

Audubon

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September 2026

September Program at the Sedgwick County Zoo!



Join Jennifer Jones for a month-by-month look back at her 2025 Kansas Big Year. She'll revisit the highs and lows of the year, sharing memorable bird sightings, favorite locations, unexpected challenges, exciting chases, and the inevitable misses that still sting. Along the way, Jennifer will reflect on the friendships formed, the generous help of the Kansas birding community, and what she learned about birding, perseverance, and the state of Kansas through a year spent chasing birds across the Sunflower State.

Jennifer Jones is an avid Kansas birder based in Wichita. She serves on the boards of the Wichita Audubon Society, the Kansas Ornithological Society, and the Great Plains Nature Center. In 2025, she completed a Kansas Big Year while balancing a full-time career in Human Resources, traveling across the state in pursuit of birds. Jennifer enjoys exploring Kansas's diverse habitats, chasing good birds, and connecting with the people and places that make birding in Kansas so rewarding.

Join us at 7 pm on Tuesday, September 15. Don't forget that this month we begin holding our meetings at the Cargill Learning Center at the Sedgwick County Zoo. The Cargill building is immediately west of the main entry to the zoo. There will be signs!

You can join us for dinner with the speaker at Jason's Deli, 7447 W 21st St N at 5:30 pm.

As always, a recording of the program will be available on [YouTube](#) (@wichitaaudubonsociety4372) the next day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Information about all our activities is available on our [website](#). You can download a copy of our 2026-27 Schedule of Events [here](#).

September 12, 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. Usually held on the first Saturday of the month, this month it was delayed because of the holiday. For more information or to RSVP call or text Eden Johnson at 620-442-4133, or e-mail cnc@wichitaaudubon.org.

September 12, 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? Pete Janzen, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net, 316-519-1970

Monarch Tagging and Nature Day at Chaplin Nature Center

September 26, Saturday, 10 am - 3 pm

Join us for one of Chaplin Nature Center's biggest annual events as we celebrate nature, conservation, community, and the incredible migration of the monarch butterfly. **RSVP Required: 620-442-4133 (text preferred)** This is a come-and-go event, so arrive anytime between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM and stay as long as you'd like.

Our Naturalist and volunteers will provide the training and supplies you need to safely catch and tag monarchs before heading out on the trails to become part of this important citizen science effort. Every monarch you tag provides valuable migration data through the Monarch Watch citizen science program, helping researchers better understand and conserve the monarch's incredible migration.

Activities Throughout the Day

-  Monarch tagging along the trails
-  Guided nature hike
-  Animal ambassador encounters
-  Special presentations
-  Nature crafts
-  Butterfly feeding experience (small fee)
-  Raffles
-  Family-friendly activities
-  Nature Through Art Silent Auction

Artists of all ages and skill levels are invited to donate an original nature-themed piece in support of Chaplin Nature Center. Paintings, drawings, photography, ceramics, woodwork, sculpture, fiber arts, and other original artwork are welcome. Artwork will be displayed during the event as part of our Nature Through Art Silent Auction, with proceeds supporting Chaplin Nature Center.

Interested in donating a piece? Contact the Nature Center to sign up or learn more.

Lunch Available

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

\$5 Meal Includes:

Hot dog, Chips, Dessert, Drink

Please RSVP to help us plan for all the materials and volunteer help we will need. Call/ or text Eden Johnson at 620-442-4133 or email cnc@wichitaudubon.org.



**September 12, Saturday, 10 am
Chaplin Nature Center Young
Birders' Club**

This group is open to all kids aged 8 - 17. Learn to navigate trails and wildlife habitats. Gain bird identification and outdoor skills. Build self-confidence. Participate in citizen science and conservation projects. Meet other youth who enjoy nature and adventuring outdoors. Join guided bird walks, activities and optional off-site field trips led by the CNC Naturalist. Bring binoculars (some available for use), comfortable walking shoes, water bottle and snacks, notebook, sunscreen, bug spray.

Sign up by call/text Eden Johnson at 620-442-4133 or email cnc@wichitaudubon.org.

**Sept 13, SUNDAY, 8 am Quivira
NWR & Cheyenne Bottoms field
trip**

Meet at the Quivira NWR headquarters and see migrant shorebirds and other unique wetland wildlife in these nationally renowned locations. Bring a lunch.

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

Extended Field trip to SW New Mexico and SE Arizona July 24-August 1, 2027

This trip will visit the Mogollon Mountains near Silver City, New Mexico, and a number of locations in the Chiricahua and Santa Rita Mountains of Arizona. The trip will focus on southwestern bird species and other wildlife. We will be carpooling. We are limiting the total number of participants to no more than 16 for logistical reasons. The dates listed do not include the travel time to and from the birding locations. See the monthly newsletters for more information as plans develop. WAS has not visited this area since 2006.

You can sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4CADA92CAAF58-58081362-swnewmexico> or use the QR code

Leaders: Kevin Groeneweg, kgroenweg1616@gmail.com 316-706-9116

Pete Janzen, 316-249-3550, pete.janzen@sbcglobal.net

Patty Marlett, 316-200-3419, pmarlett@mac.com



Kansas Crane Festival

Save the date for November 6 - 8 for the Audubon of Kansas event at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and Sterling College. 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
- Invitation to Friday evening Reception: Cranes & Craft Brews at The Lumberyard on 56 in Lyons, Kansas with a special tap takeover by Sandhills Brewing in Hutchinson, Kansas
- Saturday Lunch at Sterling College
- Admission to Saturday Speaker Sessions at Sterling College

Evening and morning tours will follow similar routes, but please note that weather conditions and bird activity may vary between them. Feel free to attend one tour or join us for all of them! Seats in a guided tour van are available on a limited basis for an *Additional Fee*.

Registration opens in early September. [See the AOK Website for more information.](https://www.audubonofkansas.org/events/kansascranefestival)

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