



Volume 41 Issue 9

May, 2017

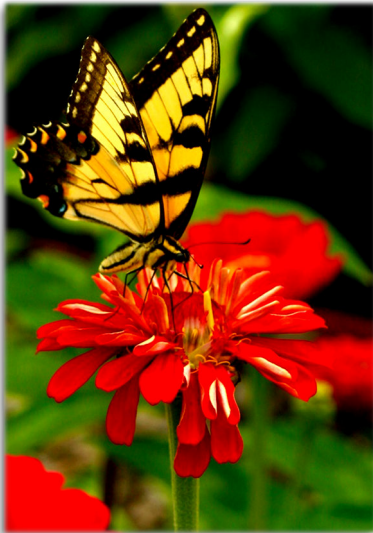
Jayhawk Audubon Society

www.jayhawkaudubon.org

Monday, May 22, 2017

The Language of Flowers

Sending floral “messages” reached a crescendo in the Victorian era, when each flower carried a specific meaning, eliciting great joy or sorrow in the receiver. But what are flowers really trying to tell us? Our May JAS speaker, Pam Martin, KDWPT education specialist, will decipher their messages, and lead our discovery of the elaborate communication mechanisms between plants and pollinators.



Pam is employed at the Kansas Wetlands Education Center at Cheyenne Bottoms. Her background and degree are in the biology field; but she has also worked as a small town newspaper editor and as a reporter/photographer at a daily newspaper for several years. She was a founding member of the Friends of Quivira NWR and served a four-year term as president of that group. Pam makes her home in rural Barton County with husband

Victor, 2 horses, a cat, a rabbit, and lots of wildlife and wildflowers. When she has free time she enjoys horseback riding, photography and ceramics.

Join us to learn the secret, silent messages floating through your garden. ~ Joyce Wolf

BYO Dinner with Pam Martin: 5:00 p.m.

Ingredient. 947 Massachusetts St., Lawrence
Please let Joyce Wolf know if you will dine:
rjjawolf@sunflower.com or 785-887-6019

Program: 7:30 pm. Trinity Lutheran Fellowship Hall. 1245 New Hampshire. Refreshments.

Celebrate Migratory Bird Day with JAS

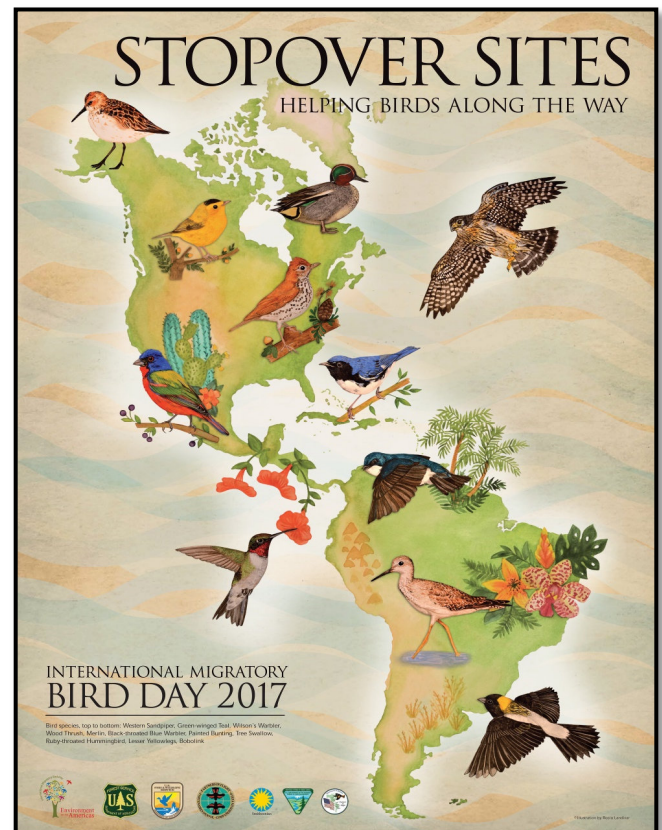
Saturday, May 13 12:00~4:00

Baker Wetlands Discovery Center

~ A Migratory Bird Stopover Site

- Children's Activities
- Migratory Bird Lore
- Hike the Wetlands

The Discovery Center is located at 1365 N. 1250 Road, easily accessed from either Highway 59 or 31st Street. To see a map check their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BakerWetlands/> or the website: <https://www.bakeru.edu/wetlands/>. Or call for directions: 785-594-4700.



Programs of the Jayhawk Audubon Society are free.
All are welcome!
JAS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

BE AN OFFICER FOR JAS

Election of Jayhawk Audubon officers for the 2017-2018 year will be at the May meeting. At this time, the proposed slate is:

President ~ Gary Anderson
 Vice-president ~ Jim Bresnahan
 Treasurer ~ Jennifer Delisle
 Secretary ~ Julie Maxwell
 Corresponding Secretary ~ Pam Chaffee

However, we truly welcome other candidates. If you are interested in any position, contact Gary as below. Nominations from the floor will be requested at the meeting.

At-large Board Member needed

Want to be more active in JAS, but being an officer not your variety of bird seed? Fear not—there is also an opening on the board for an at-large member.

The main duties of an at-large member are to attend monthly board meetings where chapter policy is decided, events are planned, and new initiatives proposed and discussed. Board members often help with events such as Earth Day or Eagles Day, but that is not required.

Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, except for December, June or July when we have neither chapter nor board meeting. Anyone is welcome to attend board meetings at 7:00pm at Trinity Lutheran Church to see what goes on and provide comment.

If you would like to serve on the board or just have questions, please call or email President Gary Anderson: gjanderson1963@gmail.com or 785-246-3229.

Membership Chair Open

This is your opportunity to do one of the most important jobs in the chapter.

The Society is nothing without its members after all. As Membership Chair, you would work to attract new members and keep track of current members, both local-only and the majority who come to us through National Audubon. You would also maintain our listserv with help from other board members.

This job is perfect for someone who enjoys talking with folks at meetings and events about the JAS mission and activities. Other duties, like the listserv, can be done on your own according to your schedule.

If you would like to volunteer to be Membership Chair or just have questions about what's involved, please call or email President Gary Anderson: gjanderson1963@gmail.com or 785-246-3229.



Yellow-crowned Night-heron on nest at Naismith Valley Park in Lawrence. Jim Bresnahan

JAS Officers & Board Members

President:	Gary Anderson: 785-246-3229 gjanderson1963@gmail.com
Vice President:	James Bresnahan
Recording Secretary:	Julie Maxwell
Corresponding Sec'y:	Pam Chaffee
Treasurer:	Jennifer Delisle
Board Member:	Roger Boyd
Board Member:	Vanessa Carlos
Board Member:	Jennifer Dropkin
Board Member:	Dena Friesen
Board Member:	Susan MacNally
Board Member:	Jon Standing
Member Chapter	
Change Report:	Chuck & Ruth Herman
Membership Promotion:	Dayna Carleton
Newsletter:	Susan Iversen: 785-843-1142 siversen@sunflower.com
Conservation:	Lynn Byczynski
Programs:	Joyce Wolf
Education:	Sandy Sanders
Field Trips:	Mike Fraley
Publicity:	Pam Chaffee
Facebook Page:	Jennifer Dropkin, Administrator jendropkin@hotmail.com Chuck Herman, Administrator hermansnuthouse@earthlink.net
Webmaster:	Lynn Byczynski
Bird Seed Sales:	Linda Lips
Birdathon:	Richard Bean
Christmas Count:	Galen Pittman
Eagles Day:	Bunnie Watkins
Migratory Bird Count:	Vanessa Carlos
Hospitality:	Kelly Barth
Historian:	Ron Wolf
Books & Feeders:	Ron & Joyce Wolf
Audubon of Kansas	
Chapter Representative:	Ron Wolf

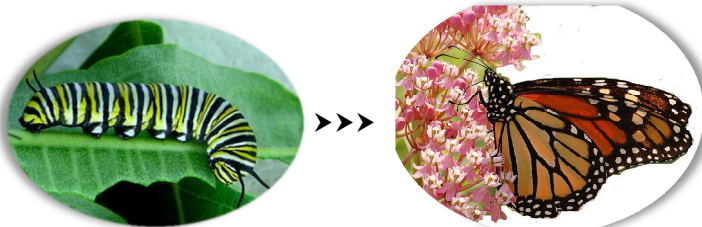
Monarch Watch Open House and Plant Fundraiser

Saturday, May 13 8am—2pm

Shop over 67 varieties of perennials and 16 kinds of annuals, all either larval host plants or good nectar sources for butterflies and other pollinators. They'll have 12 varieties of milkweed, so that you can attract Monarchs and host their brightly striped caterpillars. It will be a pleasure to support Monarch Watch and then go home and fill your garden with the beautiful plants you picked out! See a plant list with color photos on the website (listed below).

There will also be children's activities inside the lab space and in the yard. Meanwhile you can wander the demonstration garden—be prepared to drool—and plan your Monarch Waystation.

The event will be at Foley Hall, 2121 Constant Avenue on KU's West Campus. Get detailed directions and a map at <http://monarchwatch.org/openhouse/>



Grassland Heritage Foundation Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 20 ~ 9—1

Trinity Episcopal Church Lawn

1011 Vermont Street, Lawrence

GHF will have 50 species of locally-grown, neonic-free native species: wildflowers and grasses! (*Neonic-free is important because that is the seed and soil biocide that persists in plant tissues and kills bees and other pollinators when they nectar on a plant.*) Ditch all biocides this year. It's really okay to share with our native insects; some ragged leaves are a small price to pay for a thriving eco-system.

Tell yourself: caterpillars = food for baby birds!

Native plant experts will be on hand to help you choose the best species for your garden. You can see a list of plants for sale at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1955462758008234/>

Join Grassland Heritage: GHF members receive a discount when they order early and pay and pick up at the sale! Contact ghfplantsale@gmail.com or 913-856-4784 for information on how to order. Join online at www.grasslandheritage.org. Ordering ahead of time is a great way to make sure you get the plants you want before they sell out!

Blue Bird Group Seeks

New Monitors & Box Builders

The Kaw Valley Blue Bird Association needs some blue-bird enthusiasts to help with monitoring the trails at Clinton and Perry Lakes and Burroughs Creek Trail. It's a fascinating way to spend an hour or a morning. Checking boxes is like opening one surprise package after another! Of course the surprise can be that the box is empty...but satisfyingly often there is a nest with eggs or even a blue-bird parent incubating those eggs and bravely sitting tight even when you open the box and peer in. That's exciting!

KVBBA also needs volunteers to build bluebird boxes. We have detailed plans (developed by club member Gene Van Hoesen) for you to follow; the club will pay for all materials. Your contribution will be your time and woodworking skills.

Male Eastern Bluebird.
Mike Thompson,
KVBBA pres.



To volunteer to be a trail monitor or box builder or to find out more about KVBBA please email me at siversen@sunflower.com or text or call 785-393-3015.

~ Susan Iversen
KVBBA Secretary

From the KSBIRDS listserv:

Bittern in the Backyard, Oh My!

"Had an unexpected visitor Saturday night in a neighbor's yard in Roeland Park, Kansas (older suburb of KC). I was at Dad's house watching the Royals game. The doorbell rang about 7:30pm. It was the neighbor holding up her cell phone to see if we knew what the unusual bird was that she just photographed in her backyard. She's a casual backyard birdwatcher so she knew she had something special. American Bittern! Of course my dad and I ran down to her house to get a look for ourselves and luckily it was still there. It is a small backyard with a high fence - more of a courtyard, really. No water feature. What an unlikely spot {for a Bittern} to set down. The bird really seemed to like the gazing ball. Wish I'd had a better camera, but a cell phone definitely beats no camera at all! Who would have believed us otherwise? If you want to see the grainy picture, you can view it online at <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S35998881>. It has long since departed so it must not have been injured.

The moral of the story is to make sure your friends and neighbors know you're a bird nerd. Who knows what treasures they might share with you!"

from Rosalind "Ros" Percy, Roeland Park, KS
Reprinted here with permission

It's Goldilocks Time: Not Too Hot ~ Not Too Cold Around Here It Won't Last. So Head Outdoors and Enjoy!

All month & all year: Follow Ken Lassman's Kaw Valley Almanac to keep abreast of who's mating, hatching, birthing, sprouting, blooming, setting seed, coming over the horizon, fading...all sorts of lore and phenomenology. Your hikes and outdoor adventures will be enriched: <https://kawvalleyalmanac.com/>

Fri, 5/5: Wild and Scenic Film Festival. 7 pm at Liberty Hall, Lawrence. Benefit for Friends of the Kaw. Purchase tickets in advance or on the day at Liberty Hall or <http://kansasriver.org/wsff/>. Email riverkeeper@kansasriver.org to find out about free tickets for science teachers and students.

Sat, 5/6: Kansas Land Trust Bird Walk at Lake View Lake. 8-10 am. RSVP to jjost@klt.org.

Sun, 5/7: Topeka Audubon Sanctuary at Perry Lake with Breakfast and Birds. Meet to carpool at Decade Coffee at 7:30am. 920 Delaware. Coffee and chat after. <https://www.facebook.com/breakfastandbirds/>

Tues, 5/9: Migration Walk at Felker Park, Topeka. 6 - 8pm. <http://www.topekaaudubonsociety.org/calendar>

Wed, 5/10: Wetlands Wednesdays with Burroughs Audubon. 7-8:30 am. KCPL Wetlands, Gardener, KS. A mile loop walk around the Wetlands. Wear boots! Mark Land: markeland@kc.rr.com or 816-590-9814. May cancel for rain. Info at <http://burroughs.org/its-free/field-trips-programs/>

Thur, 5/11: Trumpeter Swan Talk. Margaret Smith of the Trumpeter Swan Society. 6:30—7:30 pm. FREE. Topeka Zoo Conservation Connections. <http://topekazoo.org/events-activities/conservationseries/>

Sat, 5/13: Monarch Watch Open House and Plant Fundraiser. 8-2. West Campus: See Page 3.
&
JAS Migratory Bird Day Event 12-4. Baker Wetlands Discovery Center: See Page 1.

Sat, 5/13: Citizens Climate Lobby meeting. 11:30am~1:30 pm. Lawrence Public Library Conference Room B. Snacks, speaker, discuss. Learn to advocate for climate legislation with legislative representatives.

Wed, 5/17: Wetlands Wednesdays with Burroughs Audubon. See 5/10 event above.

Thur, 5/18: Migration Walk at Felker Park, Topeka. 6 - 8pm. <http://www.topekaaudubonsociety.org/calendar>

Sat, 5/20: Grassland Heritage Native Plant Sale. 9-1. Trinity Episcopal. See page 3.

Sat, 5/20: Tree Tour: Rare and Unusual Trees of Lawrence. Lawrence Parks and Rec. Guided van trip. \$17. Register online at <https://lawrenceks.org/lprd/winterspring17/>

Sun, 5/21: Waterfront Park with Breakfast and Birds. 7:30am. Meet to carpool at Decade Coffee, 920 Delaware Coffee and chat after. <https://www.facebook.com/breakfastandbirds/>

Sat, 5/27: Wildflower Walk on the Haines Conservation Easement. Manhattan. 10 am - 1 pm. Kansas Land Trust. To RSVP and for more information: jjost@klt.org.

Sat, 6/3: Douglas County Master Gardeners Native Plant Sale. 9am - 2:30pm. Douglas County Fairgrounds. 2110 Harper St. www.douglas.k-state.edu

Sat, 6/3: Akin Prairie Evening Wildflower Walk. 7 - 8:30 pm. 1852 N 1000 Rd., Lawrence. Kansas Land Trust.

Tue, 6/6: Youngmeyer Ranch Dedication. 1 pm. Elk County, KS. Kansas Land Trust. Contact jjost@klt.org

Sat, 6/24 - 8/6: Water/Ways. Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit! Eudora Community Museum. Don't miss this!

Thurs, 7/13: Wolves. Rob Schultz of the international Wolf Center. 6:30—7:30 pm. FREE. Topeka Zoo Conservation Connections. <http://topekazoo.org/events-activities/conservationseries/>

Help Migrating Birds Finish the Journey!

TEACH OTHERS ABOUT BIRDS!

- *Talk to your friends about birds.
- *Tell people about the challenges birds face. The more people know, the more they can do.
- *Join Audubon & add your voice to theirs to help birds.

AVOID CHEMICALS!

- *Birds may eat pesticide/herbicide pellets or poisoned prey.
- *The result is death or toxic effects on the health of the bird & their offspring: birth defects & weakened immunity.
- *Bad for humans too and awful for water quality for all of us!

Baltimore Orioles winter in Central America, & northern South America. They migrate back to the U.S. & Canada in spring to breed.

LIGHTS OFF ~ CURTAINS CLOSED

- *Night-migrating birds are confused by the lights on our buildings and towers. They crash into buildings & circle towers until they die of exhaustion.
- *Turn out your outside lights. Cover windows with curtains.
- *Ask businesses in your town to turn lights out at night during migration.
- *Put ultraviolet decals on windows to stop deadly collisions in the daytime. (Get them at the Baker Wetlands Discovery Center!)

MAKE YOUR YARD A STOPOVER SITE:

- *Provide shelter with native trees, shrubs and plants.
- *Provide food with native plants & feeders.
- *Provide fresh water in a dish, birdbath or pond.
- *Keep your cat indoors to keep birds safe!



STOPOVER STOPPERS:

In the table below, you will find some of the human-caused challenges that birds face on their migration journey. These can really put a stop to a successful stopover!

HAZARD	Minimum Killed	Maximum Killed	Average Killed
Cats	1.4 million	3.7 billion	2.4 billion
Building Glass Collision	7 million	600 million	303 million
Vehicle Collision	89 million	340 million	200 million
Poison	—	—	72 million
Electrical Line Collision	8 million	57 million	25 million
Communication Tower Collision	—	—	6.5 million
Electrocution	900,000	1.2 million	5.4 million
Oil Pits	500,000	1 million	750,000
Wind Turbine Collision	140,000	500,000	174,000

Data Source: USFWS, May 2016

As you can see, the number one threat to birds is the CAT! Cats are instinctive, efficient predators, and capture some of the most secretive birds. The simple solution is to keep your kitty indoors. The birds thank you!

From the International Migratory Bird Day website: birdday.org

Wild Things, Wild Places: Adventurous Tales of Wildlife and Conservation on Planet Earth

By Jane Alexander

Reviewed by Barbara Watkins

This ambitious, wide-ranging book takes us to many countries and is a passionate assessment of conservationists' and scientists' efforts to help preserve our planet's endangered species. In *Wild Things, Wild Places* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2016) Jane Alexander describes how "My thirst for wild encounters and my passion for birds have taken me to unique places in the world in the company of remarkable field biologists." She is deeply committed to dealing with our environmental problems. This book is enriched by spectacular color photos and an appendix listing organizations involved in protecting and conserving wild things and places.

Now in her late seventies, Jane Alexander is an acclaimed actress, former chair of the National Endowment for the Arts, and an ardent conservationist. She has been a trustee of the Wildlife Conservation Society and serves on the board of the National Audubon Society. Her interest in observing wild life began at an early age. She visited Walden Pond as a child, and while her father served in the military during World War II, she, her mother, siblings, and another family lived in the former home of famous landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, one of our first conservationists.

The book is divided into 3 sections. The first, "Tiger Man," focuses on her travels and adventures with her husband and zoologist Alan Rabinowitz, who later became famous for his work to preserve wild cat species,* initially tracking jaguars in Mexico and Belize and later exploring several countries in the Far East and Latin America. As a young child, Rabinowitz was in a special education class because of his severe stuttering problems, but he could communicate with his pets and wild animals without stuttering. This helped determine his future.

The second section, "Wildlife Woman," continues with Alexander's world-wide explorations. For her, birding is an obsession: "Spotting a bird you've been after for hours, or days, and finding it in a shaft of sunlight or hearing it sing in the forest is like peering into a bit of heaven." She shares her love of nature with younger generations. "When my grandchildren turn twelve, I take them wherever they wish to go in the world. It is a rite of passage for me as much as it is for them because I get to spend time watching their young minds absorb the wonders of a new world." The first two grandkids, cousins, debated a year and decided to go to the Galapagos. The islands offer "a primal contentment" in being close to animals and birds. The second two, twin grandsons, made an early decision: At age nine they had already decided to go to Robben Island, South Africa, where Nelson Mandela had been imprisoned for many years, and then on to Madagascar to see lemurs and other endemic species. I would love to take my grandchildren on similar trips.

The chapters in the third section, "The Body of the Earth," are about "extreme conditions, best practices, deadly ones, peaceable kingdoms, and the miracles of life on earth." My favorite chapter is on Bhutan. Alexander asserts, "It was deeply satisfying to be in a place . . . where mammals, birds, and insects are held sacred by human beings, or at the very least respected as sentient beings equal to us."

Although I am dismayed by the environmentally destructive actions in the Trump presidency, most Americans and others recognize the health, economic, and environmental benefits of dealing with climate change. *Wild Things, Wild Places* provides many inspiring examples of how to do that.

- Editor's Note: Rabinowitz is particularly honored for conceptualizing and implementing the Jaguar Corridor - a series of dispersal and genetic corridors for jaguars across their entire range from Mexico to Argentina. Dr. Rabinowitz also initiated Panthera's Tiger Corridor Initiative, an effort to identify and protect the world's last remaining large interconnected tiger landscapes, with a primary focus on the remote and rugged Indo-Himalayan region of Asia. (<https://www.panthera.org/>) He has authored a number of books about his experiences exploring and working to preserve jaguars and tigers as well as one for children about overcoming his stuttering: *A Boy and a Jaguar*. Other books include: *An Indomitable Beast: The Remarkable Journey of the Jaguar*; *Life in the Valley of Death: The Fight to Save Tigers in a Land of Guns, Gold and Greed*; *Chasing the Dragon's Tail: The Struggle to Save Thailand's Wild Cats*.

Another Spring Glory ~ Pink Seagulls!



Franklin's Gull
in breeding
plumage.

Seagull Steve
@blogspot.com

Linda Lips, JAS Seed Sale Chair, chanced upon a flock of Franklin's Gulls in pink breeding plumage at the KSU Research Farm wetlands in Shawnee County. She reports that at first you doubt what you are seeing and then you just drink in the breathtaking beauty.

Franklin's gulls migrate through Kansas in large flocks in spring and fall, breeding in the northern plains and Canada and wintering on the western coast of South America.

Piping Plovers have also been reported from the KSU wetlands. Jeff Hansen of Topeka Audubon posted a video:

<https://youtu.be/FuoUsP7fhkw>



Franklin's Gull in
breeding plumage.

Seagull Steve
@blogspot.com



Ross's Gull. Manitoba
Breeding Bird Atlas.



Franklin's Gull
Winter plumage.
Doug Greenberg.
Bird Forum.

Ross's Gulls also sport pink breeding plumage. They nest in high Arctic marshy tundra and deltas where there are willows and sedges. Winter grounds are at the edge of the pack ice in the northern Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk. Vagrants are seen in the continental U.S. almost every year.



Ross's Gull in breeding
plumage.
The Internet IBC Bird
Collection.

Jayhawk Audubon Society
P.O. Box 3741
Lawrence, KS 66046
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Cooper's Hawk. Jim Bresnahan.
See photos in color on the website.

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:

Ruth & Chuck Herman; 20761 Loring Road, Linwood, KS 66052; e-mail contact: hermansnuthouse@earthlink.net.

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.

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