

# Audubon

Vol. 65 No. 8

May/June 2026

## May Meeting



Our final program of the season will be “America’s National Parks –a Travel Log,” presented by Jackie Augustine.

Dr. Jackie Augustine, Audubon of Kansas Executive Director, has traveled to 30 of the 63 National Parks in the United States. She will tell stories of her adventures, and show wonderful photos. You will be inspired to start your own National Park quest!

Jackie Augustine joined Audubon of Kansas (AOK) in January 2021 as Executive Director. She received her doctorate degree in biology at Kansas State University studying the mating behavior of Greater Prairie-Chickens. As Executive Director, Jackie works to support AOK’s three-fold mission of advocacy, conservation, and education. She is also a birdwatcher devoted to providing native plants around her home.

The program will be on Tuesday, May 19, 7 pm, at the Great Plains Nature Center. This will be our last meeting in this location for the foreseeable future - so come and help us say goodbye. (See the article below for details.)

If you can’t attend in person, a recording will be on [www.youtube.com/channel/UCBzA8JCBgw-5aUHVW1IM7jw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBzA8JCBgw-5aUHVW1IM7jw) the next day.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### **May 2, Saturday, 8am Saturday Bird & Wildlife walk at Chaplin Nature Center**

Join us for a bird and wildlife walk lasting 1 – 1.5 hours, weather permitting. Meet in the visitor's center. Wildlife photographers and beginning birders welcome! Ages 7 and up suggested due to the length of the walk.

*For more information or to RSVP call or text Eden Johnson at 620-442-4133, or e-mail [cnc@wichitaaudubon.org](mailto:cnc@wichitaaudubon.org).*

### **May 9, Saturday, 8am 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](mailto:pmarlett@mac.com)*

### **May 16, Saturday, 7am Marais de Cygnes NWR Field Trip**

Our main targets on this trip are the migrant warblers that we don’t often see in Wichita. This is a joint field trip with the Topeka Audubon (Continued)

# Great Plains Nature Center Changes

The Great Plains Nature Center building is closing in June for construction. There are major problems with the foundation which need to be repaired. At the same time they will repair walls, paint, add new carpet and redo the the bathrooms. The building will not reopen until the fall of 2027. The Exhibit Hall will also be completely redone, although that probably won't happen until 2028.

In the meantime, the staff will be moving to the Brewer Community Center. This will be office and storage space only, not open to the public. The staff will continue to do programs and events in Chisholm Creek Park, and there will still be classroom field trips there. The last day for visiting the GPNC building will be June 18.

This also means that Wichita Audubon will not be able to meet in the building. Beginning with the September program we will meet at the Sedgwick County Zoo in the Cargill Learning Center. The Zoo has very graciously offered to host us for free through the next year.

Our annual picnic in July will be held at the Fresh Air Baby Camp (formerly the Girl Scout Little House) in Oak Park. More details on that in the July newsletter.

Our May meeting will still be at GPNC, but it will be the last until the construction is completed.

## Slate of Officers

We elect new officers at our May meeting, which is the annual meeting of the corporation. Our nominating committee will present the following slate:

President: Mark Nolen

Vice-President: Pete Janzen

Treasurer: Kevin Groeneweg

Secretary: Dan Housholder

Board of Directors: Jennifer Jones and Patty Marlett

Nominations are also accepted from the floor at the time of the vote.

Bob Gress has completed his two year term as President, and Rod Wedel will be leaving the board after six years of service. Please thank them for all their hard work!

## New IRS Rule for Charitable Donations

Beginning this year, if you choose to take the standard deduction rather than itemizing, you will be able to claim up to \$2000 in charitable donations on top of the standard deduction. The IRS will require receipts for gifts of \$250 or more or copies of checks for smaller gifts. This is a new rule that will benefit many of us.

Since WAS is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation any gifts to Wichita Audubon and/or Chaplin Nature Center will qualify for this deduction.

Society. Meet at the Marais De Cygnes NWR headquarters at 7 a.m. It is a three hour drive from Wichita, so you may want to spend Friday night somewhere closer to the refuge. There are cabins to reserve at Linn County Lake (913-757-6633) for \$65 and both tent and camper camping on first come first serve basis for \$12-21. Other motel options are in Osawatomi and Paola.

*Leader: Kevin Groeneweg,*

*316-706-9116,*

*kgroeneweg1616@gmail.com*

### **May 16, 7:15pm - 8:15pm Sounds of the Night: Sunset Hike at Chaplin Nature Center**

Join the CNC naturalist for a peaceful late evening interpretive hike as day transitions into night at the nature center.

We'll start with a brief indoor program to introduce some of the wildlife sounds you may hear, including birds, mammals, amphibians, and insects. Then we'll head out on an approx. 45-minute guided hike to experience the trails as the sun sets and the evening chorus begins.

This program is all about slowing down, listening, and noticing the natural world in a different way. A wonderful way to unwind away from home. No flashlights needed, we'll use the evening light.

Please note: This hike emphasizes quiet listening and observation.

While all ages are welcome, very young children may not be best suited for this style of program.

Dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear and bug spray for this woodland focused hike.

Weather permitting, follow event page for updates.

*RSVP appreciated 620-442-4133 or*

*[cnc@wichitaaudubon.org](mailto:cnc@wichitaaudubon.org)*

# Quivira Field Trip Report

Fifteen people joined us for a trip to Quivira NWR and Cheyenne Bottoms on April 25. The highlight of the trip by far was finding a White-tailed Kite. We watched it for quite a while as it hovered and soared over the prairie. There were several photographers present, so it undoubtedly got thousands of portraits taken. We found five Cinnamon Teal, always a treat. There were three Western Grebes at Cheyenne Bottoms, and a Snow Goose/Ross's hybrid. We ended up with a total of 118 species - a good day!



## Nature Sprouts Summer Camp at Chaplin Nature Center

Give your child a summer full of exploration, discovery, and outdoor fun! Nature Sprouts Camp is a hands-on outdoor experience designed to spark curiosity and build a love for the natural world through guided hikes, animal encounters, and interactive activities.

June 1–5, 2026

Each day features a new adventure:

Monday – Birds & Mammals

Tuesday – Reptiles & Creek Life

Wednesday – Insects & Pollinators

Thursday – Navigation & Geocaching Adventure

Friday – Family Night: Movie & Campfire (6:00–8:30pm, optional for families)

Two Daily Sessions Available:

Session 1 (Ages 2–8): 9:00am–11:30am (Parent must stay with child)

Session 2 (Ages 9–14): 1:00pm–3:30pm (Drop-off, no parents required with signed waiver)

To register, contact the CNC Director to receive a registration packet.

Call or text: 620-442-4133 Email: [cnc@wichitaudubon.org](mailto:cnc@wichitaudubon.org)

The camp is free to attend. Session 1 for younger kids has a waiting list, but there is still room in Session 2.

### May 31, Sunday, 4–5:30pm Intro to iNaturalist and Spring Plant Walk at Chaplin Nature Center

Discover how to use iNaturalist and Seek, two easy digital tools for identifying plants and wildlife. After a short introduction, join a guided late-spring plant walk. Kids can participate in a fun plant scavenger hunt along the trail. Beginner and family friendly. Meet in the visitors Center. RSVP required to accommodate seating. For more information or to RSVP call or text Eden Johnson at 620-442-4133, or e-mail [cnc@wichitaudubon.org](mailto:cnc@wichitaudubon.org).

### June 6, 8 am Saturday Bird & Wildlife walk at Chaplin Nature Center

Join us for a bird and wildlife walk lasting 1 – 1.5 hours, weather permitting. Meet in the visitor's center. Wildlife photographers and beginning birders welcome! Ages 7 and up suggested due to the length of the walk.

For more information or to RSVP call or text Eden Johnson at 620-442-4133, or e-mail [cnc@wichitaudubon.org](mailto:cnc@wichitaudubon.org).

### June 13, 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](mailto:pmarlett@mac.com)