field-trip/) Leader: Patty Marlett, 316-200-3419, pmarlett@cox.net



## March 13, WEDNESDAY, 7:30 pm Woodcocks in Chisholm Creek Park

American Woodcock engage in a unique courtship display on early spring evenings. We'll try to catch sight of them just as it gets dark. Note that this is WEDNESDAY to avoid the crowds of walkers in the park. Meet in the GPNC parking lot. Leader: Bob Gress, 316-765-2046, bobgress@cox.net



## Saturday, March 30, 10 am - 3 pm CNC Spring Clean-Up

CNC needs your help! Spring is here and there is a lot to do to get CNC cleaned up and ready for another year of school trips and visitors! From trimming trails to fixing fences and even cleaning windows, there are lots of little and big tasks that need completed.

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## Christmas Bird Count Exhibit

The Kauffman Museum at Bethel College in North Newton currently has an exhibit exploring community science and the Audubon Christmas Bird Count that aims to increase awareness of, appreciation for, and conservation of our respective local bird populations. For more information visit

[kauffmanmuseum.org/exhibitions/travelingexhibits/bird-count-exhibit/](http://kauffmanmuseum.org/exhibitions/travelingexhibits/bird-count-exhibit/)

**MURMUR-ATIONS**

BIRDS & BIRDING IN A CHANGING WORLD

**EXALT-ATIONS**

A SYMPOSIUM HOSTED BY  
DYCK ARBORETUM  
& KAUFFMAN MUSEUM

**MARCH 2, 2024**  
**8 A.M.-12 P.M.**  
BREAKFAST INCLUDED

**DYCK ARBORETUM  
OF THE PLAINS**  
HESSTON, KS

FEATURING  
**CHUCK OTTE**  
SECRETARY, KANSAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

**JACKIE AUGUSTINE**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AUDUBON OF KANSAS

**JEAN WOODS**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY, BETHEL COLLEGE

REGISTRATION FEES  
**\$20/ARBORETUM & MUSEUM MEMBERS**  
**\$25/NON-MEMBERS**

REGISTRATION & FULL SCHEDULE AT  
[KAUFFMANMUSEUM.ORG/MURMUR](http://KAUFFMANMUSEUM.ORG/MURMUR)

