

# CHICKADEE CHECKOFF ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS



## *Milestones of Progress*

- 1980** - Kansas adopts the Chickadee Checkoff nongame contribution line on the individual income tax form.
- 1981** - Nursing Home Bird Feeder Program initiated.
- 1985** - Kansas Backyard Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program initiated.
- 1988** - Kansas Winter Bird Feeder Survey initiated.
- 1991** - Public attitudes survey about endangered species programs show strong support.
- 1992** - OWLS officially begins. Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas begins. Work on the Kansas wildlife viewing guide initiated.
- 1998** - Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas completed. Kansas Amphibian Monitoring Program is initiated.
- 2004** - State Wildlife Grants through the checkoff assess impacts of intensive grazing on ground-nesting birds in Red Hills. State wildlife action plan initiated.
- 2005** - Action plan, "A Future for Kansas Wildlife," completed. Kansas Mammals Atlas begun. Surveys funded to determine habitat needs of many sensitive species.
- 2009** - Supported Prairie Windows project to help create and conserve native prairies. State Wildlife Grant supports a major habitat improvement project in SE Kansas.
- 2010** - Small grants program supports several species monitoring efforts including Black Rail, Checkered Garter Snake, Delta Hydrobe (snail), and Greater Prairie Chickens. Bat surveys and assessments related to White-nose Syndrome and wind development take on great importance. Efforts begin to update and revise "A Future for Kansas Wildlife."
- 2011** - Creation of the Marvin Schwilling Memorial Bluebird Trails Program. Small grants program funded projects like the assessment of the Cylindrical papershell mussel population in western Kansas, and a field survey of the state-listed longnose snake.
- 2012** - Funding to develop species recovery plans for the longnose snake, redbelly snake and smooth earth snake. Small grants program funded projects like assessing habitat characteristic of prairie chicken leks in NW Kansas, effect of grazing treatments on nest success of wet meadow breeding birds, herpetofaunal survey of Sedgwick County Zoo, survey of rare herpetofauna at Fort Riley, and the occupancy and GIS modeling of priority grassland obligate birds in the Flint Hills.
- 2013** - In cooperation with other partners, constructed a multi-purpose shelter at Cheyenne Bottoms Wetlands. Small grants program supported research on pollinators response to patch burn grazing, lepidoptera species occurrence in Kansas and the restoration of purple martin houses in Parsons.
- 2014** - Support for the development and printing of Kansas Species Pocket Guides in partnership with Great Plains Nature Center, Westar, and other conservation partners. Small grant program supported the Bi-annual Red Hills Winter Bat Survey, assessment of occupancy, abundance, and species richness of marsh birds in eastern Kansas. The development of a new Sand Prairie Exhibit at Dillon Nature Center, Aquatic Organism Passage Mapper Inventory Tool with the Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams. Promote grassland habitat management through the use of prescribed burn with prescribed burn association.

**Comments or individual contributions can be made to the following address:**

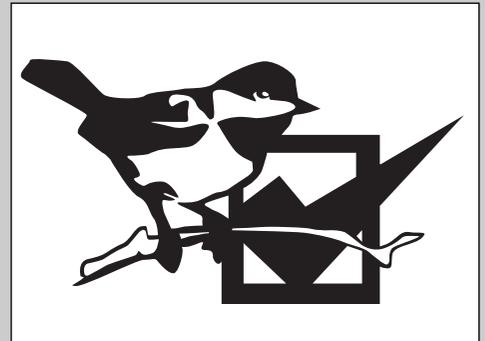
**Chickadee Checkoff  
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks  
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**For more info visit: [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com)  
or email: [KDWPT.ess@ks.gov](mailto:KDWPT.ess@ks.gov)**



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# THE Chickadee Checkoff



**Care for Wildlife.  
Contribute to Chickadee Checkoff!**



## What Is It?

The Chickadee Checkoff is a line appearing on the Kansas Individual Tax forms. Since 1980, it has provided Kansans an opportunity to contribute to wildlife programs. The checkoff has allowed donations to projects for species of wildlife not normally hunted. In other words, if you want some money to go to projects to help eagles, songbirds, threatened and endangered species, turtles, lizards, butterflies and native stream fish, then this gives you the opportunity to donate directly to these programs. For more information visit us on the web at [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com).

## What Does It Do?

One of the most important activities of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism is protection and management of threatened and endangered species. The checkoff has been able to fund 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.



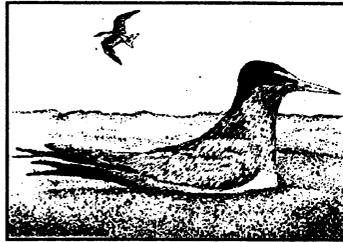
The Checkoff has assisted with many nongame habitat efforts. For several years the Chickadee Checkoff sponsored the Nursing Home Bird Feeder Program with tremendous success. Over

250 sites have been 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 people who have done the necessary or exemplary things for wildlife in their own backyards.

The Chickadee Checkoff has supported the Kansas Winter Bird Feeder Survey since 1988. About 1,000 people participate each year and provide valuable information about midwinter 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.



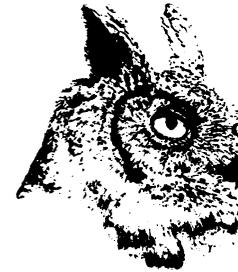
## New Initiatives with your help!

The Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism has initiated some new and exciting programs. Because of a fast-growing wildlife viewing demand, the checkoff sponsored a wildlife viewing guide for Kansas. This book, "Watching Kansas Wildlife" was published by The University Press of Kansas and is available for less than \$10. It highlights the best places in Kansas to see deer, ospreys, eagles, elk, bison, and hundreds of other interesting animals. This can also be found at [NaturalKansas.org](http://NaturalKansas.org).

In 1998, the checkoff completed the Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas involving many amateur and experienced birders across Kansas. This atlas supplied valuable bird nesting information.

In 1998, we also initiated the Kansas Amphibian Monitoring Program which includes calling toads and frogs.

One of the most exciting programs initiated by Chickadee Checkoff has been OWLS (Outdoor Wildlife Learning Sites). This program gives schools the opportunity to develop outdoor learning laboratories right on their school yards. Over 200 OWLS have been funded.



In recent years, the checkoff has fronted major projects matched by State Wildlife Grant money to do assessments of sensitive species and habitat needs. These are contributing in a major fashion in helping us manage and predict species needs well into the future. Contributions to the Chickadee Checkoff are largely matched with other sources of money so that precious dollars are stretched to benefit more conservation efforts. Every dollar helps and means we can magnify its benefits to nongame wildlife.

## The Challenge!

We have many projects submitted to us that we simply cannot fund because we don't have the money. We want you to help us with these excellent projects and especially our endangered species protection efforts. Our goal, with the help of the Kansas Society of CPA's, is to raise the amount of donations to the Chickadee Checkoff. This will be very important for matching federal dollars from the State Wildlife Grant Program. Be a part of the Chickadee Challenge and donate by any of the methods shown. If you already contribute through your individual income tax form; thank you! We owe our accomplishments to you.