



2012 World Wetlands Day Report

Kansas Wetlands Education Center
Great Bend, KS 67530

In celebration of World Wetlands Day, the **Kansas Wetlands Education Center at Cheyenne Bottoms**, in cooperation with Barton County schools and area businesses, sponsored a coloring contest for 2nd graders. The coloring contest was used as a follow-up activity for the annual 2nd graders wetlands day that the KWEC holds each September.

A coloring sheet was developed (see attached). The coloring sheet focused on several wetland animals, and contained a label stating "People travel from all over the world to see Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. Visitors come to see wildlife, hunt, and sight-see along the Wetlands & Wildlife National Scenic Byway," which tied the project into the WWD theme of wetland tourism. Along with the coloring sheet an information and activity sheet were also developed (see attached). This sheet contained descriptive information about each of the animals included on the coloring sheet as well as an activity, involving Wetland Bird Sounds that the teachers could use to supplement the coloring contest.

Each school (public and parochial) servicing Barton County agreed to participate in the coloring contest, which included 4 different school districts, 11 different schools, and approximately 350 2nd graders who completed the coloring contest entry.

The students were given 3 weeks to complete the coloring contest, and the entries were returned to the KWEC. Staff from the KWEC judged each of the entries, and the best was chosen from each of the 19 classrooms that submitted entries.



Prizes from the KWEC were presented to each of the winners. Winners received a certificate, a Top 20 Birds of Cheyenne Bottoms identification card, and a small wooden bird feeder

Left: Curtis Wolf, site manager of the KWEC presents prizes to one of the classroom winners from Jefferson Elementary School. **Right:** A Great Bend business displays the coloring sheets in their store front.

Several businesses in Great Bend, KS volunteered to display the coloring contest entries in their stores. Each school's entries were assigned a different business, and the business chose how to best display the entries. The entries were on display for the February 2nd WWD and remained on display for 2 weeks.



A news release was put in the local newspaper identifying the winners and describing the project.

Tribune Education

Coloring contests winners named

For World Wetlands Day on Feb. 2, the Kansas Wetlands Education Center held a coloring contest for second graders throughout the county.

"The best of each classroom was chosen," said Curtis Wolf, manager of KWEC. "We are partnering with Great Bend businesses to display them for two weeks."

The students colored pictures of birds of Cheyenne Bottoms. There were 350 students participating.

"Part of the judging was coloring the birds exactly as they were supposed to be," said Wolf. The winners received a small bird feeder and a card with the top 20 birds of Cheyenne Bottoms.

Here is a list of the winners: Great Bend Riley — Denise Salcido; Great Bend Riley — Alexia Galindo; Great Bend Riley — Casandra Enriquez; Great Bend Eisenhower — Penelope McCraw; Great Bend Eisenhower — Brianna Brand; Great Bend Park — Jocelyn Leyva; Great Bend Park — Katelyn Petrik; Great Bend Lincoln — Gracie Mackey; Great Bend Lincoln — Eyan Wedel.

Great Bend Jefferson — Taryn Warren; Great Bend Jefferson — Sarah McAnulla; Holy Family — Amy To, CKCA — Tessa Fry.

Hoisington Roosevelt — Livvy Brewer; Hoisington Roosevelt — Isabelle May-



COURTESY PHOTOS
Curtis Wolf, manager of KWEC, presents coloring contest prizes to Sarah McAnulla (above) and Taryn Warren, both from Jefferson Elementary School in Great Bend.

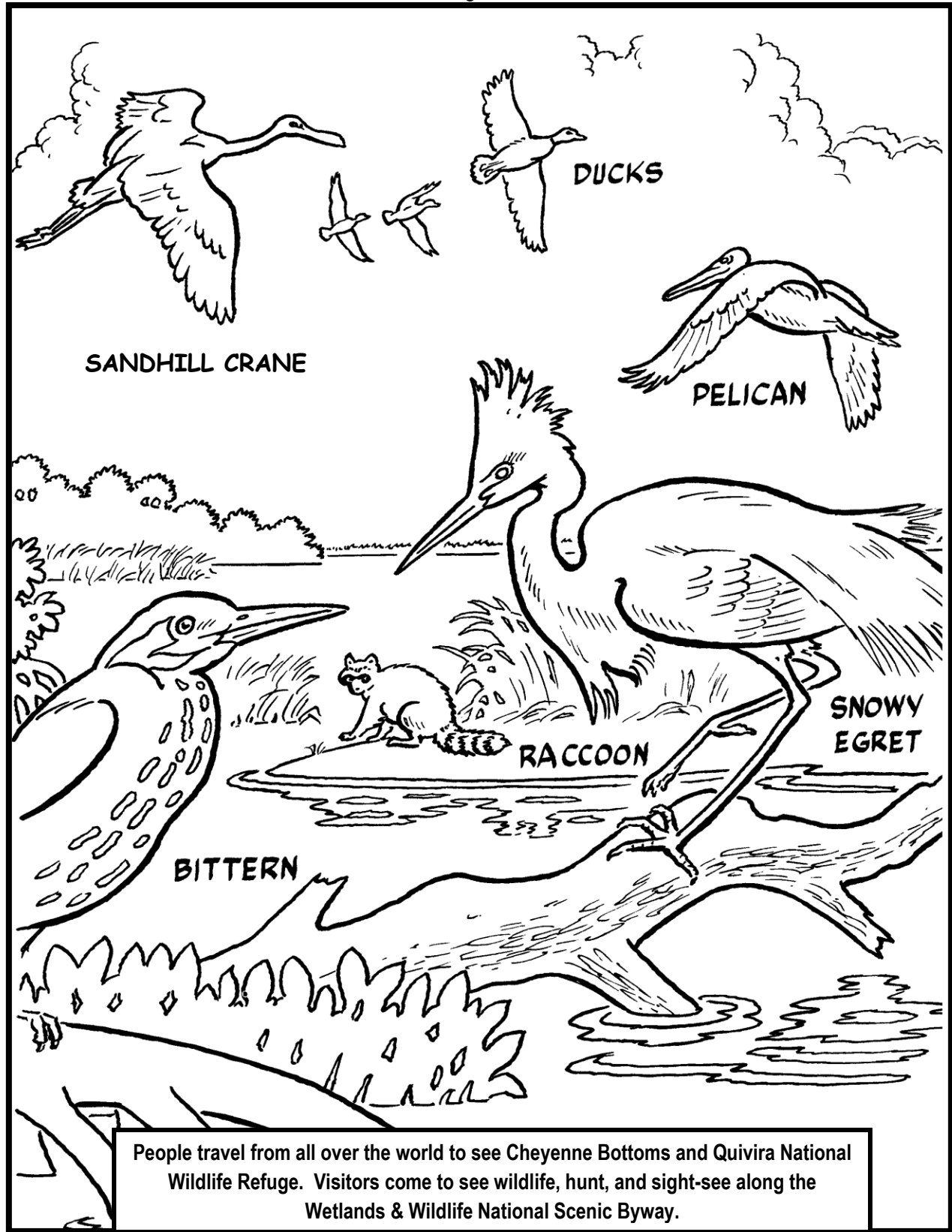
ers; Hoisington Roosevelt — Emilee Baz, Ellinwood; St. Joseph — Colby Heinz; Ellinwood Elementary — Allison McReynolds; and Central Plains — Kristi Weeks.

Christina Hayes, Great Bend community coordinator, worked to have Great Bend businesses display the student's artwork. The

businesses will display the students' work until Feb. 16. Here is a list of the businesses and the schools they are displaying: OPI, Rana Luna, Cornerstone Interiors, Kansas Mercantile Store, Treaders, Completely Kids, Miss Pretty Pickles, Barton Arts Council, Great Bend Tribune, Waters True Value and The Gallery.

Celebrate World Wetlands Day

February 2, 2012



Name _____

School _____

2012 World Wetlands Day

The Kansas Wetlands Education Center would like to help you celebrate World Wetlands Day with your class by offering a coloring contest. Along with the coloring contest, we are providing some additional information for you to use.

About the animals on the coloring sheet

All the animals shown on the coloring sheet can be found at Cheyenne Bottoms. You may want to provide your students with information about each of these animals as part of the classroom activity.

Sandhill Crane

Sandhill Cranes are a gray bird with a red colored cap on the top of their heads. They are tall and have long necks and long legs. They like open meadows and wetlands and eat mostly grain and seeds, but also may eat some insects. They migrate in big groups. You often will see a group of them soaring very high in the sky. They also make a very pretty sound that can be heard for miles.

Ducks

About 20 types of ducks can be seen at Cheyenne Bottoms. Some of the common ones include Mallards, which the males have bright green heads and Teal, which are very small ducks. In the spring time, duck feathers are some of the most colorful things you will see in the wetlands.

Pelican

The American White Pelican is common at Cheyenne Bottoms during most of the year. It is a large white bird that has very large wings with black tips, short orange legs, and a huge pouch under its yellow bill. The pelican eats fish. They can often be seen soaring gracefully in the sky.

Snowy Egret

Snowy egrets are white birds with black bills. Their legs are black but their feet are bright yellow. They like to stay on the shore of a wetland and hunt for small fish or frogs.

Raccoon

Raccoons are common mammals seen at Cheyenne Bottoms. Their black masks around their eyes and striped tails make them easy to identify. They usually come out only at night when they hunt for food. They are omnivores which means they eat about anything they can find, including berries, insects, worms, crayfish, and even dead animals they find.

Bittern

The Bittern is not commonly seen at Cheyenne Bottoms, but it can often be heard. It has one of the strangest sounds you will ever hear. Its song sounds kind of like a dripping faucet or someone beating on a drum. Bitterns are brown with light brown streaks down its front. This color allows the Bittern to blend in while it hides in the cattails and grass so it is not seen.

Additional Activity

Wetland Bird Sounds

Wetland birds can make some of the most interesting sounds. Birds make sounds for many reasons: to scare away intruders, warn other birds of dangers, communicate with their young, or to identify each other.

If you have access to the internet, recordings of many bird sounds can be found and played. One great resource for bird sounds is the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's All About Birds website.

www.allaboutbirds.org . At this site, you can search for any bird species you want and access information about the bird, as well as play the sounds that the bird makes.

It is often fun to play bird sounds and have the students try to imitate the sounds they hear.

Some great examples of unique wetland birds that make interesting sounds include:

Sandhill crane

Whooping crane

American bittern

Mallard

Canada goose

Black-crowned night heron

Red-tailed hawk

Bald eagle

Sora

Black rail

Greater yellowlegs