

## **KANSAS BIRDING EVENT SPOTLIGHTS CHEYENNE BOTTOMS, QUIVIRA**

**Posted: 06 Apr 2007 10:20 AM GMT-06:00**

*Nationally-recognized event draws birders from throughout U.S.*

On April 27-29, the 2007 Wings-N-Wetlands Bird Festival will be held at [Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area](#), near Great Bend. The three-day event -- which complements a similar event near Wakefield every other year -- will feature seminars on birds and birdwatching and guided field trips. Educational presentations for wildlife viewers, meals, and evening activities are also planned. Tours of both Cheyenne Bottoms and [Quivira National Wildlife Refuge](#), complete with experienced guides, are scheduled for all three days.

Participants come from across the U.S. to enjoy this bi-annual weekend of birding, wildlife watching, and educational fun. No matter how experienced the bird watchers are, all discover something special while birding at Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira are two of the most important migration points for shorebirds in North America. Hundreds of thousands of waterfowl stop for food, cover, and a place to rest during migration.

The event begins on Friday afternoon, April 27, with registration and a birding tour in the late afternoon. On Saturday, April 28, birding tours will take place in the early morning and late afternoon. Educational workshops will be held on Friday and Saturday in between tours. On Sunday, there will be birding tours in the morning. The event ends at noon on Sunday.

To prepare for the weekend event, participants should bring binoculars. Some may want to include a spotting scope, camera, and bird ID book.

As of April 4, participants from 16 states had registered, with more expected. The registration fee is \$85 per person and includes some meals, the guided birding tours, and education workshops. Reservations are required. For more information phone the Great Bend Convention and Visitors Bureau at 620-792-2750 or email [information@visitgreatbend.com](mailto:information@visitgreatbend.com).

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**SAFETY PRECAUTIONS CRITICAL TO SUCCESSFUL TURKEY**

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## HUNT

**Posted: 06 Apr 2007 10:19 AM GMT-06:00**

*Precautions can make a safe sport even safer*

The regular Kansas spring turkey season begins April 11, and Kansas hunters realize that two words exemplify the perfect hunt: safety and safety. Responsible hunters are sure of their targets before firing, and they hunt defensively to protect themselves from the mistakes of others.

The following are just a few defensive safety tips to follow when pursuing America's largest game bird:

- set up against a stump, tree, or rock that is wider than your shoulders and higher than your head;
- never wear or carry the colors red, white, light blue, or black -- the colors of a wild turkey gobbler -- when turkey hunting;
- eliminating movement is the key to success, not concealment, so setting up in open timber rather than thick brush is a good idea;
- avoid imitating the sound of a gobbling turkey;
- watch other game and listen for the alarm cries of blue jays, crows, squirrels, or woodpeckers that can tip you off to the presence of another hunter;
- assume the noise you hear is another hunter; and
- never move, wave, or make turkey sounds to alert another hunter of your presence, but remain still and call out in a loud, clear voice to announce your presence.

With the addition of an archery-only season, April 1-10, Kansas hunters are now able to hunt for two full months. The Kansas youth and persons with disabilities spring turkey season runs April 6-8, and the regular season opens April 11 and runs through May 31. The accompanying adult may not hunt during the April 6-8 youth season. No hunting license is required for resident hunters 15 and younger, but a valid Kansas turkey permit is required.

For those required to have hunter education but have yet to take a course, time is running short. A list of scheduled courses is available [here](#). Anyone born on or after July 1, 1957, must successfully complete an approved course in hunter education before hunting in Kansas, with the following exception: hunters 15 years old and younger may hunt without hunter education certification provided they are under direct supervision of an adult 18 or older.

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**YOUR OUTDOORS PHOTOS INVITED**

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**Posted: 06 Apr 2007 10:17 AM GMT-06:00**

*KDWP seeking outdoors photos to display on agency website*

Have a great outdoor photo that you would like to see published? Whether the subject is hunting, fishing, state parks, boating, or just beautiful wildlife or scenics, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) wants to put your work on display.

Public photo galleries are now being featured online through the KDWP website. instructions for submissions and categories for images are available [here](#). The photos will be displayed in five public photo galleries, including "Wildlife," "Hunting," "Fishing," "State Parks," and "Boating."

Selected photos will be posted based on quality and portrayal of the Kansas outdoors experience. Each photo will list the photographer's name and a short caption containing information about the picture.

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## **[TAXPAYERS, CHICKADEE CHECKOFF GET NEW DEADLINE IN 2007](#)**

**Posted: 29 Mar 2007 09:25 AM GMT-06:00**

*State income tax return box helps conserve wildlife; tax deadline April 17*

While it may not be the greatest break in income tax return history, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has extended the 2006 income tax filing deadline to Tuesday, April 17, this year, giving taxpayers an extra two days to file their 2006 federal tax returns and pay taxes. The Kansas Department of Revenue will also conform to this date, giving the Sunflower State's wildlife enthusiasts an extra two days to make the decision to "checkoff" on the Kansas income tax form and give a portion of returns back to nature.

Since 1981, the [Chickadee Checkoff Program](#) has raised money for endangered species protection, reintroductions, and wildlife viewing and education programs in Kansas. The checkoff has funded dozens of projects that assess the status of threatened and endangered species and other animals on the state's Species in Need of Conservation list. The golden eagle reintroduction project in Russell and Ellsworth counties is just one example of a Chickadee Checkoff-funded project.

Hundreds of research projects and habitat projects have been funded by more than \$3.5 million contributed to the checkoff since its inception. In recent years, the checkoff has concentrated

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dollars to protect endangered species, develop habitat, monitor frog and toad populations, sponsor bluebird trails, and initiate landowner incentive programs for sensitive species. Additionally, the checkoff has served to document bald eagle nesting success and winter roosts in Kansas.

For several years, the checkoff sponsored the Nursing Home Bird Feeder Program with tremendous success. More than 250 sites were provided with bird feeders and initial bird feed.

Since 1985, the checkoff has sponsored the [Backyard Habitat Improvement Program](#). Besides providing information and assistance to people for improving their yards for wildlife, a certification program is offered to recognize those who have created special habitat needs for wildlife in their own backyards.

The Chickadee Checkoff has also supported the Kansas Winter Bird Feeder Survey since 1988. About 1,000 people participate each year and provide valuable information about mid-winter bird populations. Research and habitat management have focused on sensitive river species in southeast Kansas, dwindling resources in western Kansas, and endangered species such as the least tern.

With the help of the Kansas Society of Certified Public Accountants, the Chickadee Checkoff has enjoyed stable contributions of about \$150,000 per year. This year, look for the chickadee on your Kansas income tax form and do your part for Kansas wildlife.