

# Lek Treks & More

## The Woodward Lesser Prairie-Chicken Festival



Photograph by John Kennington

### Woodward, Oklahoma April 10-17, 2019

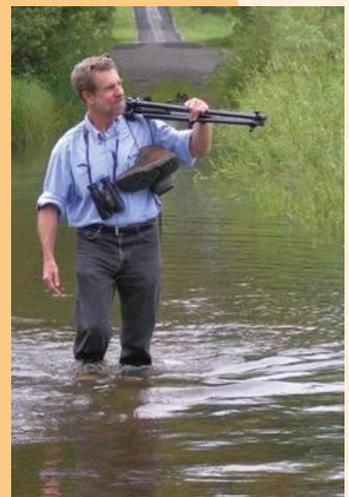
Join the Oklahoma Audubon Council for an amazing prairie experience! See and hear the quickly vanishing Lesser Prairie-Chicken displaying on its gobbling grounds. Come share and experience the natural heritage of the high plains of northwestern Oklahoma.

#### Festival Highlights

- Lesser Prairie-Chicken viewing from vans in northwest Oklahoma
- Greater Prairie-Chickens viewing from vans in Osage County in northeastern Oklahoma!
  - Packages designed specifically for photographers
- An opportunity to actively participate in protecting the species by helping to mark fences
  - Field trips led by local experts around northwest Oklahoma
- Post-festival field trips to the Black Mesa or to the Wichita Mountains (see Black-capped Vireos!)
  - A variety of informative workshops and speakers

#### Keynote Speaker & Featured Artist Kenn Kaufman

In 2008, Kenn Kaufman was presented with the highest honor of the American Birding Association, the Roger Tory Peterson Award for a lifetime of achievements in promoting the cause of birding. He is a field editor for Audubon magazine and a contributor to every major birding magazine. Most of his time, however, has gone into writing books, such as Kingbird Highway, Flights Against the Sunset, and Lives of North American Birds. His own Kaufman Field Guides series now includes volumes on birds (in English and Spanish), butterflies, mammals, insects, and the latest addition (2011) on advanced birding. He and his wife, Kim, keep busy with birds and rock music from their home base in northwestern Ohio.



# Schedule of Events

Check [www.lektreks.org](http://www.lektreks.org) for updates and more information.

- Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**  
4:30\* am – 3:00 pm Greater Prairie-Chicken Viewing at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve (~90 mins NW of Tulsa), Birding & Catered Lunch
- Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>**  
6:30 am – 4:00 pm Not Currently Planned for 2019  
3:00 pm Registration Desk Opens  
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Flock & Mingle Reception, Northwest Inn  
Opening Remarks & Orientation at 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**  
4:00\* am – 1:30 pm Lesser Prairie-Chicken Viewing, Ranch Brunch & Fence Marking  
4:00\* am – 9:00 pm Lesser Prairie-Chicken Photographer's Package  
7:00 am – 3:00 pm Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge  
5:30 pm – 8:00 pm Dinner at Selman Living Lab (includes Botany Walk)  
8:30 pm – 10:00 pm Stargazing at Selman Living Lab  
8:30 pm – 10:00 pm Night Birding at Alabaster Caverns
- Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**  
4:00\* am – 1:30 pm Lesser Prairie-Chicken Viewing, Ranch Brunch & Fence Marking  
4:00\* am – 9:00 pm Lesser Prairie-Chicken Photographer's Package  
7:00 am – 2:00 pm Harper & Woodward County Birding Trek  
2:00 pm – 4:30 pm Workshops, Northwest Inn  
5:30 pm – 8:00 pm Dinner and Keynote, Northwest Inn
- Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**  
4:00\* am – 1:30 pm Lesser Prairie-Chicken Viewing, Ranch Brunch & Fence Marking  
4:00\* am – 9:00 pm Lesser Prairie-Chicken Photographer's Package  
7:00 am – 2:00 pm Harper & Woodward County Birding Trek
- Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>**  
8:00 am – 5:00 pm Wichita Mountains Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Trek  
7:00 am Depart for Black Mesa Birding Trek (3 Days)
- Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**  
7:00 am – 3:00 pm Southwest Oklahoma (extension of Wichita Mtns Trek)

# Sponsors



# Festival Headquarters

**Festival Headquarters is the Northwest Inn** located in Woodward. Registration, workshops, vendors and displays will be in the Terrace Room, and all treks will leave from there. Special rates are available for festival participants. Rates include a free, cooked breakfast and free wireless Internet. See [www.northwestinnok.com](http://www.northwestinnok.com) for details of the room amenities. Call the Inn at 800-727-7606 to make your reservation, mentioning the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Festival.

**Other Lodging Options.** Additional hotels and motels are located in Woodward (though you won't find a better value than the Northwest Inn!). Visit [www.lektreks.org](http://www.lektreks.org) for a list of Bed & Breakfasts, Lodges, Inns and Guest Ranches in the area. Camping is available at Boiling Spring State Park, located just a few miles east of town (1-800-654-8240 [www.oklahomaparks.com](http://www.oklahomaparks.com))

# Lesser Prairie-Chicken Viewing, Ranch Brunch & Fence Marking

## Please Note

Lesser Prairie-Chickens are not doing well on the Selman Ranch and adjacent areas, despite Sue Selman's best efforts to make her ranch Prairie-Chicken friendly. The last three years we have not had leks on ranches where we have access to set up blinds. However, there are some leks a bit further west that we know of and are able to view from the vans. So while the blinds were not an option the last few years, everyone still had excellent views of the birds. For 2019 we will initially only offer the van viewing option. We will still make our best efforts to find a lek we can set up blinds at, and if we are able to do so everyone who has registered for the van viewing will have the option to be in a blind.

**Weather:** We do our best to get you to the birds rain or shine. But if we receive heavy rain the ranch roads can become impassable and we may not be able to reach the leks. We can't provide a refund in case of bad weather, but we will make our best efforts to reschedule you for another day. In our ten years so far this has only happened twice.

Join us for an amazing prairie experience, to see and hear Lesser Prairie-Chickens displaying on their gobbling grounds, or leks. After very early morning coffee and pastries at the Northwest Inn, you will be transported via van to a lek, 30-60 minutes away. Exact departure time will depend on weather and lek location, but will be about 4:00-4:30 am.



### Viewing from Blinds

**As noted above, the blind option may or may not be available**

For this option, you will settle into the blinds at about 5:30 am while it is still dark outside. You will soon hear the unmistakable gobbling of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken in the morning twilight. Viewers will stay in the blinds until the birds begin to disperse at about 9:00 am

A few things to keep in mind if using a blind: Dress warmly, the temperatures are often in the 30°-40° F range. The leks are on private working ranches, so we may climb through or use ladders to climb over a barbed-wire fence. You will be in the blinds for about 3 hours and cannot leave without disturbing the birds. Be prepared to sit quietly on a camp-type chair **without** access to a restroom. Young children will have trouble sitting quietly for that length of time, so the minimum age is 12 years.

### Viewing from Vans

For this option, you will stay in the van or other vehicle which will park near a lek before first light. This will be a much more comfortable option. Though you will not be as close to the chickens as in a blind, you will still get excellent views and be able to watch and hear their displays on the lek.

### Ranch Brunch at Selman Ranch

After the birds disperse from the lek, we will depart and travel to the Selman Guest Ranch for a ranch brunch at approximately 10:00 am.

### Conservation Action—Fence Marking

After brunch, participants can optionally spend about an hour or two working to save Lesser Prairie-Chickens by helping to mark fences at the Selman Ranch IBA (Important Bird Area.)

*Please note: The total number of people we can accommodate to view the chickens each morning is limited,*



## Fence Marking

You can contribute significantly to the protection of Lesser Prairie-Chickens by helping to mark fences, a very simple procedure anyone of any age can perform. Collisions with barbed wire fencing is a significant cause of chicken mortality. The Sutton Avian Research Center has worked out a technique of using vinyl siding starter strips cut into 2 inch pieces. These easily snap onto the barbed wire, making the fence visible to the chickens. Fences marked in this manner dramatically reduce chicken mortality. Difficulty: 2



## Workshops

Saturday afternoons at the Northwest Inn from 2:00-4:30. Topics will be announced later.

# Trek Descriptions

**Difficulty Levels** 1: Easy walking, no hills 2. A little more vigorous 3. More demanding physically, steeper grades  
Call 918-809-6325 for any specific questions about trek difficulties

**Conservation Passport.** The Harper & Woodward County Birding Trek and the Hackberry Flat Trek will visit state Wildlife Management Areas which require a Conservation Passport from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (Oklahoma residents who have a hunting or fishing license do not need this). The ODWC offers a 3-Day Conservation Passport for \$15.00. You can purchase this online ahead of time at [www.wildlifedepartment.com](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com) or you can purchase it at any Walmart in Oklahoma (and there is one conveniently across the street from the Festival hotel, the Northwest Inn).

## Salt Plains NWR Trek

The Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge is located in north-central Oklahoma, about 1 3/4 hours east of Woodward. At 10,000 acres the refuge includes the largest saline flat in the central lowlands of North America, with another 32,000 acres of open water, wetlands, prairies, woodlands and farm fields. This diversity of habitat accounts for an abundance and variety of birds including American White Pelican, White-faced Ibis, American Avocet, Tricolored Heron, Franklin's Gulls, Forster's Tern, numerous plovers, sandpipers and waterbirds. See <http://bit.ly/tas-saltplains>. Trek will return in time for Monday evening dinner at the Selman Lab.

Difficulty: 1.

**This trek includes bus transportation and box lunch.**

## Harper & Woodward County Birding Trek

A full-day devoted to the hot spots of Harper and Woodward Counties in northwestern Oklahoma. Some of the stops may include Fort Supply Lake first, where in recent years we've had birds such as White-winged scoter, Western Grebe, Say's Phoebe, Roadrunners and numerous waterfowl and shorebird species. Next we will go to a Prairie dog town for Burrowing Owls. It is a fifteen minute walk from the van. On the way we hope to see-Cassin's Sparrows, Grasshopper Sparrows and other Sagebrush species. Depending on rainfall and weather conditions, there are other spots in the area we might bird. The last stop will be Boiling Springs State Park, a scenic location with clear running springs and ancient cottonwood trees. In recent years

we've had sightings of Evening Grosbeaks and Black-headed Grosbeaks. Louisiana Water thrushes and many Pine Siskins are usually present along with many woodland species. Difficulty: 2. Conservation Passport Required **This trek includes bus transportation, box lunch & snacks.**

## Stargazing at Selman Living Lab

After dinner at the Selman Living Lab, join an Astronomer for stargazing using the telescope at the Lab, taking advantage of the truly dark skies in this isolated area of Oklahoma. If the weather is not clear, participants can alternately join that evening's Owl Prowl. Difficulty: 1

## Alabaster Caverns Night Birding

Unfortunately we have to cancel the Bat Banding event we used to do on this trip since White-nose syndrome has reached this area. We will still visit Alabaster Caverns at dusk, after dinner at the Selman Living Lab, and look for owls (Great-horned and Screech) and possibly Common Poorwills. Difficulty: 2.

## Photographer's Package

Available Friday, Saturday & Sunday.

### Please Note

The lek we use for photographers is located on a ranch just over the Oklahoma border near Glazier, Texas. **In March 2017 the 300,000+ acre Perlyton wildfire completely destroyed this ranch.** Dick Wilberforce, rancher and published photographer, has a permanent photographer's blind which we use at this ranch. He has been photographing from this blind for decades and routinely had 40+ birds coming into the lek. The prairie of course is recovering, but this was not a normal prairie fire. These fires were moving at a rate of 50+ MPH, so even animals could not escape it. Dick reported seeing hundreds of dead coyotes, antelope and other wildlife. Nothing survived in the 300,000 acre burned area, including the chickens.

No birds returned to the lek in 2017 & 2018, so we ended up canceling the Photographer's Package. A few were seen late in the 2018 season, so we hope they return in 2019, but have no way of knowing at this point. **Rather than accepting full payments in advance, for 2019 we will accept \$50 deposits for one of the six available spots on each day.** If the birds do return and we are able to offer the Package we will notify you and then collect the \$225 balance. If the birds do not return we will refund your \$50 deposit. We understand this makes planning difficult for you, and we can't say when a final decision will be made.

We're pleased to offer a package designed specifically for the serious photographer. If you sign up for the Photographer's Package you will be placed in specially designated blinds, positioned for the best lighting, with a **guaranteed front row seat the entire morning, with a maximum of 6 people per day.** You will drive your own vehicle to the lek area, about 1 hour away (note the lek used for the Photographer's Package is not on the Selman Ranch). You can return to the Selman Ranch house for brunch and then have access the entire day and evening to all areas of the Selman Ranch, which offers an abundance of photographic opportunities, including blinds at a wildlife feeding station and water source that can be used in late afternoon or evening. **Depending on lek locations blinds on the Selman Ranch leks may also be available for your use in the late afternoon, since the birds will often return to the leks at that time. So you can have a second opportunity, in different light, to photograph the birds!** The number of daily spots is limited to six, so register early. The price for blind use and all day access to the Selman Ranch is \$275 per day.

## CHECKLIST

Some NW Oklahoma birds seen on previous Festivals

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Prairie-Chicken | <input type="checkbox"/> Roadrunner             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eared Grebe            | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Meadowlark     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western Grebe          | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Wren              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snowy Plover           | <input type="checkbox"/> Bewick's Wren          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baird's Sandpiper      | <input type="checkbox"/> Say's Phoebe           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Avocet        | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissortail Flycatcher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Franklin's Gull        | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Kingbird       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Least Tern             | <input type="checkbox"/> Loggerhead Shrike      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eurasian Collared-Dove | <input type="checkbox"/> Bell's Vireo           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burrowing Owl          | <input type="checkbox"/> Prothonotary Warbler   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Hawk        | <input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Waterthrush  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Falcon         | <input type="checkbox"/> American Pipit         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck              | <input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey            | <input type="checkbox"/> Lark Sparrow           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Bobwhite      | <input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Sparrow    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Poorwill        | <input type="checkbox"/> Cassin's Sparrow       |

# Trek Descriptions

## Greater Prairie-Chicken Viewing in Osage County

*Please note Osage County is 4 hours east of Woodward, & 1.5 hours northwest of Tulsa*

We are very pleased to offer viewing of **Greater Prairie-Chickens**. Osage county, in northeastern Oklahoma, has some of the best populations of the Greater Prairie-Chicken in the country. We will be on or adjacent to the Nature Conservancy's Tall Grass Prairie Preserve (TGPP). **The last two years there were no leks accessible to blinds, and we viewed the birds from the van. If we do locate a lek we can access for blinds we will do so, but we cannot guarantee blind viewing.** We will gather in the town of Pawhuska at about 4:30 a.m. and take vans to view the birds. You will arrive at the lek, either in the van or in a blind, at about 5:30 am while it is still dark, but you will soon hear the other-worldly booming of the chickens in the morning twilight. You will stay in the blinds until the birds begin to disperse at about 9:00 am.

A few things to keep in mind if using a blind: Dress warmly, the temperatures can be around 40°F. You will be in the blinds for about 3 hours and cannot leave without disturbing the birds. Be prepared to sit quietly on a camp-type chair **without** access to a restroom. Young children will have trouble sitting quietly for that length of time, so the minimum age is 12 years. After leaving the blinds we'll spend the rest of the day birding on the TGPP until about 12:30m when we will have a catered lunch at the preserve headquarters. The vans will return to Pawhuska and you will then proceed on your own to Woodward (assuming you are partaking in other festival events). Difficulty: 1

**Please register early** - We can only accommodate a **maximum of 12 participants**.

**Logistics** Our suggested itinerary is to arrive in Pawhuska or Ponca City Tuesday afternoon and spend the night. Some lodging options in Pawhuska include the Black Gold Hotel, 918-287-3303, [www.blackgoldmotel.com](http://www.blackgoldmotel.com); the Economy Inn, 918-287-1110; and The Wah-Zha-Zhi House, 918-440-1209, [www.wahzhazhihouse.com](http://www.wahzhazhihouse.com). Ponca City, about 30 minutes to the west of Pawhuska, offers a full range of hotels. You will then meet the group in Pawhuska early Wednesday morning for van transport to the blinds and afternoon birding. We will get you back to your vehicles by about 3:00 p.m. If you are attending the Photographer Workshop in Woodward on Thursday you will need to drive to Woodward, about 4 hours west, that evening. Otherwise you have all day Thursday to get to Woodward.

**Important Note: As mentioned above, weather may make it impossible to reach the lek where we set up blinds. The trek still happened, and we will visit a lek visible from the road. We will make every effort to make blinds available, but cannot guarantee blind viewing (but can guarantee van viewing!)**

## Wichita Mountains/Southwest Trek

*Please note this area is about 4.5 hours south of Woodward*

**Wichita Mountains** This 59,000 acre refuge was established in 1901 and hosts a remnant mixed grass prairie, an island where the natural grasslands escaped destruction because the rocks underfoot defeated the plow. The refuge provides habitat for large native grazing animals such as American Bison, Rocky Mountain Elk, and White-tailed Deer. Texas Longhorn Cattle also share the refuge rangelands as a cultural and historical legacy species. The largest breeding population in Oklahoma of the endangered **Black-capped Vireo** occurs on the refuge. Some other birds found here include the Rufous Crowned Sparrow, Rock Wren & Canyon Wren. We will also visit a local landmark, the Meers Store, [www.meersstore.com](http://www.meersstore.com), for a famous Meersburger, "the best burger in Oklahoma." See [www.tulsaadubon.org/guides/wichita-mountains-nwr.htm](http://www.tulsaadubon.org/guides/wichita-mountains-nwr.htm). Difficulty: 2

**Southwest Oklahoma/Hackberry Flat** is one of Oklahoma's premier birding destinations, known for its high concentrations of shorebirds and waterbirds. Rare and uncommon species such as the Black-necked Stilt, Stilt Sandpiper, and Snowy Plover can be seen. The sheer numbers of birds make this area stand out as one of the best anywhere. *Please note that participants will need to purchase a Oklahoma Wildlife Department Conservation Passport for \$26 if visiting Hackberry.* See [www.tulsaadubon.org/guides/hackberry-flat.htm](http://www.tulsaadubon.org/guides/hackberry-flat.htm). Difficulty: 1. Conservation Passport Required

**Logistics** You will drive individually Sunday evening and staying overnight in Lawton (make reservations on your own) or camp at the Wichita Mtns. For those also visiting Hackberry on Tuesday, you would stay in Lawton (again making your own reservations) and then in the morning carpool or caravan from Lawton to Hackberry.

# Evening Events & Dinners

## Banquet and Keynote Speaker

The Saturday evening banquet will be at the Northwest Inn in Woodward. A cash bar will be available. There are three menu options, steak, grilled chicken breast, or a vegetarian entree. These are priced individually on the registration form. Kenn Kaufmann will be the keynote speaker.

## Dinner & Stargazing at the Selman Living Lab

The Selman Living Laboratory is a field research facility located in the rolling hills & plains about 30 miles northeast of Woodward. On the Selman Lab's wide array of habitats are several small buildings including an astronomical observatory. Dinner will be a cookout of hamburgers, chicken (no, not prairie-chicken!) and salads at the Lab's dining room. **Before dinner prairie plant expert Dr. Gloria Cadell will lead a botany walk around the lab prairie habitats.** After dark you can either go to nearby Alabaster Caverns for some late birding for owls and possibly Common Poorwills, or stay at the SLL to take advantage of northwest Oklahoma's dark skies for stargazing (weather permitting, of course!) See [www.biology.uco.edu/SelmanLL](http://www.biology.uco.edu/SelmanLL). Free van transportation will be available.

## CHECKLIST

### Birds we expect see at the Tallgrass Prairie

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Prairie-Chicken | <input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Sparrow     | <input type="checkbox"/> Bell's Vireo            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Henslow's Sparrow       | <input type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Upland Sandpiper        | <input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Golden Plover  | <input type="checkbox"/> White-Crowned Sparrow   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow          | <input type="checkbox"/> White-Throated Sparrow  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey             | <input type="checkbox"/> Harris Sparrow          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Bobwhite       | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Towhee          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Hawk         | <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Grosbeak           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark             | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dickcissel              | <input type="checkbox"/> Lark Sparrow            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier        | <input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting          | <input type="checkbox"/> Chuck-Wills Widow       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Waterthrush   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe          | <input type="checkbox"/> Great-Horned Owl        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow            | <input type="checkbox"/> Black and White Warbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Meadowlark      | <input type="checkbox"/> Common Snipe            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-Winged Blackbird    | <input type="checkbox"/> Loggerhead Shrike       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brewer's Blackbird      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Parula         |  |

# Black Mesa Birding Trek

The Black Mesa area is a special place that lies in the very shadow of the Rocky Mountains. There is a decidedly western influence in its biota, with many bird species seen nowhere else in Oklahoma. We will explore the dry, rocky canyons lined by scrubby oaks; the rugged, flat-topped mesas studded with junipers and pinyon pines; the great cottonwoods along the Cimarron River.

The mesa country represents a microcosm of vast open spaces, rough topography, and arid land vegetation typical of the Old West. A spirit of natural wildness permeates this land, where the passage of time is noticed hardly at all.

The Black Mesa area is Oklahoma on Mountain Standard Time. Whether you're walking in the mesalands, in the canyons or in downtown Kenton (population somewhere around 20), you get the feeling that you're in America in the 30s. The land is majestic, the people are humble, the land still rules and cattle outnumber humans. Kenton is located in the northwest corner of Cimarron County, Oklahoma's furthest west county - 2,000 square miles without a single stoplight.

Softer sedimentary rock composing the mesas has eroded more rapidly than the overlying igneous layers. As a result, flat-topped buttes, wandering ridges, and isolated peaks have been formed that jut skyward from their buttresses of accumulated soil. Some of the many unique bird species are Scaled Quail, Long-billed Curlew, Mountain Plover, Say's Phoebe, Sage and Curve-billed Thrashers, Lark Bunting, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Cassin's Kingbird, Townsend's Solitaire, Mountain Bluebird, Black-billed Magpie, Scrub, Pinyon and Stellar's Jay, Green-tailed and Canyon Towhees, Common Poorwill, Western Screech-Owl, Lewis's Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Western Wood-Pewee, Lesser Goldfinch, Golden Eagle, Roadrunner, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Common and Chihuahuan Ravens, Burrowing Owl, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Juniper Titmouse, Vermilion Flycatcher, Rock and Canyon Wrens, Western Meadowlark, Black-throated, Lark, Cassin's, Rufous-crowned and Brewer's Sparrows, and Bullock's Oriole.

This 3-day/2-night tour will depart Woodward via car pool Monday morning. The fee includes leadership, admission fees, dinner Monday, and lunch & dinner Tuesday. There are a limited number of lodging options in this area, so be sure you reserve your lodging before registering for this trek. Camping is available at Black Mesa State Park. Difficulty: 1

**Registration is limited to a maximum of 20 participants. We also need a minimum of 4 participants, or the trek will be cancelled, and the fee refunded.**



## Black Mesa Schedule

*Typical schedule, subject to change based on birds and conditions*

### Day 1 - Monday

- 7:00 Depart Woodward after breakfast at the Northwest Inn.
- 8:00 - Noon Birding along the way to Guymon (Ft Supply Lake, Evans Chambers Lake, Optima Lake, and Sunset Lake/Thompson Park in Guymon)
- Noon - 1:00 Lunch on your own in Guymon.
- 1:00 - 6:00 Birding along the way to Boise City (Keyes Sewage Ponds, Boise City Sewage Ponds, aglands for Mountain Plover and other birds, Black Mesa State Park and Lake Etling)
- 6:00 - 6:30 Check into lodging choices.
- 7:00 - 8:00 Dinner at Hitching Post B&B
- 8:00 - ?? Birding for Western Screech Owl and other specialties

### Day 2 - Tuesday.

- 7:00 - 8:00 Breakfast at respective B&Bs.
- 8:00 - Noon Birding local hotspots (Kenton, Cimarron River, road to Colorado, Camp Billy Joe, Black Mesa State Park and Lake Etling, Easter Pageant)
- Noon - 1:00 Lunch at the Hitching Post
- 1:00 - 6:00 Birding local hotspots (including places visited in the morning or wandering farther afield to Watson's Crossing, Benton Ranch, or Boise City area if interesting birds warrant it)
- 6:00 - 6:30 Rest and wash up at lodging quarters.
- 7:00 - 8:00 Dinner at the Hitching Post.
- 8:00 - ?? Birding for Western Screech Owl and other specialties

### Day 3 - Wednesday

- 7:00 - 8:00 Breakfast at respective B&Bs.
- 8:00 - Noon Birding the Kenton Black Mesa areas
- Noon - 1:00 Lunch on your own at Boise City.
- 1:00 - 6:00? Birding along the route back to Woodward. We will visit previously birded hotspots for any species missed before.
- 6:00 or later Arrive back in Woodward or continue your own route home

## Lodging Options

*Call for latest prices*

### Hoot Owl Ranch

2 Cabins, \$125/couple plus breakfast  
877-226-5791  
[www.hootowlguestranch.com](http://www.hootowlguestranch.com)

### Hitching Post Bed and Breakfast

\$65 a couple plus breakfast  
580-261-7413  
[www.blackmesacountry.com](http://www.blackmesacountry.com)

### Black Mesa Bed and Breakfast

\$69 a couple plus breakfast  
800-821-7204  
[www.bmbb1.com](http://www.bmbb1.com)

### Mesa Valley Ranch House

Has four bedrooms and can hold a large group. Breakfast not included but it has a nice kitchen. Price varies by number of people, from \$125 for one couple through \$400 for four couples.  
580-516-1971  
[www.mesavalleyguesthouse.com](http://www.mesavalleyguesthouse.com)

### Black Mesa State Park

Camping, \$10/night + utilities  
580-426-2222,  
[www.oklahomaparks.com](http://www.oklahomaparks.com)

# Registration

If you have any food concerns (allergies, customs or other requirements) for meals or box lunches, please include a note with your registration

Wednesday, April 10, 2019		Cost	Qty	Total
4:30 am - 4:00 pm	Greater Prairie-Chicken Viewing, Brunch, Tallgrass Prairie Birding (Osage County)	\$160		
Thursday, April 11, 2019		Cost	Qty	Total
6:30 am - 4:00 pm	Photography Workshop <b>Currently not planned for 2019</b>			
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Flock & Mingle Reception, Registration, Welcome - Northwest Inn	Free	--	--
Friday, April 12, 2019				
4:00 am - 1:30 pm	Lesser Prairie-Chicken Viewing from <b>Vans</b> (or blinds if possible) and Ranch Brunch	\$100		
5:00 am - 9:00 pm	Lesser Prairie-Chicken Photographer's Package (\$275, but only accepting \$50 deposits)	\$50		
7:00 am - 3:00 pm	Great Salt Plains Trek, Box Lunch (Van Transport)	\$75		
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Dinner at Selman Living Lab& Prairie Botany Walk (free van transport or car pool)	\$25		
8:30 pm - 10:00 pm	Stargazing at Selman Living Lab	\$5		
8:30 pm - 10:00 pm	Night birding at Alabaster Caverns State Park (free van transport or car pool)	\$10		
Saturday, April 13, 2019				
4:00 am - 1:30 pm	Lesser Prairie-Chicken Viewing from <b>Vans</b> (or blinds if possible) and Ranch Brunch	\$100		
5:00 am - 9:00 pm	Lesser Prairie-Chicken Photographer's Package (\$275, but only accepting \$50 deposits)	\$50		
7:00 am - 2:00 pm	Harper & Woodward County Birding Trek, Box Lunch (van transport)	\$75		
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Banquet and Keynote Speaker - <i>Please choose meal options for each person:</i>		--	
	Steak <i>name(s):</i>	\$36		
	Chicken <i>name(s):</i>	\$28		
	Vegetarian <i>name(s):</i>	\$24		
Sunday, April 14, 2019				
4:00 am - 1:30 pm	Lesser Prairie-Chicken Viewing from <b>Vans</b> (or blinds if possible) and Ranch Brunch	\$100		
5:00 am - 9:00 pm	Lesser Prairie-Chicken Photographer's Package (\$275, but only accepting \$50 deposits)	\$50		
7:00 am - 2:00 pm	Harper & Woodward County Birding Trek, Box Lunch (van transport)	\$75		
Monday, April 15, 2019				
7:00 AM	Black Mesa Birding Trek (car pool) I will be staying at: _____	\$275		
6:00 am - 6:00 pm	Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge Trek (drive on own)	\$30		
Tuesday, April 16, 2019				
7:00 am - 3:00 pm	Southwest Oklahoma Trek (extension of Wichita Mtns Trek)	\$30		
<b>Festival Registration</b>	<b>Each person over 12 years old (after Feb 15th registration is \$30)</b>	<b>\$20 / \$30</b>		<b>\$20/\$30</b>
Festival T-Shirt Adult: S M L XL XXL XXXL (circle one)		\$20		
Donation to support the Oklahoma Audubon Council's Important Bird Areas Program - Thank You!				
<b>Totals</b>	Payment by credit card or checks payable to <i>Tulsa Audubon Society</i>	---	---	

**Liability Waiver and Emergency Contact Information - Please read and sign.**

I agree and expressly acknowledge, as a registrant for the 2019 Lek Treks & More Woodward Lesser Prairie-Chicken Festival, conducted by the Oklahoma Audubon Council and the Tulsa Audubon Society, that I am fully aware that such events involve certain risks and dangers that include, but are not limited to, the hazards of traveling, the risk of injuries and the possibility that an accident or illness could occur as a result of the participation in these events. In consideration of, and as partial payment for, the right to participate in the 2019 Lek Treks & More Woodward Lesser Prairie-Chicken Festival, I do hereby waive, release and hold harmless the Oklahoma Audubon Council and the Tulsa Audubon Society, its agents, employees, trustees, instructors, directors, volunteers, and any contractors or sub-contractors hired in connection with the 2019 Lek Treks & More Woodward Lesser Prairie-Chicken Festival. I also agree not to allow any other individual to participate in my place.

Print Name (Registrant #1): \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Print Name (Registrant #2): \_\_\_\_\_ Signature (Parent if a minor): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Print Name (Registrant #3): \_\_\_\_\_ Signature (Parent if a minor): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Print Name (Registrant #4): \_\_\_\_\_ Signature (Parent if a minor): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Lek Treks & More: The Woodward Lesser Prairie-Chicken Festival April 10-17, 2019**

Registrant #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Registrant #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Age (if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

Registrant #3: \_\_\_\_\_ Age (if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

Registrant #4: \_\_\_\_\_ Age (if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/PC: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  Day  Evening Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be driving a four wheel drive vehicle? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, how many seats would be available for car pooling? \_\_\_\_\_

Mail with payment to: Oklahoma Audubon Council, 11224 S. 83 E. Ave., Bixby, OK 74008

**Questions? Call 918-809-6325**

**Cancellations:** Prior to March 15: 100% refund less \$25 administrative fee for each registrant. No refunds after March 15.

**April 10-17, 2019**  
**Lek Treks & More**  
**The Woodward Lesser Prairie-Chicken Festival**  
**11224 S. 83 E. Ave.**  
**Bixby, OK 74008**



Photograph by John Kennington