

Audubon

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September Meeting



Join us for our first program of the season: “Urban Coyotes and Foxes in Wichita: Reevaluation in science and society of the role of wild animals in urban settings,” presented by Jon Beckman, PhD. KDWP and Utah State University are interested in learning how [red foxes](#) and [coyotes](#) coexist with humans. They are conducting a study in Wichita to learn more about urban coyotes and red fox populations, using GPS collars, trail cameras, and citizen science to gather data. Jon will tell us about the project and what they have learned so far.

Jon Beckmann, PhD is a Wildlife Supervisor for the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks (KDWP) and an Adjunct Faculty member with graduate faculty status at the University of Nevada-Reno and Utah State University. Jon completed his PhD at the University of Nevada (UNR) where he focused his dissertation work on comparing black bears at the wildland-urban interface to wildland bears. In his previous roles he served as the Director of

UPCOMING EVENTS

There is a two page schedule of events that you can [print or download](#). And, of course, up to date information about all our activities is available on our website at www.wichitaaudubon.org/events.

September 14, 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

September 15 (Sunday), 7 am Cheney Reservoir field trip

Meet at the Dillon’s parking lot at 21st and Amidon at 7:00 am Join us as we look for fall migrants at Cheney Reservoir. With low lake levels, we expect to see shorebirds as well. We may walk out onto the flats to get a good look at the birds, so wear shoes that might get a little muddy. Bring a lunch. Each vehicle will need a KDWP state park permit.

Leader: Kevin Groeneweg, 316-706-9116, kgroeneweg1616@gmail.com

Wildlife Science for the Rocky Mountain Program at the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Connectivity Initiative Coordinator for the North America Program at WCS, where he was for 20 years. He currently sits as the KDWP representative on the WAFWA Wildlife Movement and Migration Working Group. He has been the Principal Investigator on several projects in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and in other regions of North America. Jon's research and conservation projects have focused on the impacts of natural gas development and other anthropogenic factors on ungulate (pronghorn, moose, and elk) migrations in the Yellowstone ecosystem and northern Rockies.

Jon also has a 25+ year study investigating impacts of urban environments on black bears and reducing human-bear conflicts along the wildland-urban interface in the Lake Tahoe Basin of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. He has spent the past 25+ years examining connectivity for large carnivores in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and northern Rockies, examining wildlife connectivity for jaguars and other species (e.g. bears, cougars, and T&E nectarivorous bats) along the US-Mexico border and understanding how human-altered environments impact cougar ecology, behavior, and population dynamics in the Great Basin Desert. Along with >70 peer-reviewed journal publications and 9 book chapters, Jon is lead editor on an Island Press book titled Safe Passages: highways, wildlife and habitat connectivity. His work over the past 25 years has led to the return of black bears to the Great Basin Desert following an 80-year absence and the population now totals >700 bears.

The presentation will be on Tuesday, September 17, 7 pm at the Great Plains Nature Center. A recording of the program will be available on [YouTube](#) the next day.

CNC Prescribed Burn - volunteers needed.

Sometime in the first two weeks of September the upper prairies at Chaplin Nature Center will be burned. Burning is normally done in the spring, but because of uncooperative weather this hasn't been possible for several years. So this year we are trying a different season. This will also help control *Sericea lespedeza*, an invasive plant that has been impossible to eradicate. Volunteer help is needed. You do not have to be a fire expert to help - there will be knowledgeable people there to direct you.

If you are planning to visit CNC please be aware that it may closed for the burn. The exact date will depend on the weather, but we will try to post on social media and the website as far in advance as possible.

If you can help contact Elizabeth Walker at 620-442-4133 or cnc@wichitaaudubon.org

Weekend Volunteers Needed

Liz could use some help watching the Visitor's Center at CNC on weekends. The building is open 9 am - 5 pm on Saturday and 1 - 5 pm on Sunday. It is light duty - just greet visitors, answer questions (but you don't have to be an expert!), and keep the bird feeders full. If you can help contact Elizabeth Walker at 620-442-4133 or cnc@wichitaaudubon.org

Celebration of Cranes

Witness one of nature's wonders as Sandhill Cranes and critically-endangered Whooping Cranes migrate through central Kansas this November. Experience the incredible beauty of this ancient migration, and learn more about how the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge provides a crucial inland salt marsh and stopover point for these birds.

Audubon of Kansas organizes this event for Friday and Saturday, November 1 & 2. You can drive yourself through the refuge and volunteers will be stationed to help you find birds and answer your questions. For the full experience, you can register. Your registration will include:

- Self-Guided Birding Tour Materials for Quivira NWR
- Admission to Saturday Speaker Sessions at Sterling College
- Saturday Lunch at Sterling College

Seats in a Guided Tour Van are Available on a Limited Basis for an Additional Fee.

[Register Here](#)

We Need a New Mower!

Our old mower at CNC was purchased in 1996. It lasted 27 years! But now it is giving up the ghost. If you would be willing to help fund a replacement, it would be appreciated. You can give [HERE](#)

