



SMOKY HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 2936 Salina, Kansas 67402-2936

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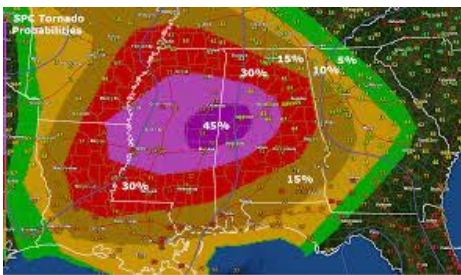
Think globally...act locally!

March—April—May 2024



March 21st program: Why do Tornadoes Happen?

One of our favorite speakers, Henry Diehl from Brookville will be presenting at our March meeting. Diehl's valuable opinions on tornadoes and wall clouds, as well as hail and storms of all many varieties, have been highly valued by residents of central Kansas, rural firefighters, radio storm coverage announcers and meteorologists from the National Weather Service for many years. Always a popular speaker, Henry will be discussing the Chris Broyles Tornado Genesis study. Henry met Chris Broyles during a long tour of the of the Storm Prediction Center in Norman Oklahoma on the OU campus. Since then they have continued to be in email contact. This relationship started by Henry dropping off video of the Bennington tornado. Chris had it on his website but Henry's footage was more close up. Chris learned even more from this footage and that is what sparked their relationship. Understanding the formation of a tornado, the genesis of a tornado's development, is key in predicting tornado outbreaks. Our March program will be held in Room 229 of the Peters Science Hall. The public is invited to meet our speaker at 7:00 pm, the program begins at 7:30. Come early and enjoy a treat!



Henry Diehl Storm Spotter

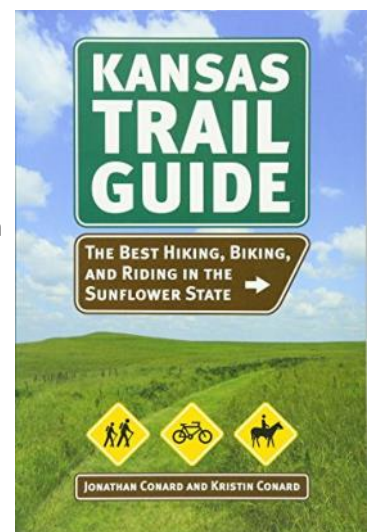
April 18th - Get ready to prepare to explore with Jonathan Conrad

Our April Speaker is Jonathan Conrad, he teaches biology and environmental science at Sterling College. When he's not out on the trails, he enjoys gardening, running, and spending time with his family. He will be joined by his sister Kristin. Kristin Conrad is a freelance travel writer and award-winning author. She enjoys watercolor painting and traveling. The sibling duo authored the first Kansas Trail Guide in 2016, and are currently completing a fully revised second edition of the guidebook

Despite having a reputation as a state with little natural beauty, Kansas has much to offer for those who are willing to explore. With a rapidly expanding network of trails, there have never been more opportunities to see the Sunflower State on foot, bike, or horseback. From long-distance rail-trails to family-friendly hikes, they have spent the last year traveling across the state to explore the best that Kansas has to offer.

From the windswept plains to the majestic Flint Hills, the subtle beauty of the Sunflower State is best appreciated from its myriad of wide-ranging trails. Whether you're an avid hiker or desultory explorer, a bicyclist or horseback rider, this book makes a most congenial guide. An invaluable companion for exploring new trails or learning about accustomed routes, this comprehensive guide will tell you all you need to know (as well as what it might surprise you to learn) about the trails that crisscross Kansas—history and geography, wildlife and scenery, park locations and cultural possibilities, and, now and then, even a bit of geology and botany.

Our April program will be held at Kansas Wesleyan in Room 229 of the Peters Science Hall. The public is invited to meet our speaker at 7:00 pm, program begins at 7:30





The View from My Perch By Cheryl Higgins



Winter is our lazy time. David goes to his shop I go to my quilt room. We also love to play games at the dining room table. Right outside our window is a suet feeder, 3 long feeders and 2 platform feeders that sit on the table. It is a covered deck and the birds love to hang out there. This is evident by the plethora of bird poop. It does get power washed on occasion but we have given up sharing with them. We have ours by the pond so we can watch the fish and listen to the waterfall. The birds love splashing in the bog (the reservoir above the waterfall) and flitting in and out of the trees and shrubs surrounding it. It's surprising how many birds have been around. Red bellied and Harry woodpecker's, Nuthatches, at least 2 pairs of the Tufted Titmouse, Blue Jays, Cardinals, Juncos, Chickadees, sparrows, Finches. When everything was frozen solid we saw Blue Birds and a Flicker.

We're now looking forward to spring. May is the height of songbird migration. It will be fun to see a new variety of birds. Remember we have the backyard bird certification program. With your donation you will get a visit from Bonnie Neubrand/Linda Reynolds for approval on meeting the requirements. You will receive a full color certificate and an outdoor plaque that you can display in your yard. Brochures will be available at our meetings and emails can be provided. What we are looking for is food, water, cover to protect against the elements and predators and places to raise their young. We will be recognizing everyone that has participated in this program at our May 16th program at KW.



If you're looking for ideas on how to get your yard ready consider Dyck Arboretum's Flora Kansas Native Plant sale in Hesston. This will take place Thursday April 25th for members and April 26th-29th for the public. This is a great way to introduce fruits, nuts and berries to your yard. As well as trees and shrubs for protection. These are great to layer around your feeders. Natives are acclimated to grow in our area thus a lot of times drought tolerant and suitable to our weather conditions. They also support insects that are vital to raising their young. Please note the events calendar at the end of the newsletter.

We will take a brief break during the summer but we have many educational opportunities for you. Also I encourage you to get out to the sanctuary and enjoy a picnic, hiking, and fishing.



Our motto is "Encouraging relationships between people and nature ". And our priorities are to increase membership through interactive activities.

Time to prepare for Hummingbirds

1. Mix 1 part sugar with 4 parts water (for example, 1 cup of sugar with 4 cups of water) until the sugar is dissolved
2. Do **not** add red dye
3. Fill your hummingbird feeders with the sugar water and place outside
4. Extra sugar water can be stored in a refrigerator

Change feeders every other day and thoroughly clean them each time to prevent harmful mold growth



Cub Scout Pack 29 from First Presbyterian Church visited the Sanctuary. March 2nd. They were working on their "Into the Wild" Webelos elective adventure badge. Led by Matt Dill, a large group of scouts, family member and all round adventurers hikes alongside the pond, through the woods and into the prairie.



Spring bird migrations are fast approaching.

Time to prepare your feeders!

April 15 for Humming birds

May 1st for Orioles—get ready!

Spring migrations will soon be upon us! Central Kansas happens to be one of the major flyover areas with over 250 species that either return to the area to nest or pass through on migration.

Prime time for spring migration of most North American bird species is mid-April through mid-June, with the majority of birds closely following major bird flyways.

Kansas is blessed to have both fall and spring migrations of waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors and songbirds. Smoky Hills Audubon member that are watching feeders will be rewarded with colorful visitors. We encourage you to consider getting your back yard certified as a songbird habitat. Brochures will be available at all of our meetings and activities.



Feeder Maintenance

- **Clean feeders:** Clean feeders at least once every two weeks, or once a month with a disinfecting solution. You can use a solution of mild soap and water or 1 part bleach to 9 parts water. You can also clean out old nectar and fill the feeder with fresh sugar water.
- **Clean the surrounding area:** Clean all areas where birds perch and congregate while feeding. Birds can spill seed several feet away from feeders, so keeping all feeding areas clean is important for keeping bird populations healthy.
- **Keep feeders dry:** Wet seed can quickly clog your feeder, or even begin to mold.
- **Wash your hands:** Always wear gloves and wash hands thoroughly after cleaning your feeders.



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Non Profit
Organization
POSTAGE

PAID

Permit # 90
Salina KS 67401

Looking for us on the web? We invite you to explore www.smokyhillsaudubon.com If you have suggestions or contributions contact Mark at markneubrand@gmail.com

Look for us on Facebook <https://smokyhillsaudubon.com/>

Activities Calendar

March 21st — Henry Diehl will share his real life storm watching experiences

April 18th — Jonathan Conard - Sterling college will feature the Kansas Trail Guide

May 16th — Brenna Riley with Pheasants Forever will present our final program for the Spring 2024

Spring Season — Brenna and Travis Riley have bird walks in the planning stages.

Tentative Fall 2024 schedule

September 19th — Mike Oldham with Quivera National Wildlife reserve.

October 17th — Kristen Hobbs on bird migration studies

November 21st — Chuck Otte

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SMOKY HILLS AUDUBON HAROLD LEAR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY	David Higgins chedavhiggins@gmail.com 785-577-2409 The 67 acre Sanctuary located at 2800 West Stimmel Road is open to the public from dawn to dusk and has 2.5+ miles of hiking trails of prairie, woodlands and pond banks.
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