

Audubon

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March Meeting



Join us as our own Mark Nolen presents “Exploring the Birds Around Us: Tips and Tricks for Using eBird to Enhance your Birding Experience.” Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s eBird has revolutionized the way many of us keep lists of birds. It has even changed how some of us go about looking for birds and structure our bird trips. Have you ever wondered if you’re using eBird the right way? Well, there are as many ways this platform can be used as there are types and levels of

birdwatching! For example, we can find out when ruby-throated hummingbirds are expected to return to Kansas or when dark-eyed juncos are expected to leave. We could explore which counties in Kansas offer the best chance at seeing a large diversity of birds or plan a trip to Arizona to maximize finding birds at the best hotspots. Mark will give us an introduction on how to use eBird, from the basics to the more advanced topics, including making a checklist, sharing a checklist, compiling a trip report, adding photos and audio recordings, finding target bird species, and more. While the purpose of eBird for the lab of ornithology is citizen science, its features make gathering data fun! Whether you are an advanced user, a researcher, a daily dabbler, or a complete newbie to eBird, this useful platform will have something for you. Mark will also discuss using eBird for help with bird ID, how to download data from eBird, how to check for rare birds in your area, and how Merlin (Cornell Lab’s sound ID app) and eBird work together (or sometimes why they do not play well together). While technology is ever present in our lives, the best birding experiences are to be had in-person with friends, so please join us to talk about eBird and share your experiences!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Information about all our activities is available on our [website](#).

March 11, 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*



March 14, 8 am Second Saturday bird walk in Chisholm Creek Park

Expect 1-2 miles of walking on paved paths for about 90 minutes. Meet in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 8 am. *Questions? Patty Marlett, 316-200-3419, pmarlett@mac.com*

Mark Nolen is a Biology Professor at Hutchinson Community College. He received a PhD in Biology from Purdue University where he studied the behaviors of Carolina chickadees, tufted titmice, and white-breasted nuthatches. As a teacher, Mark especially enjoys helping his students learn about evolution and biodiversity. As a birder, he has become particularly interested in challenging bird ID problems including gulls and Empidonax flycatchers. Mark grew up in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he began birdwatching and kept daily records of every bird he saw during the mid-90s, often birding with his dad and brother. He is currently on the board of Wichita Audubon Society as Vice President and serves on the Kansas Bird Records Committee. Mark lives in the Riverside neighborhood of Wichita with his partner, Christie. When not bird watching he enjoys hiking, jogging, gardening, photographing insects, and other bird-adjacent pursuits.

The program will be on Tuesday, March 17, 7 pm, at the Great Plains Nature Center. If you can't attend in person, a recording will be on [Youtube](#) the next day.

Minnesota Report

Seven people braved the frigid temps and traveled to Minnesota for our extended field trip in January. It was snow covered, but the temperatures were actually quite mild – getting up into the 30's! Unfortunately that meant the owls we wanted to see were quite content to stay deep in the woods and out of sight. We did see Long-eared Owls at the Minneapolis airport, a Snowy Owl at the Duluth airport, and a Northern Hawk Owl at Zax-Zim bog. We also found other birds that we don't see in Kansas like Boreal Chickadee, Canada Jay, Evening Grosbeak, Redpoll, Spruce Grouse, and Pine Grosbeak. We had fun, saw some cool birds, and didn't freeze!



Our group at lunch in Superior, WI, after finding the Snowy Owl



Canada Jay

March 28, Saturday, 1 pm Caring for the Land We Share program at CNC

Chaplin Nature Center will be hosting Eric Neal, Cowley County Noxious Weed Coordinator, for an educational program on prairie management and invasive plant control in south central Kansas. Eric will share information about the role of the Noxious Weed Department, how invasive species are managed across the county, and what resources and assistance may be available to landowners and the public. The program will also cover how tools such as prescribed burns and selective herbicide treatments are used in prairie ecosystems to manage species like *Sericea lespedeza* and Johnson grass while supporting native habitat.

Following the indoor program, Naturalist Eden Johnson will lead an optional interpretive hike to view management areas scheduled for a spring burn and discuss stewardship practices at CNC. RSVP is appreciated to help plan seating. Call or text 620-442-4133.

For more information call Eden Johnson at 620-442-4133, or e-mail cnc@wichitaaudubon.org.



Friends of the Zax-Zim Bog maintain feeder stations throughout the area that host birds like these Pine Grosbeaks. Their dedication to keeping these stations filled is amazing.



We returned to this boardwalk many times because of reports of a Black-backed Woodpecker. Others found it, but we never did.



Every feeding station includes a deer carcass to provide fat and protein. How they keep scavengers from tearing them apart is unknown.



The Northern Hawk Owl was not close, but he did sit still and pose for us.

What's Been Happening at Chaplin Nature Center

Eden has CNC hopping with activities this winter, including Lil' Tots on the Trails, Eagle Watch, and Chickadee House Building.



Lil' Tots had programs for four Mondays in January and February, with more than thirty preschoolers plus their parents attending. Each program featured a hike, a story and a craft.



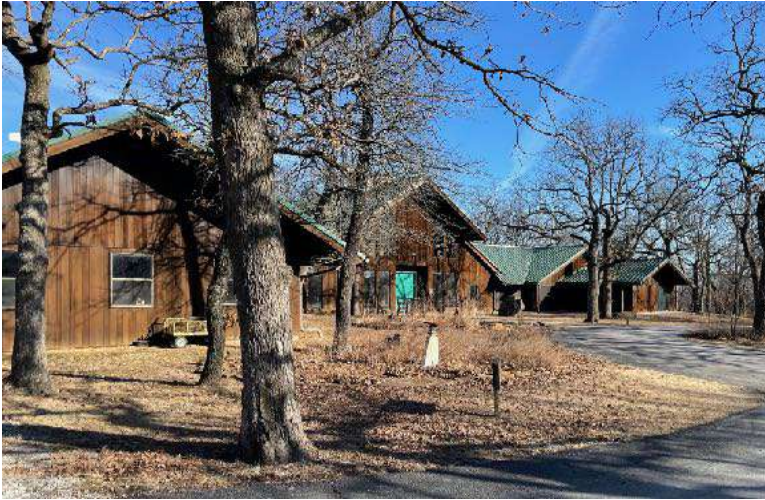


The group on the left is learning about Eagles before hiking to the river to find them. The little girl on the right has a chickadee house that she built.



Tour of the Sutton Avian Research Center

On February 7, eleven of us met in Bartlesville to tour the Sutton Center. We learned about its history, saw the Masked Bobwhite breeding facility, and were introduced to their many animal ambassadors.



The headquarters building



A Crested Caracara used for programs



Touring the Masked Bobwhite breeding building



Masked Bobwhite