

Lek Treks & More

The Woodward Lesser Prairie-Chicken Festival



Photograph by John Kennington

Woodward, Oklahoma
April 26 - May 2, 2012

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.



New For 2012!



- An opportunity to view **Greater Prairie-Chickens** from blinds in Osage County, Oklahoma!
- Packages designed specifically for **photographers!**
- Workshops with renown photographer **Noppadol Paothong!**

Festival Highlights

- Lesser Prairie-Chicken and Greater Prairie-Chicken viewing from blinds or vans
- 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

Featured Artist Jan Martin McGuire

Jan is known as an artist and naturalist who paints nature's diversity. She has been a professional wildlife artist for almost 30 years. Her highly detailed and scientifically accurate portrayals of the world's wildlife are done after much travel to wild areas photographing and sketching her subjects and their habitat.



Her work has been shown and is in private, corporate and museum collections worldwide including FORBES magazine; SMITHSONIAN museum; LONDON NATURAL HISTORY museum; GILCREASE Museum; and NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC headquarters Visit Jan's web site at www.janmartinmcguire.com

Keynote Speaker Jeffrey Gordon

Jeff is the president of the American Birding Association, a writer, photographer, and naturalist. A lifelong nature enthusiast, Gordon worked as an interpretive naturalist, spent many years leading birding tours around many areas of the globe, and is a frequent speaker and trip leader at birding and nature festivals. Among his many projects, Gordon authored



11 of the chapters in the 2005 book *Identify Yourself: The 50 Most Common Birding Identification Challenges*. For more information on Gordon's activities, visit www.jeffreyagordon.com.

Schedule of Events

Check www.lektreks.org for updates and more information.

Thursday, April 26th

- 5:00 am – 3:00 pm Greater Prairie-Chicken Viewing at a Private Ranch
Catered Brunch and Birding at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve (~90 mins NW of Tulsa)
- 3:00 pm Registration Desk Opens, Northwest Inn
- 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Flock & Mingle Reception, complimentary snacks & hors d'oeuvres, Northwest Inn, Woodward
Opening Remarks & Orientation at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 27th

- 5:00 am – 1:30 pm Lesser Prairie-Chicken Viewing, Ranch Brunch & Fence Marking
- 6:00 am – 4:00 pm Photography Workshop with Noppadol Paothong
- 7:00 am – 4:00 pm Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge
- 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Dinner and Stargazing at Selman Living Lab
- 8:30 pm – 10:00 pm Stargazing at Selman Living Lab
- 8:30 pm – 10:00 pm Bat & Owl Prowl, Moth Black Lighting, Alabaster Caverns (a few miles east of the Selman Lab)

Saturday, April 28th

- 5:00 am – 1:30 pm Lesser Prairie-Chicken Viewing, Ranch Brunch & Fence Marking
- 5:00 am – 9:00 pm Lesser Prairie-Chicken Photographer's Package
- 7:00 am – 4:00 pm Harper/Woodward County Birding Trek
- 7:00 am – 12:00 pm Selman Living Lab Prairie Trek
- 7:30 am – 12:00 pm Prairie Dog Town Birding Trek
- 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm Workshops, Northwest Inn
- 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm Dinner and Keynote, Cultural Center, Woodward

Sunday, April 29th

- 5:00 am – 1:30 pm Lesser Prairie-Chicken Viewing, Ranch Brunch & Fence Marking
- 5:00 am – 9:00 pm Lesser Prairie-Chicken Photographer's Package
- 7:00 am – 4:00 pm Harper/Woodward County Birding Trek
- 7:30 am – 12:00 pm Prairie Dog Town Birding Trek
- 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm Workshops, Northwest Inn
- 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Shattuck Windmill Museum & Dinner

Monday, April 30th

- 6:00 am – 5:00 pm Wichita Mountains Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Trek
- 7:00 am Depart for Black Mesa Birding Trek (3 Days)

Tuesday, May 1st

- 7:00 am – 3:00 pm Hackberry Flat Trek (extension of Wichita Mtns Trek)

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: Pool side leisure rooms are \$99, all other rooms are \$89. Rates include a free, cooked breakfast and free wireless Internet. See 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 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)

Sponsors



Lesser Prairie-Chicken Viewing, Ranch Brunch & Fence Marking

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, about 30 minutes away.

Viewing from Blinds

For this option, you will settle into the blinds at about 5:45 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 can be around 40°F. Many of 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 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. The van will also be able to leave the lek sooner than those observing from blinds.

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, especially viewing from blinds. We fully expect to have sufficient capacity to accommodate everyone, but reservations will be on a first-come, first-served basis. If necessary we may need to adjust your selected day to view the chickens and will notify you ahead of time if that is necessary.

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 and Sunday afternoons at the Northwest Inn. The final schedule will be posted.

Ecology of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken

Dr. Eric Thacker, from Okla. State Univ. will share his expertise on the natural history of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken in Oklahoma, and discuss the challenges facing this declining species.

Wind Energy and the Lesser Prairie-Chicken

Jay Pruett, Director of Conservation for the Okla. Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, will discuss the impact wind energy development can have on wildlife if done incorrectly.

Nature Journaling

Naturalist **Susie Ruby** will show how to keep a written record in the form of a journal in this fun, introductory class. You will create and decorate your own journal.

An Artist in Africa

Come travel with **Jan Martin McGuire** to the continent of Africa, hear her stories of having been 16 times to 5 countries and see examples of work she has created from her trips.

Evolution of an Artist

Our featured artist **Jan Martin McGuire** provides an interesting look into the life of an artist - how Jan got to be where she is today, how she got started, what were the turning points in her life and career.

What's Up at the American Birding Assoc?

Jeffery Gordon is the new president of the American Birding Association. The ABA has experienced some turmoil in recent years, and Gordon will explain where the organization is now, the ABA's exciting plans for the future, and the role the ABA can play in the birding community.

Save The Last Dance - A Story of North American Grassland Grouse

Noppadol Paothong will discuss his upcoming book, *Save the Last Dance*, which will demonstrate the captivating mating displays, life, beauty, and current status of all North American grouse. He will explain how this project, a 10-year journey, got started, and discuss the challenges of photographing grouse.

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

Harper/Woodward County Birding Trek

A full-day devoted to the hot spots of Harper and Woodward Counties in northwestern Oklahoma. Stops will include Boiling Springs State Park, a wonderful hotspot for migrants and many other species. This is a scenic location with clear running springs and ancient cottonwood trees. Other stops include a privately owned spring-fed pond that, during even the driest years, holds water, a sure location for many species of shorebirds and waterfowl. Nearby playa lakes, - a critically imperiled form of wetland in the short/mixed grass prairie - provides a resting place for many birds which may include the White-faced Ibis, Back-necked Stilts and other waterbirds. These playas provide us a place of wonderment that any observer will appreciate. Another stop is the Selman Ranch Important Bird Area. One of Oklahoma's most important privately owned locations for wildlife, the ranch contains a vast array of habitats and always provides a multitude of species, including Lesser Prairie-Chickens, Snowy Plovers, Rock Wrens, various prairie songbirds, and a whole gamut of other species. The Selman Ranch will impress any visitor, if not for the scenery alone! See <http://bit.ly/tas-selman>. Difficulty: 2.

This trek includes bus transportation and a box lunch.

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 in Shattuck. Difficulty: 1.

This trek includes bus transportation as well as a box lunch.

Prairie Dog Town Birding Trek

This will be a more leisurely morning of birding than the County Bird Treks. We will stop at a Prairie Dog town to observe their interesting behavior and the variety of associated wildlife, including Burrowing Owls. We will visit other area habitats, including some playa lakes and Fort Supply Lake. Difficulty: 2

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

Bat & Owl Prowl, Moth Black Lighting

Possible sightings of Great Horned, Eastern Screech, Barred & Barn Owls. Weather permitting, a moth black lighting station will attract any moth or other insect in the area for up-close viewing. The moths can then be examined and identified. We will also watch bats exiting Alabaster Caverns at dusk. Alabaster Caverns is just a few miles east of the Selman Living Lab, our location for Sunday dinner. Difficulty: 2.

Selman Living Lab Prairie Trek

The SLL is a unique mixed grass plains ecosystem located in the Cimarron Gypsum Hills. With numerous caverns SLL caves are home to five bat species. We will explore the above-ground mixed grass prairie ecosystem with botanist Dr. Gloria Caddell and mammologist Dr. Bill Caire learning about grasses, wildflowers, bats, wildlife and much more. Unfortunately the SLL cave system is now closed due to the spread of white-nose syndrome. Difficulty: 2

Photographer's Package

Available Saturday and Sunday.

We're pleased to offer a package this year 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 maximum of 2 people, so you will have a **guaranteed front row seat the entire morning**. You will drive your own vehicle to the lek area, and have the flexibility to remain on the lek as long as you like. 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. The number of spots is limited, so register early. The price for blind use and all day access to the Ranch is \$175. per day.

Workshop With Noppadol Paothong

Join Noppadol for a field and classroom photography workshop on Friday. We'll begin the morning shooting on the Selman Ranch in the early light, and then visit the leks (after the birds have left) to discuss of how to photograph the chickens (to prepare for your own visit later in the festival.) Noppadol will explain LPCH behavior, how they differ from Greaters, how to capture them in natural settings, and the equipment you need. The rest of the morning will be spent photographing on the Ranch. After lunch in Woodward with Noppadol (on your own), you will move to the Northwest Inn for a session "Going Beyond Basic Photography and Shooting Like Pro" where he will share his photos and discuss how he captured them, how to find better composition, light, color, and formation, and other photo techniques and equipment. Time permitting, he will offer critiques of participants photos. Cost is \$150. (Maximum of 10 participants, so register early!).

Noppadol Paothong

Noppadol Paothong is a staff photographer for *Missouri Conservationist*, one of the largest state conservation magazines. His photography skills have been recognized by receiving more than 60 regional, national awards. For the past ten years, he has been extensively documenting North American grassland grouses. To see Noppadol's work, visit www.nopnatureimages.com



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"/> Scissor-tail 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 |

Visit www.lektreks.org for complete bird lists from previous years

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 for the first time viewing of **Greater Prairie-Chickens** from blinds. Osage county, in northeastern Oklahoma, has some of the best populations of the Greater Prairie-Chicken in the country. We have arranged to view the birds from blinds on a private ranch, adjacent to the Nature Conservancy's Tall Grass Prairie Preserve (TGPP). We will gather in the town of Pawhuska at 5:00 a.m. and take vans to the blinds. You will settle into the blinds at about 5:45 am while it is still dark, but will soon hear the otherworldly 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 using the 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, so the minimum age is 12 years.

We will then head to the TGPP for a catered brunch at the preserve headquarters. After brunch we will then spend several hours birding on the preserve until about 3:00. 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 20 participants**.

Logistics Our suggested itinerary is to arrive in Pawhuska or Ponca City Wednesday afternoon, spending the night. Some lodging options in Pawhuska include the Black Gold Hotel, 918-287-3303, www.blackgoldmotel.com; the Economy Inn, 918-287-1110 ; and The Wah-Zha-Zhi House, 918-440-1209, 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 Thursday morning for van transport to the blinds and afternoon birding. We will get you back to your vehicles by about 3:00 p.m. so you can arrive in Woodward before dark.

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 | |

Wichita Mountains/Hackberry Flat 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, for a famous Meersburger, "the best burger in Oklahoma." See www.tulsaadubon.org/guides/wichita-mountains-nwr.htm. Difficulty: 2

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. See www.tulsaadubon.org/guides/hackberry-flat.htm. Difficulty: 1

Logistics You will drive individually, leaving early Monday morning, or if you prefer 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, Josie Adams Cultural Center

The Saturday evening banquet will be at the Josie Adams Cultural Center in downtown Woodward. Dinner will be catered by JB's Steakhouse, widely regarded as the best restaurant in Woodward. A cash bar will be available. There are three menu options, a rib eye steak, grilled chicken breast, or a vegetarian entree. These are priced individually on the registration form. Jeffrey Gordon 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 large barbeque pit. After dark you can either go to nearby Alabaster Caverns for an owl prowl and bat watch, 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

Shattuck Windmill Museum and Dinner

The Shattuck Windmill Museum, located 30 miles west of Woodward, is a delightful site featuring 45 vintage windmills in working condition, and other period structures, located on a 4-acre park. We will have a guided tour of the windmills, and then have dinner (pay on your own) at a local restaurant on Shattuck's Main Street. See www.shattuckwindmillmuseum.org

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, 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, 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 Tuesday morning. The fee includes leadership, admission fees and Thur. lunch. Lodging must be arranged on your own. 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

Subject to change based on birds and conditions

Black Mesa, Day 1 - Mon., April 30

7:00 am Depart Woodward (breakfast at NW Inn)
9:00 am – 10:30 am Birding at Optima Lake
11:30 am – 12:30 pm Lunch in Guymon (*on own*)
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Birding at Boise City Sewage Ponds & Keyes
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Check in to lodging
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm Birding at Hoot Owl Ranch
6:30 pm Supper (*on own*) at Hoot Owl Ranch

Black Mesa, Day 2 - Tue. May 1

7:00 am – 8:00 am Breakfast at B&Bs
8:00 am – 12:00 pm Birding Black Mesa area, including visit to Three State Marker, Dinosaur Tracks, Coronado's Signature
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Lunch at Hitching Post (*included*), Visit Museum
2:00 pm – 6:00 pm Birding at Black Mesa State Park, Easter Pageant Area, etc.
7:00 pm Supper (*on own*) at Hitching Post

Black Mesa, Day 3 - Wed. May 2

7:00 am – 8:00 am Breakfast at B&Bs
8:00 am – 11:30 am Birding Black Mesa area
11:30 am – 12:30 pm Lunch at Hitching Post (*included*)
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm Depart Kenton to Boise City
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm Tour Autograph Rock, Sewage Ponds
3:30 pm – 7:30 pm Depart Boise City to Guymon

Lodging Options

Call for latest prices

Hoot Owl Ranch
2 Cabins, \$100/couple plus breakfast
877-226-5791

Hootowl@ptsi.net
www.hootowlquestranch.com

Hitching Post Bed and Breakfast
\$45 a single, \$75 a couple
60 mobile,
580-261-7413

cowboy@ptsi.net
www.blackmesacountry.com

Black Mesa Bed and Breakfast
\$50 a single, \$80 a couple
800-821-7204

BMBB1@juno.com
www.bmbb1.com

Black Mesa State Park
Camping, \$10/night + utilities
580-426-2222,
www.oklahomaparks.com

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

Thursday, April 26, 2012		Cost	Qty	Total
5:00 am - 3:00 pm	Greater Prairie-Chicken Viewing, Brunch, Tallgrass Prairie Birding (Osage County)	\$160		
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Flock & Mingle Reception, Registration, Welcome - Northwest Inn	Free		
Friday, April 27, 2012				
5:00 am - 1:30 pm	Lesser Prairie-Chicken Viewing from Blinds and Ranch Brunch	\$100		
5:00 am - 1:30 pm	Lesser Prairie-Chicken Viewing from Vans and Ranch Brunch	\$100		
6:00 am - 4:00 pm	Photography Workshop with Noppadol Paothong	\$150		
7:00 am - 4:00 pm	Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge Trek, Box Lunch (Van Transport)	\$75		
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Dinner at Selman Living Lab	\$25		
8:30 pm - 10:00 pm	Stargazing at Selman Living Lab	\$5		
8:30 pm - 10:00 pm	Bat & Owl Prowl, Moth Black Lighting, Alabaster Caverns State Park (car pool)	\$10		
Saturday, April 28, 2012				
5:00 am - 1:30 pm	Lesser Prairie-Chicken Viewing from Blinds and Ranch Brunch	\$100		
5:00 am - 1:30 pm	Lesser Prairie-Chicken Viewing from Vans and Ranch Brunch	\$100		
5:00 am - 9:00 pm	Lesser Prairie-Chicken Photographer's Package	\$175		
7:00 am - 4:00 pm	Harper & Woodward County Birding Trek, Box Lunch (van transport)	\$75		
7:00 am - 12:00 pm	Selman Living Lab Prairie Trek (car pool)	\$20		
7:30 am - 12:00 pm	Prairie Dog Town Birding Trek (car pool)	\$25		
2:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Workshops	Free		
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 29, 2012				
5:00 am - 1:30 pm	Lesser Prairie-Chicken Viewing from Blinds and Ranch Brunch	\$100		
5:00 am - 1:30 pm	Lesser Prairie-Chicken Viewing from Vans and Ranch Brunch	\$100		
5:00 am - 9:00 pm	Lesser Prairie-Chicken Photographer's Package	\$175		
7:00 am - 4:00 pm	Harper & Woodward County Birding Trek, Box Lunch (van transport)	\$75		
7:30 am - 12:00 pm	Prairie Dog Town Birding Trek (car pool)	\$25		
2:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Workshops	Free		
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Shattuck Windmill Museum Tour & Dinner at local restaurant (pay for own meal)	\$5		
Monday, April 30, 2012				
7:00 AM	Black Mesa Birding Trek (car pool) I will be staying at: _____	\$200		
6:00 am - 6:00 pm	Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge Trek (drive on own)	\$25		
Tuesday, May 1, 2012				
7:00 am - 3:00 pm	Hackberry Flat Trek (extension of Wichita Mtns Trek)	\$25		
Festival Registration Each person over 12 years old (after March 1st registration is \$30)		\$20 or \$30		
Festival T-Shirt Adult: S M L XL XXL XXXL (<i>circle one</i>)		\$15		
Donation to support the Oklahoma Audubon Council's Important Bird Areas Program - Thank You!				
Totals	Payment by credit card or checks payable to <i>Oklahoma Audubon Council</i>	---	---	

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

I agree and expressly acknowledge, as a registrant for the 2012 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 2012 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 2012 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 26-May 2, 2012

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 31: 100% refund less \$25 administrative fee for each registrant. No refunds after March 31.

April 26-May 2, 2012
Lek Treks & More
The Woodward Lesser Prairie-Chicken Festival
1222 10th Street, Suite 109
Woodward, OK 73801



Photograph by John Kennington