

Audubon

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May/June 2025

May Meeting

Our May program will be “Celebrating Cranes,” by Jackie Augustine. Cranes are large charismatic species that have inspired cultures around the world. North America supports two crane species: the abundant Sandhill Crane and the rare Whooping Crane. Dr. Jackie Augustine, Executive Director for Audubon of Kansas, will discuss crane biology and conservation with a special emphasis on cranes in Kansas.



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 presentation will be at the Great Plains Nature Center on Tuesday, May 20, 7 p.m. A recording of the program will be available on [YouTube](#) the next day.



UPCOMING EVENTS

There is a schedule of events that you can [print](#) or [download](#). Information about all our activities is available on our [website](#).

May 10, 8 a.m. Second Saturday bird walk and 71st Street Canoe Launch Combo

We will have our regular monthly bird walk in Chisholm Creek Park. Expect 1-2 miles of walking on paved paths for about 90 minutes. Following that we will carpool to the to the 71st Street Canoe Launch in Derby to search for Painted Buntings, warblers, and a myriad of other migrant and resident birds. Meet in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 8 a.m.

Questions? Tom Ewert, 316-670-3140, trewert@yahoo.com

New Director for CNC

We have hired a new director for Chaplin Nature Center. Eden Johnson will begin on June 1. She is currently lives in Oxford and teaches in Mulvane. She is married and has two sons, nine and eleven. She comes to us with a strong background in education plus a love of the outdoors and all things wild. She has good organizational and managerial skills, so we expect she will have things whipped into shape shortly! Although she doesn't start her duties until June, she and her family will be moving into the house over the next few weeks, so if you see her help us welcome her.



Eden Johnson, CNC Director

New By-Laws

The board of directors approved a revision of the Wichita Audubon Society by-laws at the March board meeting. You can read a copy of the by-laws [HERE](#).

Slate of Officers

The nominating committee of Rod Wedel, Tom Ewert, and Pete Janzen have submitted the following slate of officers:

Vice-president- Mark Nolen
Secretary- Dan Housholder
Treasurer- Kevin Groeneweg
Board of directors - Jennifer Bruey & Jeremy Coleman
Bob Gress will continue as president for the second year of his two year term.

The slate will be voted on at the annual meeting of the corporation May 20.

Helping Science

Here is another way to make your bird watching more useful to the scientific community.

The Kansas Natural Heritage Inventory documents breeding sites for a select group of birds that are either rare in the state or of particular conservation concern. Using the breeding code in eBird is a quick and easy way to document breeding activity for these birds. The list of species they are interested in can be found at

https://www.ksbirds.org/Birds_of_interest_Heritage_Program_2025.pdf

If you observe breeding behavior for one of these species during your birding trips this year, just pop in the breeding code and add a few notes about what you saw.

If you don't use eBird you can email Jennifer Delisle at jdellisle@ku.edu

Chautauqua Country Field Trip

Nine people joined us for our field trip on April 6. We found all our target birds: Yellow-throated Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, plus a surprising number of Purple Finches.



Purple Finch



Dutchman's Breeches



Yellow-throated Warbler



Black and white Warbler

