

Monday, February 24th

The Greenland Impact Crater Discovery

The Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets (CReSIS) at KU was involved in the recent discovery of an impact crater beneath the Greenland Ice Sheet. Maps generated from radar data collected by KU over the past several decades lead to the discovery. KU then worked with the Alfred Wegener Institute in Germany to fly a detailed radar survey of the crater. John Paden, our February speaker, participated in the detailed survey and the data processing efforts that lead to the original discovery. He will tell the story of its discovery, the fieldwork, and cover current research efforts.

Dr. John Paden is an associate scientist at CReSIS. He completed his PhD at KU on the design, development, and deployment of the first multichannel imaging radar systems deployed in the arctic for studying ice. His work focused on the system engineering and data processing aspects of the systems. After graduating in 2006, he joined Vexcel Corporation as a radar systems and signal processing engineer for three and a half years before rejoining CReSIS as a faculty member in early 2010 to lead their signal and data processing efforts. Since then he has helped build the CReSIS radar processing pipeline, assisted on various hardware development projects, and participated in twenty-four field deployments. He has received NASA fellowships and Group Achievement awards and was awarded the 2016 Early Cryosphere Career Award from the American Geophysical Union.

BYO Dinner with John Paden: 5:00 pm. Hu Hot Mongolian Grill, 2525 Iowa St. To attend, please RSVP to Joyce Wolf: jarbwolf39@gmail.com or 785-887-6019

Program: 7:00 pm. Baker Wetlands Discovery

Center. 1365 N. 1250 Road, Lawrence

Directions: https://www.bakeru.edu/wetlands/

Or on Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/BakerWetlands/

JAS is 50!

We're celebrating with an Anniversary Dinner on April 27th. Reserve the date now! John Rowden, National Audubon's Senior Director. Bird-Friendly Communities, will speak about the Plants for Birds program.

Jayhawk Audubon is an active participant in Plants for Birds. Jennifer Delisle and Lynn Byczynski, JAS Conservation Committee, have worked hard to raise public awareness of the need to provide habitat with native plantings by installing native plant gardens & presenting on Plants for Birds to all sort of groups. They won a grant from the NAS Burke grant program to put on last June's Prairie Block Party at Burroughs Creek Park and gave away hundreds of native plants.

Details on the dinner will follow in March. We hope you'll come party with us!

First Friday Birding <</p>

Molly Zahn will lead a low-key bird walk on the first Friday of each month this winter/spring at a local Lawrence site. We'll meet at 8:00 AM and walk for 1.5 - 2 hours. All levels welcome!

Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. Dates are: February 7, March 6, April 3, and May 1. Watch Facebook or the JAS listserv for each month's location. Questions can be directed to Molly at mzahn@ku.edu.

The first two trips will be:

February 7: Meet at the Baker Wetlands Discovery Center parking lot at 8 AM.

March 6: Meet at the Baker Wetlands east side parking lot off Haskell Avenue. 8 AM

Your Chance to Help JAS Thrive New Committee Chairs Needed

Four Committee Chair Positions are opening: Programs, Seed Sale, Membership & Field Trips. All these jobs are vital to the life of the chapter and our mission. If you have ever wanted to be more active in the chapter, working to support wildlife and the environment, this is your opportunity.

Joyce Wolf, Programs, & Linda Lips, Seed Sale, have been volunteering in those positions for decades (no kidding—decades) with tremendous success, but after so many years they're ready to step down and give others a chance to shine. Wayne has done a great job as Membership chair for several years, but must resign for personal reasons. Lori Hutfles started strong last year as Field Trip chair, filling a long-vacant position, but sadly is unable to continue.

Programs for this spring are already arranged, so that position would start this summer. Seed sales are done for this fiscal year as well so that work would start in late summer. **Membership** and Field Trip Chairs, however, are urgently needed this spring! To volunteer or ask questions about the positions, contact one of the nominating committee:

Lynn Byczynski at lynn.fairplain@gmail.com McKay Stangler at falco.agrestis@gmail.com Ron Wolf at jarbwolf@gmail.com

Basics: The board meets once a month in the evening on the 3rd Thursday. No meetings in July or December. Chairs carry out other duties on their own schedule. What are these duties?

Membership Chair: Maintains the membership list and email listsery; prints labels for the newsletter using lists sent by National and local membership list; promotes membership locally.

Program Chair: Together with the JAS board comes up with program ideas; schedules them, securing the venue and working with presenters.

Seed Sale Chair: The work of the Seed Sale Chair is concentrated in the fall & early winter; Schedules Seed Sales; secures a supplier and determines pricing; compiles orders & places them with the supplier; oversees the sale on the day.

Field Trip Chair: With suggestions and input from the board, schedules field trips. May lead trips themselves or arrange for other leaders.

Urgent: Letters needed to Save The Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plans to gut the century old act by no longer holding businesses accountable for "incidental" bird deaths in oil waste pits, tailing ponds, on older transmission lines and such. The proposed new rule gives business a pass on the killings by removing enforcement and incentives for companies to adopt practices that protect birds from such hazards. It also eliminates MBTA penalties for companies that kill substantial numbers of birds, even for large oil spills such as Deepwater Horizon, thus removing all restraints. Penalty money is key in funding recovery efforts from such events.

Comments opposing the change will be accepted from Feb. 3 to March 19. BUT please note that the USFWS does **not** accept email comments. You can go to the National Audubon website: https://www.audubon.org/ and click the "Act Now" pop-up box or the "Take Action" button and submit a comment. They have a sample letter to get you started. National will convert the comments into written letters and deliver them all together to the USFWS.

OR send a letter by U.S. mail to:

Public Comments Processing Attn: FWS-HQ-MB-2018-0090 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; MS: JAO/1N 5275 Leesburg Pike: Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

Birds and other wildlife need caring humans to speak up for them against the harmful actions of our fellow humans. We Audubon members have to be the voice for the wildlife we value.





Kaw Valley Seed Fair Saturday, 2/8 ★ 9am~2pm Douglas County Fairgrounds

The 11th annual Seed Fair will feature

- ★ Free seeds ~ Bring yours to share too!
- ★ Craft, garden and food vendors (JAS will have feeders & bird seed for sale & free advice on enhancing your habitat for wildlife)
- ★ Demos & talks on cool *and* useful stuff such as:
 - ~ Making sauerkraut
 - ~ Using elderberries
 - ~ Germinating native & veg seeds
 - ~ Planting potatoes and MORE!

For inspiration & details see their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/kawvalleyseeds/

Wild and Scenic Film Festival

Liberty Hall ★ Friday, 2/28 ★ 7:00 pm

Support the Friends of the Kaw and enjoy documentary films about outdoor pursuits & the environment. Buy tickets: https://kansasriver.org/wsff/
Free tickets available for students!

How Old Is That Tree?

Saturday, 3/7 ★ 10am ~ 12:30pm

This is the most frequently asked question in Parks & Rec tree classes. On this tour, led by Jon Standing, explore the ways to estimate tree age, view heritage trees in Lawrence, & tour McGregor Herbarium to study tree rings from core samples of living trees & learn about tree growth. Fee: \$26. Register at any Lawrence Rec. Center or online: www.lprd.org. Class code: 127461

Discuss Angelou Ezeilo's book:

Engage, Connect, Protect: Empowering Diverse Youth as Environmental Leaders

> Saturday, 3/7 ★ 3;00 ~ 5:00 pm Lawrence Public Library Mtg Rm A

This is a thought-provoking, practical book with heartfelt personal and professional stories of advocating for the natural world. Reserve your spot, borrow a copy of the book and join us for a discussion co-lead by Jake Vail and Shirley Braunlich. Contact Shirley for more info: sbraunlich@lplks.org

Angelou Ezeilo Engage, Connect, Protect

Thursday, February 20th, 2020 Liberty Hall

All Ages ★ 6:00 pm Doors ★ 7:00 pm Program

While concern about the state of our land, air, and water grows, there is widespread belief that environmental issues are primarily of concern to wealthy white communities. *Engage, Connect, Protect* explodes this myth, revealing the deep, abiding interest that African American, Latino, and Native American communities – many of whom live in degraded and polluted places – have in our collective environment. *Engage, Connect, Protect* is a wake-up call for businesses, activists, educators, & policymakers to recognize the work of grassroots activists in diverse communities & create opportunities for diverse youth as environmental stewards.

Ezeilo will be in conversation with Jasmin Moore, Sustainability Director for Douglas Cty & Lawrence.



Angelou Ezeilo is founder and CEO of the Greening Youth Foundation. She was a 2016 Ashoka Fellow, is a member of the Nat'l Center for Civil and Human Rights' Women in Solidarity Society, and is on the

boards of the Atlanta Audubon Society and the South Fork Conservancy. She is also an advisory Board Member for the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area and Outdoor Afro, & on the Steering Committee for the Children's Wellbeing Initiative.

Jasmin Moore has over a decade of planning and sustainability experience working for local governments in Texas, Arkansas, and Kansas. She believes it is our job to leave this place better than we found it and seeks to do that through her current role as the Sustainability Director for our city & county.

The Raven will have copies of Ezeilo's book to buy and a signing will follow her talk.

Thanks to the Elizabeth Schultz Environmental fund for making this event possible!

Text condensed from *Live Events at Liberty Hall:* http://libertyhall.net/events/single/angelou-ezeiloengage-connect-protect

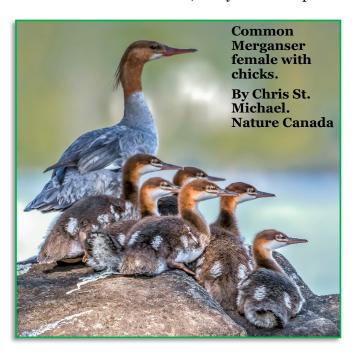
J Sayhawk Audubon Society

Perry Lake CBC Report

Heavy snowfall most of the day made birding tough on the 40th annual Beautiful Perry Lake CBC. Determined Birders slogged through to find 66 species and 6,506 total birds. While this is definitely down from previous years, I still think it was a good turnout of birds considering the adverse weather conditions. Results were submitted to both the KOS and the National Audubon Society.

We had some good birds for consideration for the coveted "Best Bird of the Day" award. I chose Mark Pheasant's sighting of a Long-eared Owl. Congratulations Mark!

~ Bunnie Watkins, Perry Lake Compiler



The Great Backyard Bird Count February 14-17, 2020

Birders everywhere, of all ages, count birds to create a real-time snapshot of where birds are. Visit https://gbbc.birdcount.org/get-started/ to get all the details. The basics are:

- 1. Create a GBBC account on the website.
- 2. Count birds anywhere you like, including at your feeders, for at least 15 minutes on one day of the count.
- 3. Enter your results on the GBBC website under The "submit results" tab.

There is also a photo contest each year if photographing birds is your pleasure. The GBBC website has a wealth of resources from a "How To" slide show, ID tips, online bird guide, past lists from all over the world and a help and FAQs section.

From the KSBirds listserv:

A Green Birding Challenge

Posted by Jim Nichols, Peabody, KS. 1/10/20

I have been thinking about ways in my life to have less of a negative impact on the environment. Most of us drive too much, consume too much, and are collectively contributing to climate change and environmental degradation. If we really care about birds, it seems inconsistent to be driving, flying, and consuming excessively in pursuit of birds.

What is green birding? It is picking a starting point, and then by sitting, walking, or bicycling, seeing how many birds you see starting from that point, usually a home. This includes yard lists, Big Sits, walking to a park or bicycling to a preserve.

In 2020, I hope to see how many species I can find in Kansas by bicycling and walking. I hope others will join, in any way you choose, in green birding.

Records of Green Birding Big Years: In 2014 Dorian Anderson biked North America seeing 618 species. One state (California) 326 species; Big sit (Cape May, NJ) 150 species; Yard list (California) 324 species—ongoing more than one year.



Kansas Birding Big Year

The 2020 Kansas Birding Big Year contest is on! Compete to observe the most species of birds within the borders of Kansas from January 1 - Dec. 31. There are three categories: youth (17 and under), adult (18-64), and senior (65 and up). Prizes will be awarded next January! Visit the KDWPT website: https://tinyurl.com/uh8qz38

Registration forms are on the KDWPT website at https://tinyurl.com/vnj5max. Participants will log their data into eBird: www.ebird.org.

~ Mike Rader, KDWPT Wildlife Education Coordinator



In pushing other species to extinction, humanity is busy sawing off the limb on which it perches. ~ Paul Fhrlich

➤ Plastic Film Recycling 101 ≺

Even with the best of intentions, it's very tough to avoid plastic packaging if you do any shopping at all. Manufacturers and shippers need to change their ways, but, for now, you'll be pleased to know that all that plastic wrap doesn't have to be tossed in the garbage; a lot of it can be recycled! Check out the Plastic Film Recycling website dedicated to helping consumers & businesses deal with this waste: https://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org.

For example, many don't realize that overwraps of things like toilet paper are recyclable. Per the website: bread bags, produce bags, cling wrap, beverage multipack wraps, zip top food storage bags, paper towel and bathroom tissue overwraps are all recyclable. Drop them in the grocery store bins with grocery and retail bags. Generally clear bags and wraps that are not "crinkly" or easily torn are made of polyethylene (PE, #2 or #4 plastic) and are recyclable. Colored printing on the plastic is fine.

To avoid contaminating the bin and rendering everything in there unrecyclable (YOW!) follow the important CLEAN AND DRY rule. Make sure there is no liquid—water or other—or food in your bags and wraps when you recycle them. Separate any cardboard and put it in your curbside bin. Also NO plastic containers in the store bins – only bags and films. Remove *large* paper labels.

Some specialized bags and films are not recyclable: frozen food & pet food bags, snack & candy wrappers, and any material with a shiny metal-looking coating on the inside. If it says biodegradable" or compostable", it is not recyclable. Discard or compost these.

Recycled plastic film is used to make composite lumber for decks, benches, and playground sets, avoiding the use of newly pumped fossil petroleum. It can also be reprocessed into small pellets used to make new bags, pallets, containers, crates, and pipe.

Locally, Target, Walmart and Dillon's all accept plastic bags and overwraps for recycling.

Sun. 2/2: World Wetlands Day. 2020 theme: Wetlands and Biodiversity.

Sat. 2/8: Bird Shawnee SFL. Topeka Audubon http://www.topekaaudubonsocietv.org/

Sat. 2/15: Pop Up Science: Insects. 10am—12pm. KU Museum of Natural History

Fri. 2/21: Discovery Day: Celebrating Evolution. 10am-12pm. KU Museum of Nat. Hist.

Sat. 2/29: Bird Clinton Reservoir and Perry Lake https://burroughs.org/its-free/field-trips-programs/

IAS Officers & Board Members

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785-766-9625 or jbresnahan@ku.edu

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Audubon of Kansas

Chapter Representative: Ron Wolf



Results of the 2019 Lawrence CBC

Twenty-nine (plus six at feeders) participants, in 11 parties, found **89 species** + **7 count week only** on 14 December 2019, on the occasion of the 120th National Audubon Christmas Bird Count and the 76th Lawrence Christmas Bird Count. Although we didn't find 100 species, a number in the high 80s always makes for a great count. The last few years have been an incredible run for the count with 100 or more species recorded in six of the last ten years. This year was a very good effort by all involved.

We recorded 25+ species of waterfowl and other water birds and missed a few birds in that category: Ross's Goose, Wood Duck, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Redhead, Common Merganser, and Ruddy Duck.

Even though the number of species was relatively low, the number of individuals per species was about average, with some exceptions. We set an all-time record high count for Greater White-fronted Goose (47), Common Goldeneye (1610), White-throated Sparrow (175), and Eastern Towhee (5).

Other unusual species were Merlin (count week only!), Marsh Wren, Savannah Sparrow, Field Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, and a trio of very uncommon species seen for the count week only!! = Gray Catbird, Orange-crowned Warbler, and House Wren. Notable misses this year include Rough-legged Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Killdeer, Bonaparte's Gull, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Rusty Blackbird, and Pine Siskin (count week only).

Thanks to all of this year's participants. Hope to see you all again next year for the 121st National Audubon Christmas Bird Count. The complete list (in the latest American Ornithological Society taxonomic order!) that follows has the unusual species and/or unusually high individual numbers underlined and/or highlighted.

~ Galen Pittman, Lawrence CBC compiler

Snow Goose - 80 Ross's Goose (count week only) Greater White-fronted Goose - 47 Cackling Goose - 93 Canada Goose - 3380 Trumpeter Swan - 1 Northern Shoveler – 162 Gadwall - 158 Mallard – 2900 Northern Pintail –6 Green-winged Teal – 38 Ring-necked Duck – 28 Lesser Scaup – 1 Bufflehead - 26 Common Goldeneye - 1610 Hooded Merganser - 134 Northern Bobwhite - 3 Wild Turkey – 3 Pied-billed Grebe – 8 Rock Pigeon – 360 Eurasian Collared-Dove – 29 Mourning Dove – 123 American Coot - 93 Ring-billed Gull – 1415 Herring Gull –4 Double-crested Cormorant – 3 American White Pelican - 15 Great Blue Heron – 9 Northern Harrier – 9 Sharp-shinned Hawk – 4 Cooper's Hawk – 9 Bald Eagle - 35

Red-shouldered Hawk - 16

Red-tailed Hawk – 86 Eastern Screech-Owl - 1 Great Horned Owl – 9 Barred Owl - 5 Belted Kingfisher – 2 Red-headed Woodpecker - 45 Red-bellied Woodpecker – 138 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 11 Downy Woodpecker – 76 Hairy Woodpecker - 17 Northern Flicker – 152 Pileated Woodpecker – 9 American Kestrel - 19 Merlin (count week only) Blue Jay - 267 American Crow - 296 Horned Lark – 24 Black-capped Chickadee – 230 Tufted Titmouse - 123 White-breasted Nuthatch - 61 Brown Creeper - 12 **House Wren (count week only)** Winter Wren –6 Marsh Wren - 2 Carolina Wren – 89 Golden-crowned Kinglet – 9 Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 14 Eastern Bluebird – 167 Hermit Thrush - 9 American Robin - 2200 **Gray Catbird (count week only)** Northern Mockingbird – 15 European Starling – 4025

Cedar Waxwing – 660 House Sparrow - 268 House Finch – 153 Purple Finch - 3 Pine Siskin (count week only) American Goldfinch - 248 Lapland Longspur (count week only) Spotted Towhee –8 Eastern Towhee - 5 American Tree Sparrow - 151 Field sparrow - 3 Savannah Sparrow – 8 <u>LeConte's Sparrow – 1</u> Fox Sparrow – 33 Song Sparrow – **307** Lincoln's Sparrow - 8 Swamp Sparrow – 20 White-throated Sparrow -- 175 Harris's Sparrow – 87 White-crowned Sparrow – 27 Dark-eved Junco - 1296 Eastern Meadowlark – 4 Western Meadowlark – 28 Sturnella, spp. – 250 Red-winged Blackbird – 2660 Brown-headed Cowbird – 9 Common Grackle - 79 Great-tailed Grackle - 176 Orange-crowned Warbler -(count week only) Yellow-rumped Warbler – 122 Northern Cardinal – 262

Saving Jemima

By: Julie Zickefoose

Reviewed by: McKay Stangler

Confession: even though I know raising baby wild animals is always and everywhere a bad idea, a not-so-secret dream of mine has been to raise a bird from infancy and watch it morph, in a kind of heartwarming montage set to orchestral swelling, into my constant avian companion. What could go wrong? Besides, well, everything?

Alas, I've never had the chance. But well-known naturalist and bird writer Julia Zickefoose must have heard my subconscious yearnings, because she has published the lovely *Saving Jemima*, about her quest to raise an orphaned blue jay. If you share my bad-idea-dream, you too can live vicariously through this book.

The core question at the heart of it is this: what is our responsibility toward orphaned animals, and how long does that obligation endure? Yes, we all know such animals should be left alone. Every fiber of our rational being cries out with that knowledge, but...well, we aren't quite made of stone, are we? Or, as Zickefoose puts it upon finding a solitary egg: "Who hatches an egg and raises a bird that was never meant to be? I wasn't stupid; I was besotted, taken by a notion. Isn't this how art and inspiration work? Art is a tease, a temptress, a joker with a keen sense of irony and no regard for timing. How could I let the egg go cold and die?"

Never meant to be: that crucial phrase (and in the case of the egg it turns out to be correct; Jemima is a different bird found later at the ripe age of 11 days old). Who are we to say what was never meant to be? Rationality is designed to crumble in the face of the crying child, the injured animal, the puppy at the shelter with the woebegone eyes. We are but weak humans in the face of a helpless creature.

Raising the bird is difficult in ways expected and not. Fledgling birds are famously needy ("comparable to the moment a baby stands up, totters across the floor, and becomes a toddler"), and who would want responsibility for such a thing? Not to mention the deeply seated genetic instincts that still rule Jemima's life: she craves a flock, for example, and develops troubling imprinting habits. Young birds need to be fed with a frequency that forces human parents to admit they have it easy only feeding newborns every few hours. And, of course, there's the nagging knowledge that Zickefoose is in some vague way interfering with the will of nature (or perhaps we should say Nature, as long as we're ascribing will to something).

But good narratives are not made up of rationality and excessive deference to what we know is right. Gatsby still craves Daisy even when he sees how shallow she is; Pickett still charges at Gettysburg even though Lee knows it's a suicide mission. What good would the play be if it ended with "And verily Romeo saw that Juliet was not meant for him"? So of course Zickefoose persists, and of course we grow to love this bird along the way.

It helps that the book is graced with *awww*-inducing photos and the author's own illustrations. Zickefoose is a famously talented wildlife artist—I defy you to read her *Baby Birds* and not have your eyes brim with tears—and her depictions of Jemima out and about in her 80-acre sanctuary are outstanding. The young friend is eventually released, but returns with a serious avian disease. Mental and emotional matters pop up, too, such as the author finding herself dressing in *Cyanocitta cristata* blue.

The book sometimes strays into maudlin territory. Inevitably, the author asks "Who's saving whom?" (At least she gets that last word right, unlike many Lawrencians who adorn their cars with "Who rescued who" stickers, causing this grammar-minded reviewer to slap his forehead at stoplights.) "I'm pouring far more of myself," Zickefoose writes, "into a badly compromised wild bird than any human being should. It may appear that I have no other life." But she also notes that "this life of arcane ornithological inquiry is the life that sustains me, and the one that seems the most worth sharing."

We would all be lucky to share such a life and passion with others.

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

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Dr. John Paden, our February speaker, in Greenland.

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

Mational 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?
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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 the JAS post office box: PO Box 3741, Lawrence, KS 66046

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