

Monday, April 23rd

Prairie Passerines & Woodland Wonders: Songbirds in Springtime

Spring migration brings with it the joy of renewing old friendships, the rush of first-of-the-year sightings, and the effervescence of a constantly changing cast of characters. In our fast-paced, frenetic world of electronic stimulation, the spring migration forces us to slow down and take a closer look. Perhaps we want to bask in the sweet songs and brilliant colors of the testosterone-laden males, maybe we need to linger to identify the subtle and inconspicuous females among more dense and fresh foliage, or it could be that we are simply rusty in recognizing these transient visitors. In April's talk, we will revisit some spring beauties and consider some tricks we might employ to make the most of this bounty before settling down into the slower-paced, sultry days of summer.



Ed and Cynthia cashiering at a JAS seed sale. Pam Chaffee.

The Ed & Cynthia Shaw Memorial Birdathon 2018

This year's JAS Birdathon is dedicated to the memory of our friends Ed and Cynthia Shaw. Cynthia was a founding member of the Jayhawk Audubon Society, and both were actively engaged in Kaw Valley Eagles Day. From the outset, Cynthia and Ed hosted Eagles Day planning meetings with spectacular hospitality welcoming us with wonderful home-made desserts and creative cocktails making the meetings a pleasure instead of work. They always pitched in on special tasks to make Eagles Day a huge success. Sadly, Ed passed away this past May, and Cynthia in December. They are greatly missed by all in the Society.

Birdathon, held the first full weekend in May, raises money for JAS public education events and initiatives such as Eagles Day, free Monarch Tagging, the Learning About Nature Project, Museum Camp scholarships, and special out-of-town speakers, such as author J. Drew Lanham in May (*See p. 5*).

Like any other "thon" the idea is to collect or make pledges to sponsor individuals birders or teams who search out as many species as they can during the Birdathon. Many sponsors pledge a certain amount—say 25, 35, or 50 cents—per species sighted. With migratory songbirds moving through in May, the number of species identified in past years has been well over 150. Some years bring something unusual such as the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck sighted at the Baker Wetlands in 2008, but every year brings the thrill of favorite warblers, shorebirds, and hummingbirds.

Whether you're an accomplished birder looking for a good opportunity to get out for a good cause, or a beginner looking to join a team to improve your birding skills, Birdathon is perfect. Team leaders this year will be Richard Bean, Jim Bresnahan, Ron & Joyce Wolf and Vanessa Carlos. Contact Jim Bresnahan at jbresnahan@ku.edu to join a team or just learn more. There is a pledge form on page 6 if you want to collect pledges from your friends. *Donations of any amount will be gratefully accepted!*

~ The Birdathon committee: Richard Bean, chair,
Pam Chaffee, & Jim Bresnahan



Yellow Warbler.
by Scott Kimball

Scott Kimball, our April speaker, is an avian behavioral ecologist, with a specialization in mating system dynamics in birds. Currently assistant professor of Biology at Baker, he also spent over 4 years as an assistant professor of Biology at the State University of New York, Morrisville. Dr. Kimball earned his BA in Biology from Baker, his MS in Raptor Biology from Boise State and his PhD in Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology from Ohio State. His academic career has afforded him intimate access to work and play in the wild forests and waters of the northern tier of the US, including the Intermountain West, the Great Lakes, and the Northeast. An enthusiast of natural history, Dr. Kimball loves to share time outdoors with his students and his family, especially his wife, Jennifer, and son, Finch. Favorite pursuits are nature photography, fishing and hunting, canoeing, hiking, and camping.

~ Scott Kimball

*Join us on the 23rd to share Scott Kimball's
knowledge and enjoyment of spring's bird bonanza!*

BYO Dinner with Scott Kimball: 5:00 p.m.

Free State Brewery, 636 Massachusetts St.
Please let Joyce Wolf know if you will dine:
rjawolf@sunflower.com or 785-887-6019

Program: 7:00 pm. Trinity Lutheran Fellowship
Hall. 1245 New Hampshire. Refreshments.

Kansas Birding Weekends

KOS Spring Meeting May 4 ~ 6 in Dodge City

Online registration for the 2018 Kansas Ornithological Society Spring Meeting in Dodge City is now open! Details at: <http://ksbirds.org/kos/Spring2018/KOS2018Spring.htm>

Jeff Calhoun is our boots on the ground (sorry, had to get a Dodge City joke in there somewhere) local committee and has a good spring weekend lined up for us. Targeted for birding blitzing: Ford, Clark, Hodgeman, Gray and Meade counties.

We do ask that even if you register and pay online, please still fill out the registration form and mail or email it to Max Thompson (addresses on the registration form.) If you have any questions or have problems with the online registration, please drop me a note!

Chuck Otte
KOS Recording Secretary and *Horned Lark* Editor
mailto:otte2@cox.net
785-238-8800

***Editor's Note:** To whet your appetite for the KOS meeting read Jeff Calhoun's article in *The Horned Lark*: "Top Five Secrets to Birding in Southwest Kansas". It's in 2 parts: <http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/newsletter/HL4203.pdf>
<http://www.ksbirds.org/kos/newsletter/HL4204.pdf>
It will make you want to get into Dodge!

Jeff is an entertaining writer and ace birder who teaches high school science in Dodge City when he's not birding. Check out his essay & photos; they're worth the time.



Field Trip Chair/Coordinator Sought

Do you like to make things happen—help people learn about & enjoy the variety of birding spots nearby or farther afield? *Then you should be JAS field trip chair!*

It would be such a boost to the chapter if we could fill this key position because field trips attract nonmembers and introduce people to the world of birding. That pleasure often leads them to greater involvement in the chapter and environmental advocacy. The chair can be the trip leader or could be a coordinator, finding folks who could lead outings. Other board members can help with ideas, but right now no board member can take on the field trip chair duties. If you are interested, or you know of someone who might be, please contact JAS president Gary Anderson: gjanderson1963@gmail.com or 785-246-3229.

Kansas Birding Festival Milford Kansas April 27-28, 2018

From the Festival website: <http://kansasbirdingfestival.com/>

Take a birding and wildlife trip you will never forget. Plan now to attend the Kansas Birding festival in 2018. Over 300 species of birds can be seen in the Milford Lake area. Late April is especially rich in birding opportunities here. Not only are there native birds who inhabit the area year round, but it is the prime season for birds that migrate. Combine this with Milford Lake, the wetlands, and the native Konza prairie; and you have the best locations in America for bird sightings. Please view sightings and pictures from past Kansas Birding Festivals on the website. *You can register online or print off the brochure and registration form and mail it in. Don't delay! Some of the field trips are limited to 10 participants.*

The key note speaker for this year's banquet is Dr. Alice Boyle of Kansas State. She will take us to the tropical rain forest for the evening and tell us about the colorful, dancing birds known as manakins, their "dating game," and how both the weather and living on a steady diet of fruit affects how they live and die.

JAS Officers & Board Members

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Hospitality:	Kelly Barth
Historian:	Ron Wolf
Books & Feeders:	Ron & Joyce Wolf
Audubon of Kansas	
Chapter Representative:	Ron Wolf

Family Fun Day at Baker Wetlands!

Saturday, April 28, 2017

9:00 a.m. to Noon

Outside for a Better Inside and the Baker Wetlands Discovery Center are sponsoring a morning of free outdoor good times for all ages on Saturday, April 28th.

- ★ Banding of live wild birds
- ★ Canoeing & Hiking
- ★ Seining for Crayfish
- ★ Live reptiles, amphibians
- ★ Fish casting contest
- ★ Aquatic invertebrate and other ID stations
- ★ Live Tardigrade display/demonstration
- ★ Live raptors from Prairie Park Nature Center
- ★ The Superheroes of the wetlands
- ★ Wetlands values

The Discovery Center is located at 1365 N. 1250 Road, easily accessed from either Highway 59 or 31st Street. To see a map check their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BakerWetlands/> or the website: <https://www.bakeru.edu/wetlands/>.

Or call for directions: 785-594-4700 9:00 to noon Monday through Saturday; 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Sunday. (The Discovery Center is closed over the lunch hour until summer hours start later in the season.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Don't forget about the Wee Walks at the Wetlands, a wonderful monthly event for preschoolers, siblings, and parents. April's Wee Walks topic is "April Showers." Wee Walks are free, but you must register with Jenny Kilburg: jkilburg@bakeru.edu or 785-594-4703.

Wednesday, April 11, 10:00 - 11:00 am
& Thursday April 12, 10:00 - 11:00 am

SHARE THE TRAIL!

Blue Bird Group Seeks

New Monitors & Box Builders

The Kaw Valley Blue Bird Association needs bluebird enthusiasts to help with monitoring the trails at Clinton and Perry Lakes. It's a fascinating way to spend an hour or a morning. Checking boxes is like opening one surprise package after another! Of course the surprise can be that the box is empty...but satisfyingly often there is a nest with eggs or even a bluebird parent incubating those eggs and bravely sitting tight even when you open the box and peer in. That's exciting!

To help you decide if this is something you would enjoy, we're holding some "Share the Trail" events where you'll have a chance to join a trail monitor as they check boxes. You'll learn the best way to approach the boxes and share in the close-up encounters with these gorgeous, useful birds—they eat so many insects! We hope to have a "Share the Trail" schedule ready for the May JAS newsletter. The egg-laying and hatching action will be in full swing by then.

KVBBA also needs volunteers to build bluebird boxes. We have detailed plans (developed by club member Gene Van Hoesen) for you to follow; the club will pay for all materials. Your contribution will be your time and woodworking skills.

To volunteer to be a trail monitor or box builder or to find out more about KVBBA please email KVBBA President Kathy Klocke at klockekennard@sbcglobal.net

~ Susan Iversen
KVBBA Secretary

Prairie Park Nature Center also has Great Programs for Little Ones:

- ★ Nature Story Time for Preschoolers: Thursdays 10-10:30. \$3.00/session.
- ★ Wild Adventures for Preschoolers: Tuesdays, 10-11 am. Call in advance to reserve a spot. (785) 832-7980. \$4 per session or enroll for the series at lprd.org using code 112202A.

Sparrow Swap sent a request for help from JAS members to Jennifer Dropkin, our FB Administrator

"North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences is carrying out a house sparrow egg study called The Sparrow Swap. We are asking people to send us house sparrow eggs removed from bluebird nest boxes. We are studying these eggs for contaminants that may accumulate in them from pollutants that persist in the environment, but also looking at the effectiveness of a couple of strategies for reducing house sparrow competition for nesting sites that bluebirds rely on.

Anyone can sign up for the project through SciStarter: <http://scistarter.com/sparrowswap>. Learn more at <http://sparrowswap.org/> or the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/sparrowswap/>.

Thanks.— at North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.



Female Eastern Bluebird on the nest. from Dodson Farm.

Hometown Habitat

Stories of Bringing Nature Home

April 24, 2018 7 - 8:30

Get Inspired ** Get Motivated

What can we do? As more natural prairie falls under the plow and is converted to parking lots, homes and lawns, wildlife habitat is shrinking. Lost is diversity and critical connections between native insects and native plants. No native plants and insects. No birds.

But we ALL can do something! Come see **Hometown Habitat**, a powerful documentary about how we can make a difference in our own backyards. Hometown heroes from across the nation tell their stories of Bringing Nature Home.

COME AND ENJOY! Bring a friend. Watch the trailer:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXbDWTfcK2s>

JAS is cosponsoring with TAS.

April 24, 2018 7- 8:30pm

Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library

1515 SW 10th Street, Topeka, Kansas

~ Mary Powell

Topeka Audubon and Audubon of Kansas

Stroll Some Habitat that Still Exists!

Saturday, April 28 10:00-12:00:

Spring tour and woodland wildflower walk hosted by the Kansas Biological Survey in the Baldwin Woods area south of Lawrence. From Vinland, travel 2 miles south on E 1700 Rd (County Rd 1055) to N 500 Rd. Turn east and park along N 500 Rd. Wear clothing suitable for rugged, muddy conditions.

Trip will be posted on the KBS web site under 'Events': <http://biosurvey.ku.edu/>. Questions? Contact Jennifer Delisle at jdelsile@ku.edu.

Help Maintain Precious Habitat

Saturday April 14 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Spring Planting and Workday at Hidden Valley Camp.

These 40 acres of woods and meadows are a true gem of wild-life habitat in the heart of Lawrence. 3420 Bob Billings Pkwy. Detailed description of the tasks involved and contact information is posted on the Kansas Native Plant Society website Calendar :

http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/event_detail.php?evt_id=1124

Local Authors and Artists Outside

Meet local authors & artists as they share connections of their work to outside spaces. The goal is gather diverse people to explore intersections of the outside world to art and words. Each artist or author will speak for about 20 minutes and then we'll enjoy a hike! Sturdy shoes and a jacket are recommended; moderate hiking and uneven surfaces are possible. This series of events is co-sponsored by Lawrence Public Library and Kansas Native Plant Society. If there is inclement weather we will cancel.

Next in the Series:

Kelly Barth

SAT | Apr 14 | 1-2:30 PM | Baker Wetlands east gate | Haskell Ave & N 1250 Rd.

Kelly Kindscher

SUN | May 6 | 1-2:30 PM | Carpool via the parking lot north of the river bridge on the east side | N. 2nd St. & Locust St.

"It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences." --- Audre Lorde, February 18, 1934 - November 17, 1992

~ Shirley Braunlich

Shirley's got info: sbraunlich@lplks.org



Hey bird folk! Lawrence Public Library has a set of events you'll love in April.

► Plants for Birds

WED | Apr 11 | 7-8 PM | Auditorium
 Get tips and tricks from Jennifer Delisle, Lynn Byczynski and the Jayhawk Audubon Society on attracting more birds to your yard by using native plants.

► ► Birds Up Close with Prairie Park

WED | Apr 18 | 7-8 PM | Auditorium
 Marty Birrell and Prairie Park Nature Center will teach us birding basics and show off some live birds at the library.

► ► ► Baker Birdwalk

SUN | Apr 22 | 7-9 AM | Baker Wetlands
 Start your Earth Day right with a guided bird walk through the Baker Wetlands with Dr. Roger Boyd.

► ► ► ► A Kansas Bestiary Bird-day

WED | Apr 25 | 7-8 PM | Auditorium
 Doug Hitt, Lisa Grossman, and the library's own Jake Vail will share some of their top Kansas birds, in celebration of *A Kansas Bestiary's* 5th birthday.

Questions? Contact Jake: jvail@lplks.org

Save the Date to Hear Dr. J. Drew Lanham Speak on *Range-Mapping: Connecting the Conservation Dots for the Human Animal*

Thursday, May 24, 7-8:30 pm at Liberty Hall

Dr. J. Drew Lanham is a native of Edgefield, S.C. A conservation ornithologist, naturalist and hunter-conservationist, Drew is also an Alumni Distinguished Professor and Alumni Master Teacher at Clemson University. He is intrigued with how cultural and ethnic prisms can bend perceptions of nature and its care, and is a speaker who eloquently connects birds, race and conservation ethics.

He is the author of *The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature* (Milkweed Editions, Minneapolis MN) and *Sparrow Envy*, a book of poetry (Holocene Press, Spartanburg, SC). *The Home Place* was named a 2017 Nature Book of Uncommon Merit, the first time in the Burroughs Association history such a designation was awarded. *The Home Place* was also recently named the 2018 winner of the Southern Environmental Law Center's Reed Environmental Writing Award. Dr. Lanham will inspire a discussion about how diverse communities relate to wildlife and other conservation issues.

Lawrence Public Library is partnering with organizations involved in land stewardship and relationships of ethnicity with nature activities to sponsor this event: Langston Hughes Center of KU (part of an ongoing LPL series, Diverse Dialogues on Race and Culture), National Endowment for the Humanities, LPL Foundation, Friends of LPL, Kansas Native Plant Society, Audubon of Kansas, Jayhawk Audubon Society, Kansas Association for Conservation & Environmental Education, Baker Wetlands Discovery Center and Raven Book Store. Dr. Lanham will sign books and the Raven will have copies to sell.

~ Shirley Braunlich

Contact Shirley Braunlich at the library for more information sbraunlich@lplks.org or [785-843-3833 ext. 130](tel:785-843-3833)

Can You Help Us on Earth Day?

JAS will have a table at the Lawrence Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 21st in South Park, downtown Lawrence. We'll invite kids to decorate a milk carton feeder to hang in their yard. We've been doing this project for quite a few years, but every year there are new youngsters eager to wield a paintbrush and express their artistic vision to attract birds. We generally go through over 125 milk cartons!

Volunteers are needed to put a primer coat on the cartons a week or so before Earth Day, and then we need more good folk to help on the day. We set up for the celebration about 10:00 am and then staff the table until 4:00 pm. Usually some wonderful students from Lisa Ball's AP biology classes help us out with the young painters, but we also need JAS members to represent the Society, talk to the public and fill any gaps.

It's a lively, light-hearted happening. The event does cancel if there is bad weather, so you won't have to deal with that. If you can donate an hour or two of your time to JAS to help spread the Audubon message, please contact Pam Chaffee: pkchaffee@yahoo.com, or Gary Anderson: 785-246-3229

gjanderson1963@gmail.com

*Thank you very much for your support of JAS.
Audubon's strength is its local chapter members...US!*



For over 45 years JAS has worked toward a healthy environmental legacy for future generations through projects which educate all ages to create awareness of environmental issues, and promote enjoyment of the natural world around us.

This is a key fund-raiser for the chapter! 100% of your donation goes to local projects.

Birder's Name:

Phone:

Address:

Make checks payable to ***Jayhawk Audubon Society*** (a 501c Non-Profit organization)

[illegible]

Jayhawk Audubon Society
P.O. Box 3741
Lawrence, KS 66046
Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lawrence, KS
Permit No. 201

Return Service Requested



American Redstarts are just one of the warbler species flying north to us! Birdathoners will be seeking them on May 5th and 6th. See pages 1 and 6.

Drawing by H.J. Raffaele. U.S. Forest Service.

- ★ 4/23: **Songbirds in Springtime.** JAS Program. p 1
- ★ 4/21: **Earth Day Volunteers Needed!**
- ★ 4/24: *Hometown Habitat* screening. p 4
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Become a Member: Just \$20 to join both National Audubon and Jayhawk Chapter.

___ **National Audubon Society membership is \$20.00.** Members receive four issues per year of the Audubon magazine and will be enlisted as members of the Jayhawk Chapter. All members also receive 9 issues of the JAS newsletter per year and are entitled to discounts on the books and feeders we sell to raise funds to support education and conservation projects. (Make your check payable to National Audubon Society and mail to our JAS membership chair at the address below. You may also join National Audubon online at https://secure.audubon.org/site/Donation2?df_id=9431&9431.donation=form1&s_src=2015_AUDHP_topbanner-button-menu.)

___ **Chapter-only membership to Jayhawk Audubon Society is \$10.00.** (Make check payable to Jayhawk Audubon Society.) You will not receive the Audubon magazine. Those with National Audubon memberships are encouraged to support the chapter by voluntarily paying these dues. Chapter membership expires annually in July. JAS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

___ **To join or donate to Audubon of Kansas** make check payable to AOK or use this online link - <http://www.audubonofkansas.org/joindonate/>.

Please send this completed form and your check to JAS Membership Chairs at the following address:

Wayne Kennedy, 1308 Crosswinds CT. #1 Lawrence KS 66046. E-mail contact: w.a.k.e.n.n.z@gmail.com.

Name _____; Address _____;
City _____; State _____; ZIP Code (9) digit _____;
Telephone (with Area Code) _____
Email address _____

Jayhawk Audubon does not share membership information with non-Audubon entities.

C6ZJ020Z