

Earth Care Forum Series 2021

Sundays: Jan. 10 ~ Feb. 7
9:00 a.m. ~ 10:10 a.m.

The Earth Care Forum is coordinated by the Eco-Team of First Presbyterian Church, Lawrence, KS. To attend, go to www.jayhawkaudubon.org and click the pdf icon in the Earth Care Forum section in the “Events” box. The Zoom link is in the pdf.

January 10: How (and Why) to Tattoo Greenhouses with Semi-Transparent Solar Panels—an inexpensive eco-friendly strategy to produce food and renewable energy on the same land footprint.

Presenter: Rebekah Waller, Ph.D. candidate, University of Arizona, Biosystems Engineering

January 17: Thinking Deeper: How Roots Mediate Human Activity in Earth’s Critical Zone—plant roots, nutrient availability, human impacts.

Presenter: Emma Hauser, Ph.D. candidate, KU Ecology/Evolutionary Biology (Dr. Sharon Billings' lab)

January 24: Sustaining the Douglas County Food System—an overview of progress on community food system goals highlighting the Partnerships for Food Resource Recovery Project, supporting efforts to reduce and recapture food waste.

Presenters: Jasmin Moore, Sustainability Director, Lawrence/DG Cty & Kim Criner Ritchie, Sustainability and Food Systems Analyst for DG Cty.

January 31: Climate Change & Refrigeration—history/current research/future of refrigerants, including their recycling & repurposing.

Presenter: Mark B. Shiflett, Ph.D., P.E., Foundation Distinguished Professor, KU Chemical & Petroleum Engineering.

February 7: The 2020s: The Do-or-Die Decade for Climate—a mechanism to drive fossil fuel use to zero by a strict deadline is the most crucial element.

Presenter: Stan Cox is a research fellow in Ecosphere Studies at The Land Institute in Salina, Kansas. He wrote *The Green New Deal and Beyond: Ending the Climate Emergency While We Still Can*.

Monday, January 25, 2021

Birds of the Midwest

At the January 25th JAS meeting Len Scotto will lighten the mid-winter doldrums with his stunning photos of birds from our own corner of the world. Familiarity can render things dull and ho-hum. Len’s images will rekindle your appreciation for the beauty and wonder of our common birds and also show off some species most of us don’t see that often.



© Len Scotto Photography
Harlan’s Hawk, a subspecies of Red-tailed Hawk that breeds in remote areas of Alaska and Western Canada but winters primarily in Kansas and Oklahoma, per the Sibley field guides.
By Len Scotto

Len taught high school biology for 25 years, and then was an administrator at Eudora Virtual School for 5 years. After a further stint teaching for Kaw Valley Virtual, he has now retired. An avid fly fisherman, birder, and wildlife photographer, Len loves being outdoors. One of his favorite haunts is the Baker Wetlands, where he also volunteers at the Discovery Center.

Join us on the 25th via Zoom to refamiliarize yourself with the birds of the Heartland. To attend go to the JAS website home page “Events” section and click on the link for the meeting. Follow the Zoom instructions.

Project FeederWatch Blog Update

Seven weeks into Project FeederWatch - what a great way to get in tune with the comings and goings of birds in my yard! I've recorded 20 species so far, with a reliable 17 that have come to my feeders during every 2-day count. American Goldfinches and Harris's Sparrows are the most numerous. A lone Field Sparrow makes an appearance every day; Pine Siskins show up some days but not others.

My favorite regular is a Tufted Titmouse with a bad eye - I don't know if this is due to disease or an injury. Eye disease is well-known in finches but it can occur in other birds. This little cutie is as energetic as you'd expect a Titmouse to be, and has no trouble grabbing the peanuts I put in my window. Project FeederWatch encourages participants to report observations like this to help scientists gain a better understanding of the condition of our winter birds.

Interested in being a feeder-watcher? You can still sign up to participate at <https://feederwatch.org/>.

~ Jennifer Delisle

Editor's Note: You can read all of Jennifer's blog posts on the JAS website under the "Birding" tab. They're short, sweet and informative! She has also posted more pictures, some videos and maps.

While you're in the "Birding" tab, check out Jim Bresnahan's fine pics in "Backyard Birds of Winter."



Tufted Titmouse with a bad eye. Fortunately it is still able to fly, find food, and visit Jennifer's window sill.



Healthy Tufted Titmouse looking in to see what Jennifer's doing. Does it have a special meal request or just curious? Birders don't often get a full frontal, full stop view of this very active, very bold species.

JAS Officers & Board Members

President: James Bresnahan.
785-766-9625 or jbresnahan@ku.edu

Vice President: Vanessa Carlos

Recording Secretary: Susan MacNally

Corresponding Secretary: Pam Chaffee

Treasurer: Jennifer Delisle

Board Member: Roger Boyd

Board Member: Lynn Byczynski

Board Member: Phyllis Fantini

Board Member: Dena Friesen

Board Member: Lenard Scotto

Board Member: Vacant

Membership Chair: Kristine Latta

Newsletter: Susan Iversen: 785-843-1142 or siversen@sunflower.com

Conservation: Lynn Byczynski

Programs: Joyce Wolf

Education: Sandy Sanders

Field Trips: VACANT

Publicity: Pam Chaffee

Facebook Page: Jennifer Dropkin, jendropkin@hotmail.com

Webmaster: Lynn Byczynski

Bird Seed Sales: Jan Bresnahan

Birdathon: VACANT

Christmas Count: Galen Pittman

Eagles Day: Bunnie Watkins

Hospitality: Phyllis Fantini

Historian: Ron Wolf

Books & Feeders: Ron & Joyce Wolf

Audubon of Kansas Chapter Rep: Ron Wolf

JAS Board Opening

Would you like to be more active in Jayhawk Audubon? Then the current at-large board member vacancy is calling your name. Responsibilities include attending monthly board meetings (no meetings in July or December) to discuss and vote on chapter policy and initiatives. Board members often take on committee duties or pitch in at events such as Eagles Day, Earth Day or Plants for Birds, but this is not obligatory...just fun and satisfying!

We welcome fresh ideas and energy so, if you are interested, please contact JAS President Jim Bresnahan to find out more: 785-766-9625 or jbresnahan@ku.edu

Advisory Board Openings

Be involved in decision making about food, health, land, and jobs in Lawrence and Douglas County

► The Douglas County Food Policy Council works toward a successful, equitable local food system. Learn more about the work of the DCFPC and apply here: <https://www.douglascountyks.org/fpc/who-we-are>. Questions? Contact: kcrinerritchie@douglascountyks.org.

► The Sustainability Advisory Board makes recommendations on environmental issues such as energy conservation and waste reduction in Lawrence. Learn more about the work of SAB and apply here: <https://lawrenceks.civicweb.net/portal/members.aspx?id=32>. Questions? Contact: jamoore@lawrenceks.org. Review of applications for 2021 vacancies begin on January 4th. Applications accepted anytime & filed for future vacancies.

Kim Criner Ritchie
Sustainability & Food Systems Analyst for Douglas County



Male Varied Thrush on left. Female on right. So similar to American Robin. Varied Thrush breed in Alaska & Western Canada and winter in the Pacific Northwest, so they are rarely found in Kansas. Illustration from *Bird Lore*. 1907.

Benefits of Birding Your Own Patch

In December, Kansas birders reported exciting rarities such as Snowy Owls in Miami and Lyon Counties, Varied Thrush at Perry Lake and near Junction City, a Yellow-eyed Junco at Scott State Lake Park and a Common Redpoll in Wyandotte County! All these sightings prompted this advice on the KSBIRDS listserv from Chuck Otte, coauthor of *Birds of Kansas* and Geary County Extension Agent:

"I received a photo today from a Geary County, Junction City, homeowner (former 4-Her of mine) of what she thought was a Varied Thrush...in her back yard this morning. I looked at the photo and while it was grainy and dim, the plumage pattern left little doubt in my mind that it was a Varied Thrush and after sharing it with a few other birders we all reached consensus that it was in fact a Varied Thrush, a new Geary County record..."

One of the reasons that I bring this up is simply to encourage people to not be so fast to chase someone else's rare birds but try to find your own... Now with eBird, social media and everything else, it becomes far too easy to look up birds that someone else has seen and then go to point A to see species B.

Take some time to find your "patch." An area near you where you can go on a regular basis and then bird it hard and often. You'll be amazed at what you'll find. Case in point: when the first county checklists were released in 2001, Neosho County had a bird list of 213. Nobody had been spending much time there birding. Then along comes Andrew Burnett who starts birding places like Neosho Wildlife Area. The Neosho County list is now 303! Simply because someone started birding there regularly! All it takes is dedication and spending time going some place on a regular basis and you will find good birds. Hmm, sounds like a good New Year's resolution!

Take care all y'all and have a safe and happy New Year!"

Chuck Otte

cotte@twinvalley.net

To join KSBIRDS visit: <https://listserv.ksu.edu/ksbird-l.html>. Click on the little black box on the right for the menu with options.

Welcome Climate Action in Agriculture

The 2021 1st Quarter newsletter from Douglas County Conservation District includes the top 2020 wins and fights of the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC). Wins include introduction of The Agriculture Resilience Act (H.R. 5861) which sets “an aggressive, but achievable plan for agriculture to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050.” Most of the bill’s provisions were also included in the “Congressional Action Plan on Solving the Climate Crisis” published by the House this summer.

NSAC also delivered the Farmer Climate Letter signed by over 2000 farmers & ranchers to the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. Signees committed to being part of the climate solution and asked Congress for resources and tools.

NSAC lobbied hard for Covid relief funding for small-scale, sustainable producers marketing locally or direct to consumers, especially beginning farmers and farmers of color who have had trouble getting USDA funding in the past. The CARES act explicitly included local food support. The Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program is also funded now.

Fights/losses mainly involved anti-small farmer and anti-sustainability rule making by agencies under the Trump administration, which NSAC is hopeful can be reversed by the incoming administration.

To sign up for the quarterly DCCD newsletter visit: <http://www.douglasccd.com/about.html>
It usually includes news from the intersection of agricultural and environmental concerns that you might not see elsewhere.

Disturbing Ag News: Cows in the Matrix?

“In 2019 on the RusMoloko research farm near Moscow, virtual reality headsets were strapped onto cattle. The cows were led, through the digital animation that played before their eyes, to imagine they were wandering in bright summer fields, not bleak wintry ones. The innovation, which was apparently successful, is designed to ward off stress: The calmer the cow, the higher the milk yield. “

From: “Are We the Cows of the Future”
Esther Leslie. The New York Times. 1/5/21

Ed’s note: This may be far from birds or climate, but it speaks to our increasing manipulation of animals and ourselves and alienation from the natural order, although it does seem the cows are happier!?!

Audubon Climate Watch Effort

“According to Audubon’s 2019 climate change report, *‘Survival By Degrees,’* up to two-thirds of North American birds are vulnerable to extinction due to climate change... Since 2016, Climate Watch volunteers have collected data which Audubon scientists are able to use to document in peer reviewed research that birds are responding to climate change and shifting their ranges. You can join us in this fight by observing birds in your area, using our specific protocol, and helping us learn about how birds are responding to the changing climate.” ~ From the NAS website

Learn more by visiting <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/climate-watch>. Jayhawk Audubon does not have a chapter Climate Watch coordinator at this time, but you can still sign up to be a Climate Watch surveyor as an individual or recruit a few friends to participate with you, of course following NAS’s Covid guidelines. The winter survey period is January 15 to February 15. NAS scientists have selected target species for the winter survey including Eastern, Mountain, and Western Bluebirds and White-breasted, Red-breasted, Pygmy, and Brown-headed Nuthatches. The NAS website has all the details on the survey’s rationale and protocols to follow so that your data will be reliable and have maximum value for scientists.



Cow in VR headset. RusMoloko research farm.

Peter Singer, philosopher and professor of bioethics, on human exploitation of our world:

“We must now progress beyond the speciesist ethic of the era of factory farming, of the use of animals as mere research tools, of whaling, seal hunting, kangaroo slaughter, and **the destruction of wilderness**. We must take the final step in expanding the circle of ethics.”

Kansas Land Trust Offers Nature Detective Winter Outings for Young Children

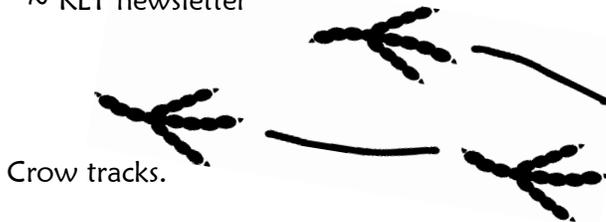
January 17, 23 & 30 1~3 p.m.

Attendance limited: see email contact

In January, the Kansas Land Trust will hold three nature detective winter outings for children ages 4-6 at Hidden Valley in Lawrence. Led by naturalist and artist Sara Taliaferro, participants will explore the wooded trails and record what they discover in fun and creative ways. Dates are: Jan. 17, Jan. 23 and Jan. 30 from 1-3pm. Numbers will be limited and masks required. Young participants should be accompanied by an adult companion.

Contact Liz Weslander at liz@klt.org for more information. Special thanks to the Elizabeth Shultz Environmental Fund for supporting this project!

~ KLT newsletter



Museum Members' Night: A Dive into the Deep-Scattering Layer

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28 - 7PM

Members Event Via Zoom
Join & Support the Museum!

To celebrate the New Year, KU Natural History Museum is revealing a new exhibit. KU PhD candidate and Biodiversity Institute graduate student researcher, Rene Martin, and Exhibits Developer Laura Mohr will guide you on this dive into the Deep-Scattering Layer. This virtual investigation will examine bioluminescence, biomass migration, specimen collection, and the final translation of research into stunning scientific illustrations and a compelling exhibit.

This event will be held via Zoom. Members current as of Jan. 26, 2021 will be welcome to participate. RSVP via <https://tinyurl.com/deepscattering>.

Interested in a membership? Learn more and join at <https://biodiversity.ku.edu/support/membership>.

Ron Klataske Retires from AOK

Ron Klataske, Executive Director of Audubon of Kansas, retired at the end of December from an illustrious 50 year career championing environmental causes with Audubon—29 with National Audubon and 21 with AOK. A brief memoir “Audubon of Kansas, A Personal view of the First 21 Years and a Promising Future” can be read at: <https://www.audubonofkansas.org/>

One of Ron’s great strengths is his ability to bring people together to solve problems and create positive outcomes. A prime example of this is the alliance that came together in the 1970’s and 80’s to defeat a proposal to build a giant dam on the Niobrara which would have claimed 30,000 acres of “spectacularly scenic and ecologically diverse river valley” ranches and wildland by eminent domain. Landowners, Members of Congress and Audubon, represented by Ron, not only defeated the dam, but secured National Scenic River status for 76 miles of the river thus achieving permanent protection.



Sharp-tailed Grouse have a lek on the AOK Hutton Niobrara Sanctuary. By Alan Schmierer. Wikimedia Commons

His relationships with landowners have been key in the establishment of the AOK Sanctuaries: The Hutton Niobrara Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary in Nebraska and the Connie Achterberg Wildlife-Friendly Demonstration Farm near Lincoln, Ks. Another key collaboration was the Black-footed Ferret reintroduction in Logan county which required yeoman commitment from landowners and cooperation from U.S. Fish & Wildlife and KDWPT.

Read the full statement to appreciate all that Ron accomplished for wildlife and Audubon.

Results of the 2020 Lawrence CBC

Twenty-nine participants, in 15 parties (plus 15 at feeders) found **101 species** on 19 December 2020 on the occasion of the 121st National Audubon Christmas Bird Count and the 77th Lawrence Christmas Bird Count. Finding 100 species always makes for a great count. The last few years have been an incredible run for the count with 100 or more species recorded seven times since 2010: 2010, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2020. This year was a very good effort by all involved.

We recorded 31+ species of waterfowl and other water birds missing very few birds in that category, with the exception of American Black Duck (county week only), Ruddy Duck, and Canvasback. We added two NEW species for the count = Black-crowned Night-Heron and Black Scoter. In general, even though the number of species was high, the number of individuals per species was fairly low with some notable exceptions. We set all-time record high counts for Ross's Goose (29), Gadwall (488), American White Pelican (98), Red-shouldered Hawk (24!), Ring-billed Gull (6634), Marsh Wren (4), and Purple Finch (94!).

Other unusual species were Trumpeter Swan, Wood Duck, Common Loon, Northern Bobwhite, Loggerhead Shrike, Marsh Wren, Brown Thrasher, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, and American Pipit. Notable misses this year include Rough-legged Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Lapland Longspur, and Rusty Blackbird.

Thanks to all of this year's participants for their perseverance in the face of the 2020 Covid pandemic!! Hope to see you all again next year for the 122nd National Audubon Christmas Bird Count.

The complete list that follows on page 7 has the unusual species and/or unusually high individual numbers underlined and/or highlighted. ~ Galen Pittman, Compiler Lawrence CBC

From the KSBIRDS listserv:

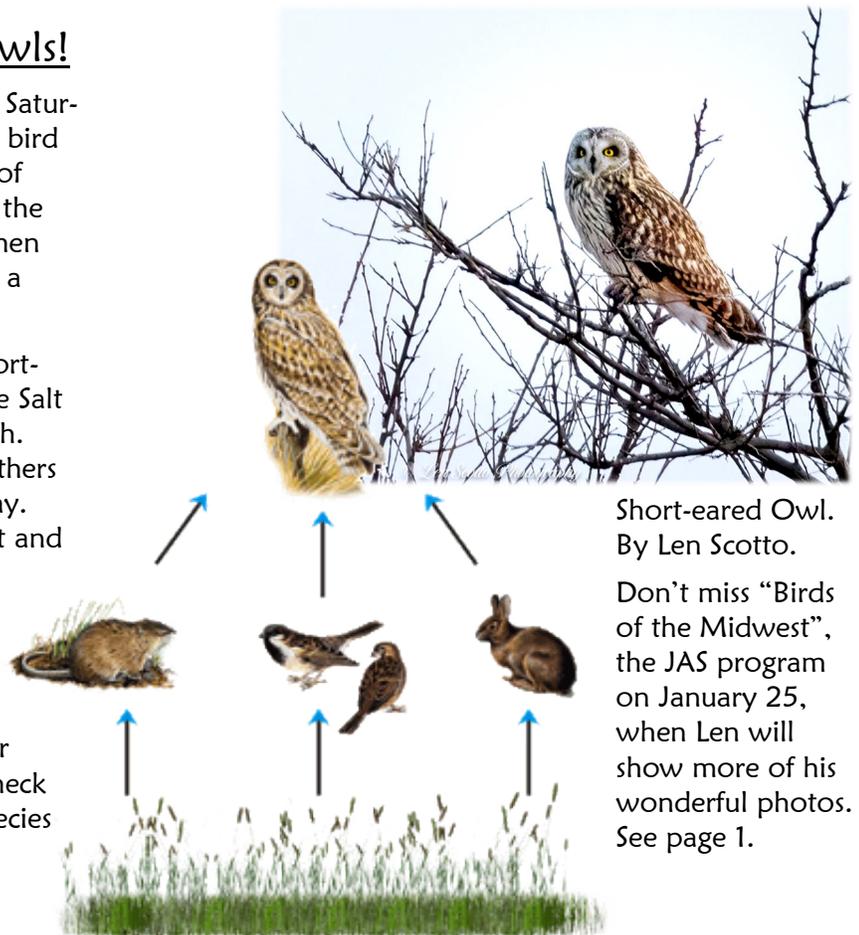
40, count 'em, 40 Short-eared Owls!

I drove thru Quivira (NWR) south to north on Saturday evening, 2 January, 2021. The most unusual bird was a Greater Yellowlegs along the southern leg of the Big Salt Marsh Wildlife Drive. It flushed from the rip-rap near the second low-water crossing and then flew around giving its frenetic triple-note call for a couple minutes...

The big spectacle of the evening was all the Short-eared Owls. I saw 9 at the north side of the Little Salt Marsh and then saw 31 more at the Big Salt Marsh. Many were seen at distance thru a scope while others were just sitting along the road a few meters away. They were skirmishing with each other quite a lot and giving their loud 'BRAP' calls.

~ Scott Seltman

Ed's Note: Why so many Short-eared Owls at Quivira right now? Well, according to *Sibley Birds East*, all of Kansas is squarely in their winter range. But the unusual numbers—the Quivira check list says they are “occasional” in winter, i.e. a species usually seen only a few times during the season—may be due to an abundance of owl food at the refuge right now. Here's their food web→



Short-eared Owl.
By Len Scotto.

Don't miss "Birds of the Midwest", the JAS program on January 25, when Len will show more of his wonderful photos. See page 1.

Species List for the 2020 Lawrence CBC

- Greater White-fronted Goose – 26
- Snow Goose - 740
- Ross's Goose - **29**
- Cackling Goose - 30



Cackling Geese swimming with a Mallard. Yes, they look just like Canada Geese but they are the size of a duck. Long thought to be a subspecies or race of Canada Geese, they have been made a separate species.

- Canada Goose - 2485
- Trumpeter Swan - 3
- Wood Duck - 1
- Gadwall – **488**
- American Wigeon – 18
- American Black Duck - (count week only)
- Mallard – 1200
- Northern Shoveler – 208
- Northern Pintail –1
- Green-winged Teal – 103
- Redhead –10
- Ring-necked Duck – 11
- Lesser Scaup – 23
- Black Scoter -1 (new for the count)**
- Bufflehead – 34
- Common Goldeneye – 108
- Hooded Merganser – 158
- Common Merganser – 1
- Wild Turkey – 42
- Northern Bobwhite - 3
- Common Loon - 1
- Pied-billed Grebe – 8
- American white Pelican - **98**
- Double-crested Cormorant – 2
- Black-crowned Night-Heron - 1 (new)**
- Great Blue Heron – 16
- Bald Eagle – 27
 - Adult - (18)
 - Immature – (9)
- Northern Harrier – 1
- Sharp-shinned Hawk – 5
- Cooper's Hawk – 6

- Red-shouldered Hawk – **24**
- Red-tailed Hawk – 130
- American Kestrel – 10
- American Coot – 44
- Killdeer - 3
- Bonaparte's Gull - 10
- Ring-billed Gull – **6634**
- Herring Gull –4
- Rock Pigeon – 500
- Eurasian Collared-Dove – 2
- Mourning Dove – 112
- Eastern Screech-owl - 3
- Great Horned Owl – 5
- Barred Owl – 12
- Belted Kingfisher – 6
- Red-headed Woodpecker - 5
- Red-bellied Woodpecker – 137
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 3
- Downy Woodpecker – 133
- Hairy Woodpecker – 15
- Northern Flicker – 124
- Pileated Woodpecker – 10
- Loggerhead Shrike -1
- Blue Jay – 330
- American Crow – 467
- Horned Lark – 84
- Black-capped Chickadee – 260
- Tufted Titmouse – 197
- Red-breasted Nuthatch – 7
- White-breasted Nuthatch – 82
- Brown Creeper – 9
- Carolina Wren – 139
- Winter Wren - 2
- Marsh Wren - 4

- Golden-crowned Kinglet – 16
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 5
- Eastern Bluebird – 237
- Hermit Thrush – 7
- American Robin – 683
- Northern Mockingbird – 13
- Brown Thrasher - 1
- European Starling – 1214
- American Pipit - 3
- Cedar Waxwing – 500
- Yellow-rumped Warbler – 26
- Spotted Towhee – 6
- American Tree Sparrow – 278
- Field sparrow - 4
- Savannah Sparrow – 1
- LeConte's Sparrow – 1
- Fox Sparrow – 8
- Song Sparrow – 287
- Lincoln's Sparrow - 4
- Swamp Sparrow – 38
- White-throated Sparrow -- 149
- Harris's Sparrow – 207
- White-crowned Sparrow – 40



Black-crowned Night-Heron. Michael L. Baird. Wikimedia.



Marsh Wren. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

- Dark-eyed Junco – 1166
- Northern Cardinal – 368
- Red-winged Blackbird – 764
- Eastern Meadowlark – 8
- Western Meadowlark – 30
- Sturnella*, spp. – 188
- Common Grackle – 6
- Brown-headed Cowbird – 5
- Purple Finch -- **94**
- House Finch – 117
- Pine Siskin - 28
- American Goldfinch – 247

Jayhawk Audubon Society
P.O. Box 3741
Lawrence, KS 66046
Return Service Requested

- * 1/25: JAS program "Birds of the Midwest" p 1
- * Earth Care Forum Series p 1
- * Project FeederWatch Report p 2
- * JAS Board Opening; City Advisory Board Openings p 3
- * Bird Your Own Patch for Surprises p 3
- * Audubon Climate Watch; Ag & Climate; Cows in the Matrix? p 4
- * AOK's Ron Klataske Retires; KLT kid's walks; Museum night p 5
- * CBC Report & Species List; Short-eared Owl Bonanza at Quivira p 6 & 7

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lawrence, KS
Permit No. 201

Return Service Requested

Become a Member: Just \$20 to join both National Audubon and Jayhawk Chapter.

National Audubon Society membership is \$20.00. Members receive four issues per year of the Audubon magazine and will be enlisted as members of their closest chapter. Members also receive 9 issues per year of the JAS newsletter and are entitled to discounts on the books and feeders we sell to raise funds to support education and conservation projects. (Make your check payable to National Audubon Society and mail to our JAS membership chair at the address below.) You may also join National Audubon online at https://secure.audubon.org/site/Donation2?df_id=9431&9431.donation=form1&s_src=2015_AUDHP_topbanner-button-menu.)

Chapter-only membership to Jayhawk Audubon Society is \$10.00. (Make check payable to Jayhawk Audubon Society.) You will not receive the Audubon magazine. *Those with National Audubon memberships are encouraged to support the chapter by voluntarily paying these dues.* Chapter membership expires annually in July. JAS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

To join or donate to Audubon of Kansas make check payable to AOK or use this online link - <http://www.audubonofkansas.org/joindonate/>.

Please send this completed form & your check to JAS c/o Kristine Latta, P.O. Box 3741
Lawrence, KS 66046.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code (9) digit _____

Telephone (with Area Code) _____

Email address _____

Jayhawk Audubon does not share membership information with non-Audubon entities. C6ZJ020Z