

Monday, January 28, 2019

Water Issues and the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

The Quivira National Wildlife Refuge in central Kansas provides critical habitat for migrating shorebirds, sandhill and whooping cranes, and other waterfowl. It is designated a Wetland of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, but lack of water availability for the refuge in recent years has led to local and statewide conversations about appropriate action. Rex Buchanan, our January 28 speaker, will tell us about the refuge's history, the water issues it faces, possible responses, and efforts to raise the profile of this critical resource.

Rex Buchanan is Director Emeritus of the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS), based at KU, and is currently the Director of the Consortium to Study Trends in Seismicity at the KGS. He came to the KGS in 1978, was Interim Director 2010 to 2016, and chaired the Kansas Task Force on Induced Seismicity 2013 to 2016. His publication record includes co-authoring *Roadside Kansas: A Guide to its Geology and Landmarks* (rev. edition, 2010); editing *Kansas Geology: An Introduction to Landscapes, Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils* (rev. edition, 2010); and co-authoring *The Canyon Revisited: A Rephotography of the Grand Canyon, 1923-1991*. He served as president of the KS Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) and the KS Academy of Science. In 2008 he was named a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, and in 2009 was given KACEE's John Strickler award for environmental education. Recently, Rex received a Distinguished Service Award from the American Geosciences Institute for his work promoting the geosciences and natural resource issues affecting Kansans.

Join us on the 28th to hear from someone with boots-on-the-ground experience *and* scholarly credibility on an issue that has critical consequences for our Central Flyway birds
 ~ Joyce Wolf

BYO Dinner with Rex Buchanan: 5:00 p.m.
 Merchant's. 746 Massachusetts downtown
 Please let Joyce Wolf know if you will dine:
jarbwolf39@gmail.com or 785-887-6019.

Program: 7:00 pm. Trinity Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. 1245 New Hampshire.

NEW SEED SALE DATE!
▶ SATURDAY, JAN. 26TH ◀

Late Winter Bird Seed, Feeder & Book Sale

Saturday, January 26th ~ 10am to 1pm

Pre-order deadline is January 22nd

Trinity Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
 1245 New Hampshire Street

Continued on Page 2. Order Form Pages 5 & 6 ⇨



Rex Buchanan measuring a water well in western Kansas.

23rd Annual Kaw Valley Eagles Day

Saturday, January 19, 2019

8:30 am - 4:00 pm

**NEW
LOCATION!**

Billy Mills Middle School
 2734 Louisiana, Lawrence, KS

FREE ADMISSION!

Schedule and more on Page 2 ⇨

23rd Annual Kaw Valley Eagles Day



ACTIVITIES:

- Exhibitors will have lots for you to do:
- investigate mystery boxes with Hidden Valley Camp
 - "fish" with the Army Corps of Engineers
 - remodel a watershed with Friends of The Kaw
 - peek inside bluebird boxes with the Kaw Valley Bluebird Association
 - learn about the illegal trade in wild animals from the Topeka Zoo
 - build kits with Home Depot
 - learn about our local wetland with the Baker Wetlands Discovery Center
 - get up close to wild birds with Prairie Park Nature Center
- There's more, but no more room here!



PRESENTATIONS:

KS Nesting Bald Eagles - Mike Watkins
9:00-9:45 and 1:15-2:00

Live Eagles & Raptors - Marty Birrell
9:50-10:30 and 2:05-2:40



EAGLE-VIEWING FIELD TRIPS: 10:45
& 3:00

Free bus rides for field trips available.
First come, first serve
Follow in your own car if you prefer.
Dress for the weather!



WALK TO THE WETLANDS BIRDING TOUR - *Weather permitting* - 11:00

Tour Baker Wetlands with Roger Boyd



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

785-843-7665 or
www.jayhawkaudubon.org

SPONSORS:

Many, many thanks to our generous sponsors for supporting this gift of a day of fun and conservation education to our community: US Army Corps of Engineers, Jayhawk Audubon Society, Lawrence Public Schools, Chickadee Checkoff, Westar Energy Green Team, Home Depot, ICL Performance Products, Baker Wetlands, City of Lawrence Public Works.



*Nature's pantry is bare by
March. Order seed now
to see your birds through.*

Researchers around the world are documenting a frightening massive decline in biomass of all types and species of insects over the last half century. There is speculation that the decline of birds over the same period may be due not just to habitat loss but also simple starvation related to the drop in insect numbers. Late winter/early spring is a tough time for birds anyway since most wild seeds and hibernating insects, larvae and insect eggs have already been searched out and eaten. An overall drop in insect numbers increases this scarcity. Our feeders might give birds an edge in their struggle to survive and breed. (You can help even more by ditching pesticides!)*

Preorder your seed using the form on pages 5 & 6 --deadline 1/22/19. Preordering is the way to make sure you get the seed you want. Do come to the sale even if you didn't preorder because we always have extra seed for spur-of-the-moment sales. It just may not be exactly what you want.

*Jarvis, Brooke. "The Insect Apocalypse Is Here."
The New York Times Magazine. 11/27/18.

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jbresnahan@ku.edu
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Historian: Ron Wolf
Books & Feeders: Ron & Joyce Wolf
Audubon of Kansas
Chapter Representative: Ron Wolf

Photo from <https://www.backyardchirper.com/bird-info-96.html>



Birds Pay the Price When Cats Roam Free

Jayhawk Audubon went on record at December's Lawrence City Council meeting as opposing the proposed Trap, Neuter, Release program (TNR) for managing the local feral cat population. We support current city code that says cats may not roam free. The board's reasons are several:

1. Cats are safer, healthier and live longer when they are kept indoors.
2. There are well-documented studies, some using bodycams on roaming cats, that conclude that both feral & well-fed, well-housed cats hunt and kill birds and other small wildlife in large numbers, disrupting ecosystems, when they roam free.
3. Feral and stray cats are reservoirs of disease for both pet cats and wildlife as well as humans.

We appreciate that the Humane Society is facing a very difficult problem in coping with the feral cat population, but we cannot support TNR as a good solution for birds or cats. Quite a few JAS board members are cat owners, so we are definitely not anti-cat, but do believe the issue needs to be appraised without emotion.

Both the National Audubon Society and the American Bird Conservancy oppose allowing domestic cats to roam free. Here is a link to the NAS take on TNR: <https://www.audubon.org/news/cats-pose-even-bigger-threat-birds-previously-thought> The JAS board is working on a formal position statement which we hope to complete in the next month.



Plants for Birds in Action!

Workshops Co-sponsored by JAS
Educate and Encourage Landowners
to Dig In to Prairie Restoration

The historic landscape of Douglas County was predominantly tallgrass prairie; today *less than 0.5%* of that native prairie remains. Flip that to emphasize that over 99.95% of the native prairie in our county has vanished, built on or plowed under and planted to crops or non-native grasses like brome and fescue with very little plant diversity. The small patches of prairie that are left are also widely scattered further reducing their value to wildlife. Happily a growing community of individuals and organizations is working to restore to the landscape a more diverse mix of native grasses and wildflowers that can support a complex community of wildlife including insects and birds.

With this in mind, and with funding provided by the National Audubon Society through the 2018 Collaborative Grant Program, Jayhawk Audubon Society joined with Grassland Heritage Foundation to host two "Restoration Realities" workshops in June and October 2018. More than 50 rural landowners attended the workshops which introduced participants to the messy realities of undertaking a small-scale prairie restoration on the Bellemere farm, where a diverse mix of prairie plants was seeded into a brome field. Participants were able to compare that newly planted site to a field enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program and a long-term restoration with an established native plant community.

Representatives from county and state agencies and non-profit organizations were on hand to share resource materials on cost-share programs and other services available to landowners interested in restoring their home ground acreage to prairie. We hope landowners were inspired to start their own restoration projects and do what they can to provide more food and shelter for our native wildlife. We can't wait to follow up with some of them in the spring to see what they're planning!

~ Jennifer Delisle
Plants for Birds committee

The mission of the Jayhawk Audubon Society is

- to provide opportunities for greater understanding and appreciation of birds and other wildlife,
- to encourage sustainable practices,
- and to advocate for actions and policies Which result in protection and preservation of intact ecological ecosystems.

Loess Bluffs Field Trip Report

JAS and University Women's Club Birding Group members joined up for a trip to Loess Bluffs NWR on Saturday, 11/24, a brilliant sunny day with almost no wind. Upon arrival we heard the voices of hundreds of thousands of snow geese, a literal roar. Geese rafts extended from nearby to as far out as the naked eye could see—an estimated 400,000 geese. Dark snow geese mixed amongst the white and were 30 to 40% of the population. The call level rose precipitously whenever a raptor flushed the geese. All those wings beating so close creates a scintillating, visually entrancing mass of movement. It is this show that makes Loess Bluffs so marvelous that you return again and again.

With a scope we found Canada and greater white-fronted geese floating along the edges of the snow goose expanse. There was no ice even though two days earlier the refuge was 80% frozen over. Warm sunny days did the trick. We saw canvasbacks, hooded mergansers, bald eagles and, incredibly, trumpeter swans, estimated at over 480 before day's end. A lone great blue heron standing quietly on one of the muskrat mounds was the only heron/shorebird we saw on the entire refuge. In a brushy area we picked up eastern meadowlarks, song and swamp sparrow, goldfinches, redwing blackbirds, starlings and grackles. There were mallards aplenty throughout, and thousands and thousands more snow geese steadily coming in from the west.

Along the eastern forested region, we got lucky with a brown creeper and also a bobwhite quail giving a "covey call" instead of its more common bob-white two tone call. A sharp-shinned hawk flew past. Then a beautiful male fox sparrow landed near us and posed while we took photos & admired his cinnamon coloring. Returning to the southern part of the refuge, we encountered ring-necked ducks, a single coot, ruddy ducks and northern shovelers. And, oh, the trumpeter swans! So large compared to the puny Canada geese right next to them! They dotted the landscape everywhere you looked. What a treat. ~ Jill Baringer, trip leader



Juvenile and Adult Trumpeter Swans at Loess Bluffs. Jim Bresnahan.

◆ The Chance to Have Your Say ◆ on the Future of Our City & County

Plan 2040, the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Lawrence and Unincorporated Douglas County is now under review. This plan, which will replace the current Horizon 2020, provides a vision to guide future local land use decisions. The plan covers all facets of development: housing, commercial, industrial, transportation, natural resources, parks & recreation, art, culture and more. Public comment is being accepted in writing and at public meetings of the Planning Commission.

The next meeting, Monday, Feb 25, will be about Chapter 6: Natural Resources. We encourage everyone to review the draft plan at this link: <https://lawrenceks.org/pds/comp-plan/> and to provide comments about issues important to you. It's a good read that will make you aware of all that can be at stake in development proposals, and the generous use of photos will have you saying...*where was that taken??*

Far better to have your ideas heard now when the plan is still being shaped, rather than being blind-sided later and trying to protest. Contact Jennifer Delisle at jdelsile@ku.edu if you'd like to know more about how you can contribute to developing this vision of our next twenty years!
~ Jennifer Delisle

Midwinter Diversions

- 1/3: Wild About Owls. 1-4p. Owls, feathers, owl pellets. Ages 7-13. \$15. Prairie Park NC. 832-7980. Register: <http://lprd.org/activity?n=123332>
- 1/10: Prairie Conservation in Your Backyard. 6:30-7:30p Courtney Masterson, Native Lands LLC, at Topeka Zoo.
- 1/12: Bird Perry Lake with Topeka Audubon. Details at <http://www.topekaaudubonsociety.org/calendar>
- 1/16 & 1/17: Tracks. Wee Walks at Baker Wetlands. 11a. Free. Registration req'd: 785-594-4703 or email mglade@bakeru.edu. 5 & under, siblings welcome.
- 1/16: International Museum Selfie Day at KU Natural History Museum. Free. 9-5. Selfie stations with bears, Lewis Lyndsay Dyche & "fun exhibits".
- 1/19: Kaw Valley Eagles Day. Billy Mills Middle Sch.
- 1/20: Bird Wyandotte County Lake with Burroughs Audubon. Meet 8:00 a.m. at lower parking lot north of Schlagle Library. Also Eagle Day at the lake. Contact: malcolmgold@gmail.com or 608-807-6086. <http://burroughs.org/its-free/field-trips-programs>
- 1/26: JAS Seed Sale. 10-1. Order form pp 5,6.
- 1/27: Kansas Day Discovery at KU Nat. Hist. Museum. Free. 1-3p. State mammal, bird, reptile plus...
- 1/28: JAS program: Quivira NWR Water Issues.
- 1/31: Native Plant School: Native Plant Basics. First class of 6. Dych Arboretum of the Plains, Hesston. Thurs evenings through April on various topics. Register, \$.
<http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/events.php>

More of Jim Bresnahan's photos from the Loess Bluffs trip. Clockwise from top left: Song Sparrow; juvenile Red-tailed Hawk; Snow Geese; Fox Sparrow.



Jayhawk Audubon Society Pre-order Form
Late Winter Bird Seed, Book & Feeder Sale

The JAS Late Winter Bird Seed Sale is Saturday January 26, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
at the Trinity Lutheran Fellowship Hall, 1245 New Hampshire St., Lawrence, Kansas

SEED TYPE	SIZE	PRICE	QUANT.	TOTAL	
Black Oil Sunflower	10 lbs	\$ 8.00			
	25 lbs	\$16.00			
	50 lbs	\$28.00			
NEW PREMIUM BLEND	10 lbs	\$10.00			
(45% black oil and 45% safflower	25 lbs	\$20.00			
& 10% sunflower chips)	50 lbs	\$34.00			
Economy Blend	10 lbs	\$ 6.00			
(20% black oil sunflower seed,	25 lbs	\$12.00			
40% cracked corn & 40% millet)	50 lbs	\$19.00			
Sunflower Chips	10 lbs	\$16.00			
	25 lbs	\$32.00			
Niger Thistle	10 lbs	\$22.00			
	25 lbs	\$46.00			
Finch Mix (50% sunflower chips	10 lbs	\$18.00			
& 50% Niger thistle)	25 lbs	\$38.00			
Safflower	10 lbs	\$ 11.00			
	25 lbs	\$22.00			
White Millet	10 lbs	\$ 5.00			<u>Name:</u>
	25 lbs	\$10.00			
	50 lbs	\$16.00			<u>Address:</u>
Red Millet	10 lbs	\$ 6.00			
	25 lbs	\$13.00			
	50 lbs	\$22.00			
Shelled Peanuts	10 lbs	\$17.00			
	25 lbs	\$38.00			<u>Phone:</u>
Ear Corn	Dozen	\$ 6.00			
Cracked Corn	25 lbs	\$ 9.00			<u>Email:</u>
	50 lbs	\$16.00			
Suet Cake	11 oz	\$ 1.50			

Please consider a donation to <i>Jayhawk Audubon Society</i> _____ TOTAL AMOUNT DUE (price includes sales tax) _____
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Please return form by January 22, 2019 to Linda Lips, P. O. Box 1285, Lawrence, KS 66044-8285
Delivery is available to senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Please call in advance. (785)766-3567

Jayhawk Audubon Society Late Winter Bird Seed, Book & Feeder Sale January 26, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Fellowship Hall, 1245 New Hampshire St., Lawrence, KS

This is the third and final bird seed sale of the bird-feeding season. Stock up on Audubon bird seed and plan to browse through our fine selection of books, bird feeders, and birding field guides.

Pre-Orders must be received by, January 22, 2019

Make check payable to: *Jayhawk Audubon Society*. Return Pre-Order Form by January 22, 2019
to Linda Lips, P. O. Box 1285, Lawrence, KS 66044-8285.
Call or Text Linda at (785) 766-3567

**Pick up your seed on Saturday, January 26, between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
at the Trinity Lutheran Fellowship Hall located at 1245 New Hampshire Street.**

Proceeds of our bird seed, feeders and book sales, as well as with our other fund-raising activities,
support the educational and conservation projects of the JAS.

Bird Seed Sale Product Descriptions:

Black Oil Sunflower Seeds are the most popular seed of wild birds. Over 40 different bird species are known to eat black oil sunflower seeds. The oil content (over 40%) makes this seed especially good food for birds. They should be the primary component of any bird feeding project, comprising at least 75% of the seeds you offer.

Premium Blend is our mixture of 45% black oil sunflower, 45% safflower, and 10% sunflower chips, which is very popular with a large number of bird species. **Economy Blend** is less expensive but still attractive to many species. It is our mixture of 20% black oil sunflower seed, 40% cracked corn, and 40% white millet.

Niger Thistle and **Sunflower Seed Chips** are both attractive to finches and pine siskins and excellent for finch feeders.

Finch Mix is another option for finch feeders. It consists of 50% Niger thistle and 50% sunflower seed chips.

Safflower has become an increasingly popular bird food because it is enjoyed by cardinals, rose-breasted grosbeaks, chickadees, nuthatches, mourning doves, house finches and white-throated sparrows. House sparrows and starlings don't seem to like it, though! Even squirrels don't eat safflower seeds.

White and Red Millet are highly desired by wild birds like bobwhites, cardinals, doves, purple finches, juncos, and native sparrows (i.e. chipping, fox, song, tree, white-throated), towhees, turkeys, grackles, blue jays and pheasants. White millet can be scattered on the ground or offered in cylindrical or tray feeders near the ground.

Suet is chopped or ground animal fat (generally beef) that may be mixed with birdseed and/or peanut butter. Woodpeckers, chickadees, brown creepers, and nuthatches (among other birds) particularly enjoy suet. Because suet will melt and quickly turn rancid in temperatures above 70°F, it is generally offered only during the winter months.

Peanuts are popular with many of the same birds that eat black oil sunflower seeds. Special feeders may be required.

Cracked Corn is eaten by many of the birds listed above, including some "undesirables" such as house sparrows, brown-headed cowbirds, and starlings. It can be mixed with white millet and scattered on the ground during fall and spring for feeding migrant sparrows, juncos and other ground-feeding birds.



The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century

*By Kirk Wallace Johnson
Reviewed by McKay Stangler*

We flyfishers are a strange and occasionally obsessive bunch, focusing with laser-like precision on what seems to be, in the big picture, among the world’s most fleeting and ephemeral pleasures. A fellow flyfisher once remarked to me that while he struggled to hold a yoga pose for more than a minute, he had no problem kneeling on a rock in icy water for five hours while trying to cast toward a lone trout. This will seem like lunacy to those who are not piscatorially minded, but makes perfect sense to me. I spent much of the summer at various Douglas County waterways, sweating endlessly for the brief pleasure of holding a lovely bass. Worth it? Absolutely.

Often overlooked in mainstream depictions of the sport is the close connection between flyfishing and birds—their feathers, that is, which are often needed for the more complex fly patterns. There are synthetic feathers, of course, but purists (read: “nearly every flyfisher”) will insist that only the real thing matters. Which, as Kirk Wallace Johnson’s *The Feather Thief* makes clear, can sometimes lead to bizarre and even criminal circumstances. Johnson’s subtitle—*Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century*—might be a touch dramatic, but this great book tells an amazing tale of the singular drive that sometimes tilts fishers toward madness.

In 2009, Edwin Rist, an American studying at the Royal Academy of Music, broke into the Museum of Natural History outside London and pilfered the skins of nearly 300 birds. His ostensible goal was financial gain by way of selling the birds, though he was not terribly successful at this criminal pursuit. His targeted buyers were, of course, flytyers—who often need the beautiful plumage of exotic birds for the more exotic flies.

Salmon flies in particular, designed to attract the lumbering leviathans of ocean voyages and waterfall leaps, rely on colorful feathers for their construction. Johnson notes that one master flytyer uses more than 150 materials in his designs, including “the feathers of wild turkeys, golden and Reeves pheasants, the African speckled bustard and the Brazilian blue chatterer.” Anyone wondering who the market is for purloined exotic feathers need look no further than the local fly shop. (Lawrence’s local shop, Yager’s, closed this past summer, to the great detriment of our city’s sporting culture.)



A 2012 auction lot of exotic feathers for flytyers. Included are those of golden pheasant, oak turkey, jungle cock and Brazilian Blue chatterer

Birds being killed for their feathers is, lamentably, nothing new. Johnson recounts the Victorian fixation with exotic feathers, which resulted in billions of birds around the world being killed and plucked. In what sounds like a Theology 101 question, ask yourself: how many feathers does it take to make a ton? The answer, incredibly, is about 10 million. Now consider that from 1914-1917—just three years!—more than 900 tons of feathers were imported into England. It’s possible that the world has never known, before or since, such a massive and widespread destruction of birds. These avicides, propagated for trendy sartorial gain, are clearly worthy of our condemnation—but they should also prompt the flyfisher to take a close look in the mirror. Note that, according to Johnson, nearly every species that suffered in those three years is still endangered.

The world of flytying is a cloistered and occasionally secretive one, and Johnson dives right into the madness—including discovering the identity of “Goku,” the semi-mythical Norway-based flytyer. (One learns quickly that the world of flyfishing is ruled by a sort of pantheon of quasi-oracular oddballs.)

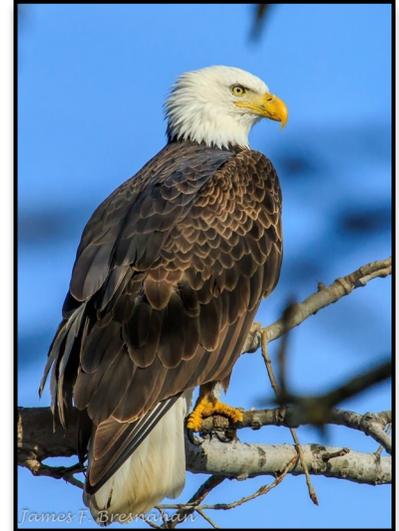
Johnson speaks to flytyers who perhaps don’t realize the damage they’re doing to birds. Many of them see the flies they design as something closer to art than angling equipment. (If this seems odd to you, just consider the world of haute couture fashion.) It does not occur to many of them that the source of the iridescent feathers they use to attract a chinook or coho or sockeye might come from a seriously threatened creature, in the same way we may not realize our cheeseburger on Mass St. is reliant upon ugly networks of food production we’d rather not think about. We’re all complicit in certain unpleasanties that may be inescapable in the world of global trade and industrial agriculture. This is not to say that poaching is justified, of course—just a friendly reminder that we flyfishers aren’t the only crazy ones.

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

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Return Service Requested



Adult Bald Eagle.
Taken at Bowersock Dam during
a 2018 Eagles Day Field Trip by
Jim Bresnahan.
Come see one for yourself at this
year's Eagles Day on January 26!

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 the Jayhawk Chapter. All members also receive 9 issues of the JAS newsletter per year 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 and your check to JAS Membership Chairs at the following address:

Wayne Kennedy, 1308 Crosswinds CT. #1 Lawrence KS 66046. E-mail contact: w.a.k.e.n.n.z@gmail.com.

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C6ZJ020Z