

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.
- 1982 - Songbird Bundle for backyard trees and shrubs subsidized. Surveys initiated for a number of sensitive species.
- 1985 - Kansas Backyard Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program initiated.
- 1988 - Kansas Winter Bird Feeder Survey initiated.
- 1990 - Assessments of sensitive species are focused in SE Kansas where most occur. Two pilot Outdoor Wildlife Learning Sites (OWLS) 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.
- 1993 - Viewing guide, "Watching Kansas Wildlife," completed. 25 OWLS established.
- 1996 - OWLS surpasses 100 locations. Many sensitive species efforts continue.
- 1998 - Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas completed. Kansas Amphibian Monitoring Program is initiated.
- 2000 - Kansas Nature-based Tourism Alliance is supported.
- 2002 - Initial Kansas Amphibian Monitoring Program completed. Natural areas surveys are initiated in Northeast Kansas.
- 2003 - Checkoff funds match State Wildlife Grants for major assessments of rare fish and freshwater clams as well as shortgrass prairie nesting birds. The Kansas Herpetofaunal Atlas 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.
- 2007 - Statewide moth survey initiated. Special projects initiated for management aspects of prairie dogs and timber rattlesnakes.
- 2008 - Natural areas assessments re-initiated in NE Kansas. Checkoff Small Grants Program re-initiated to accommodate smaller project needs.
- 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 Schilling 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 and an inventory of butterflies and moths in central Kansas.

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

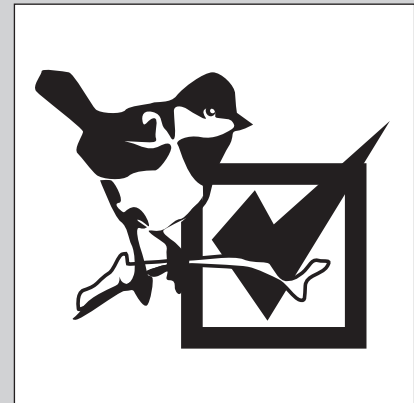
**Chickadee Checkoff
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks
and Tourism
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**For more info visit: www.ksoutdoors.com
or email: ess@ksoutdoors.com**



Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation, and military or veteran status. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, 1020 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1327. 11/11

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.

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. One of its first projects, still active, is underwriting the "Songbird Bundle" through the Kansas Forest Service.

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.

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 of the 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.