

Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area

Newsletter

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

Issue 77

April 2015

CHEYENNE BOTTOMS TOURISM- FALL 2014

Most of you will recall the October 2014 issue of this newsletter. In that issue, the residency of hunters visiting Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area during the 2014 Early Teal season was presented. During that season, it was estimated that about 18% of the teal hunters were from out

of state. This percentage, for a teal season, was relatively high when compared to past years. Well, the trend continued into the regular duck season as well.

From October 11, 2014 through February 2, 2015, a sample of over 4,500 hunters

showed that 29% of hunters visiting Cheyenne Bottoms were from out of state. They represented 34 different states, plus Kansas. Of the Kansas residents, a total of 78 different Kansas counties were represented.

The figure on Page 3 shows where a majority of the hunters visiting Cheyenne Bottoms during the regular duck and goose seasons called home. As was the case in the 2014 teal season, Missouri was the most represented state, other than Kansas. Of course Barton County was the most represented Kansas county, accounting for 1/5 of all hunters. Some of the more distant states showing up as hunter residences

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A hunter heading out for an afternoon shoot.
Photo by Dan Witt.

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Cheyenne Bottoms is a Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project funded by your purchase of hunting equipment. Some of the best wildlife hunting and viewing opportunities in the United States can be had on land purchased and maintained by these hunter generated dollars.

NORTHERN FLICKER

The following information is taken from *NatureWorks*, on the New Hampshire Public TV web site www.nhptv.org.

The northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) is a large brown woodpecker. It has a white tail with black bars and a tip, a light brown to off-white breast with black to brown spots. It has a black 'bib' on its upper chest. Males have a black or red 'mustache' that runs from its bill down to its cheek.

There are five sub-species of northern flicker: the yellow-shafted flicker, the red-shafted flicker, the gilded flicker, the Guatemalan flicker, and the Cuban flicker. The throat color, head color and the presence of a red marking on the neck can vary depending on the subspecies.

The yellow-shafted flicker has a red patch on its neck and yellow feathers on the inside of its wings. The male has a black mustache. Yellow-shafted flickers can be found in the east and the north. The red-shafted flicker has pinkish feathers on the inside of its wings and the male has a red mustache. The red-shafted flicker is common in the west. The gilded flicker can be found in the deserts of southeastern California and southern Arizona.



It has yellow wing linings and the males have a red mustache.

The flicker can be found in much of North America from the tree line in Canada and Alaska south to Nicaragua. Flickers in Alaska and Canada are migratory.

The northern flicker inhabits open forests, woodlots and groves. It is common in parks and gardens.

The flicker's diet is mostly insects, including ants,. They also eat termites, beetles, caterpillars, fruits and berries. They will sometimes eat seeds and nuts.

During courtship, flickers peck or 'hammer' on dead tree limbs or tin roofs. In some parts of the United States, flickers are known as yellowhammers. They build their nests in holes in trees, tele-

phone poles or birdhouses. Gilded flickers may build their nests in cacti. The female will usually lay six to eight eggs. Both the male and female incubate the eggs for 11 to 16 days. Both parents feed the fledglings regurgitated food.

The chicks will leave the nest about four weeks after hatching. At first, the parents will continue to feed them, but they will eventually learn to forage for food on their own. Flickers in the north have one brood a year; in the south they may have two broods.

The flicker is the only woodpecker in North America that commonly finds food on the ground. It often forages for ants and beetle larvae on the ground. It will sometimes perch on tree limbs to eat berries.

were California, Washington, Florida and Massachusetts.

Out of state hunters represent one of the more significant tourism revenue generators visiting Kansas. A report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from 2011 estimated that during that year, hunters spent close to \$401 million in Kansas. Non-resident hunters accounted for 40% of those expenditures (about \$160 million). This is money that helps support businesses and jobs in our local communities. For a lot of hunters, Kansas IS a destination state!

MANAGEMENT SUCCESS STORY- TURKEYS

The first modern wild turkey season in Kansas was an archery-only spring season in 1974. During that first season a total of 400 permits were issued to residents and landowner/tenants. The season was open for 9 days and 123 birds were harvested. Kansas now offers some of the most liberal seasons and bag limits in the country. Additionally, there is no minimum age to hunt turkeys in Kansas and hunters that are 15 and younger can hunt without hunter education certification if they are directly super-

vised by an adult. Hunters that are 12 or older can hunt by themselves during the regular season if they have completed a hunter education course.

Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism currently sells spring turkey permits to >41,000 hunters and fall turkey permits to >10,000 hunters. Hunters purchased 71,903 carcass tags for the most recent spring season (2014) and 13,720 for the most recent fall season (2013). Non-residents account for 33% of Kansas' spring hunters and 19% of the fall hunters. Harvest has averaged around 33,000 and 3,700 over the last several spring and fall seasons, respectively.

This spring turkey season has a new season structure. Youth and disabled season is April 1-14. Archery season is April 6-14 and regular turkey season is April 15-May 31. As always, shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset and legal equipment is shotguns using size 2-9 shot; long, recurve or compound bows and crossbows.

2015 Wings-N- Wetlands Bird Festival

The weekend of April 24-25, 2015 will be busy at the wetlands of central Kansas. The 2015 Wings 'N' Wetlands Festival will be held in Great Bend. The event includes two days of guided birding trips to Cheyenne Bottoms, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, and other central Kansas birding hotspots, along with workshops, meals and a special keynote speaker, Laura Erickson. Friday afternoon starts with a lesson on shorebird identification before the vans head out for the field with expert birding tour guides. It concludes with dinner and a night of owling and night sounds.

Saturday begins early with breakfast then morning birding tours. Late afternoon field trips will round out the day with the evening banquet, held upon the tours returning to the motel, and a keynote presentation by, Laura Erickson, author of '101 Ways to Help Birds'.

Visit kansasbirdingfestival.org or call 1-877-243-9268 for more information and complete schedule.

County/State	% of total hunters, 11 Oct 14- 2 Feb 15
Barton	20.6
Sedgwick	6.8
Missouri	5.1
Johnson	4.7
Texas	3.1
Ellis	2.8
Louisiana	2.7
Indiana	2.4
Oklahoma	2.1
Saline	2.1
South Carolina	2
Georgia	2
Reno	1.7
Florida	1.7
Shawnee	1.5
Russell	1.4
Ellsworth	1.3
Butler	1.1
Arkansas	1.1

WILDLIFE, PARKS AND TOURISM WEB SITE

The Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism web site provides a host of valuable services. Examples include: weekly waterfowl reports; WIHA and FISH Atlas; Hunter Ed Class schedule; license and permit sales; hunting and fishing regulations; legislative updates; and the Outdoor Store with books and DVD's related to all outdoor interests. Don't forget that each Department property has it's own page. Check it out at:

www.kdwpt.state.ks.us



Cheyenne Bottoms was designated as a 'Wetland of International Importance' by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 1988. Only 35 sites in the U.S. are recog-



nized as such. In addition, it is recognized as an 'Important Bird Area' by the American Bird Conservancy and is listed as a 'Hemispheric Reserve' by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.

Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area
56 NE 40 Road
Great Bend, KS 67530

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, sexual preference, religion, age or handicap. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, 1020 So. Kansas Ave., Suite 200, Topeka, KS 66612.