

# Audubon

Vol. 62 No.2

September 2022

**September 10**

Second Saturday Bird Walk in Chisholm Creek Park. Meet in the Great Plains Nature Center parking lot at 8 a.m.

Questions?: Cheryl Miller, [avian67226@gmail.com](mailto:avian67226@gmail.com)

**September 17**

Quivira/Cheyenne Bottoms Field Trip. Meet at the Quivira NWR headquarters at 8 a.m. and bring a lunch. This is prime migration time for shorebirds.

Leader: Kevin Groeneweg, 316-706-9116, [kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net)

**September 20**

Monthly program, "Kansas Birding Trail: using a new resource for bird finding in our state," by Mike Rader, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center.

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**September 24**

Monarch Tagging Fall Nature Day at Chaplin Nature Center, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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## September Meeting

Our program will be "Kansas Birding Trail, using a new resource for bird finding in our state," presented by Mike Rader.

The Kansas Birding Trail Project was initiated from an idea pitched to Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks Secretary Brad Loveless in early 2020. The project was given to Mike in September of that year, with the resulting project rolling out in March of 2022. This program will outline the process of making the brainstorming concept a reality. A tour of the site, instructions on how to use the site, viewing of the promotional video and a discussion of ideas to continually improve the project will be discussed.

Mike has worked for KDWP since 1989. He was a Conservation Worker at Wilson State Park for eighteen years and transferred to the Education



Mike Rader

Section of the agency in 2007, serving as the Wildlife Education Supervisor. He has been interested in birds his entire life, but really became actively involved in birding when he was at K-State in the early 1980's. Under the supervision of Ted Cable and others, his passion, and sometimes obsession, with birds was cultivated. He has been a board member and president of the Kansas Ornithological Society, a member of the Kansas Bird Records Committee and maintains involvement on

several bird-related projects including conducting Breeding Bird Survey routes, conducting bird identification workshops for various programs and was a regional coordinator for the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas project.

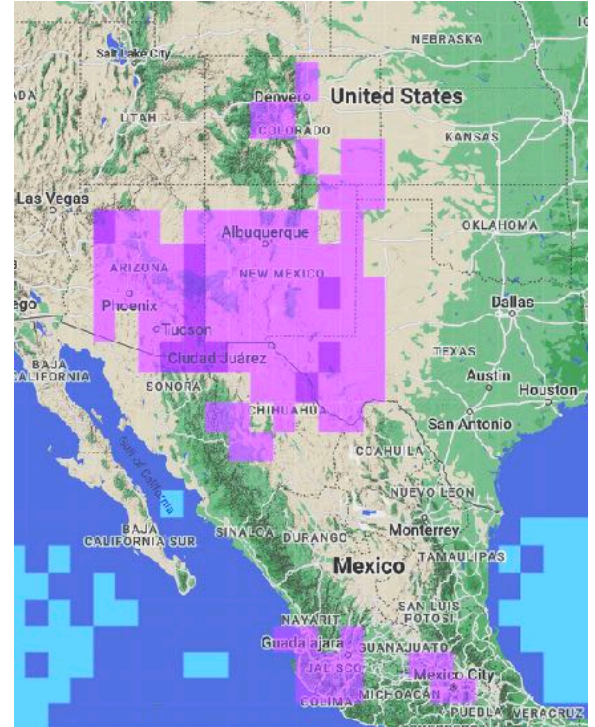
**The presentation will be on Tuesday, September 20, 7 p.m. at the Great Plains Nature Center. This year we will not live-stream the program, but a recording will be available for later viewing on both Youtube ([www.youtube.com/channel/UCBzA8JCBgw-5aUHVW1IM7jw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBzA8JCBgw-5aUHVW1IM7jw)) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/WichitaAudubonSociety](https://www.facebook.com/WichitaAudubonSociety))**

# New Species of Meadowlark

The American Ornithological Society Checklist Committee split the Eastern Meadowlark into two species, including the newly christened Chihuahuan Meadowlark of the southwestern U.S. and northwestern Mexico. Chihuahuan Meadowlark includes the Lilian's subspecies from Arizona, New Mexico, and northern Mexico (*Sturnella l. lilianae*) and another subspecies from western Mexico (*Sturnella l. auropectoralis*).

This bird has been found in Colorado, and the lead author of the paper that led to the split is Johanna Beam, a young woman who grew up birding around Colorado. The Colorado Birds Record Committee is reviewing historical records of Eastern Meadowlarks, including some from Baca County. So they may be near to Kansas!

Wondering if you have seen or heard a Chihuahuan Meadowlark? Nathan Pieplow, author of *The Peterson Field Guide to Birds Sounds*, says "it's not uncommon for the three meadowlark species to learn each other's songs, so song alone is not sufficient to identify them. If you are hearing a bird that sounds like a Chihuahuan Meadowlark, you'll need recordings of the "dzert" call and/or good photos of the bird (the face and, especially, the spread tail) in order to rule out the other two species."



The eBird range map for the Chihuahuan Meadowlark. Darker shade means denser populations.

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[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



## Kansas Birding Trails

The Kansas Birding Trails website launched this last spring. In our September program, Mike Rader is going to tell us all about how it came to be along with tips for using it. But before then you might want to check out the website and explore some of the detail. There are twelve trails that cover the whole state - each one designed as a loop that can be covered in one day. Take a look and have your questions and suggestions ready for Mike!

[www.ksbirdingtrail.com](http://www.ksbirdingtrail.com)

# Extended Field Trip 2023

This year we're going to High Island, Texas, April 17 — 24 for spring migration. High Island is a spectacular birding location in the spring when migrants come pouring across the Gulf. The Houston Audubon society manages four bird sanctuaries in the area, Boy Scout Woods, Smith Oaks, Eubanks Woods, and the S.E. Gast Red Bay Sanctuary. We'll also take in Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge and as many others as we have time for. We're staying in Winnie, TX, so we will be in a good position to look for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and Bachman's Sparrows in the piney woods. To sign up check [www.wichitaudubon.org](http://www.wichitaudubon.org) for a link. We are not putting a limit on the number of participants for this trip, as it is a car trip and we will not be renting vans. But we have only 10 hotel rooms reserved, so once those are taken you will have to find your own lodging.



## Email Newsletter

Don't forget that this newsletter is also available as an email. If you would like to save a tree let us know your address by emailing us: [newsletter@wichitaudubon.org](mailto:newsletter@wichitaudubon.org). Put anything in the subject line — just be sure to let us know the name or names associated with the email.

If there are two or more of you in a household who would like to receive the newsletter just give us all the addresses. In addition to the newsletter we will send out occasional reminders of meetings and events, but you will never get more than two emails a month from us. And we will never give out your email to anyone else!

## Birding with Kids

Do you have children or grandchildren that you would like to introduce to birds and birding? Here are some resources that can help. The National Audubon Society has a whole page of activities and curriculum for sharing with children at [www.audubon.org/get-outside/activities/audubon-for-kids](http://www.audubon.org/get-outside/activities/audubon-for-kids)

Audubon of California hosted this webinar about introducing the very young to nature in general and birds specifically:

Audubon California Birding for Babies and Toddlers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqUDcZqfgw8>

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# Chaplin Nature Center Programs

*Saturday, September 24, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.*  
*Monarch Tagging Nature Day*

Celebrate the wonders of nature by participating in the monarch migration. The butterfly tagging program is part of on-going research conducted by the University of Kansas. Participants will learn about the migration and be given an opportunity to capture and tag a monarch. Leaders from the Wichita Audubon Society will be offering a variety of nature hikes throughout the day. Whether you like birds, butterflies, or reptiles there will be a little something for everyone to enjoy. Lunch will be available for purchase. Free admission.



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). CNC is located 3 miles west of Arkansas City on Hwy 166, north 2 miles on 21st Rd, east 0.6 miles on 272nd Rd.