Monarch Tagging Event
September 22 ~ 8:00 am to 12 pm
Baker Wetlands Discovery Center

Soon Monarch butterflies on migration to Mexico will be fluttering our way from Canada and the upper Midwest. We’ll be on the alert for this wondrous marvel with nets and tags in the name of citizen science!!

Join Monarch Watch, the Jayhawk Audubon Society, and the Baker Wetlands Discovery Center at this FREE, public Monarch tagging event. **No charge to you and no experience needed - so bring yourself, your kids (all ages), your friends, and your neighbors!** If you have a net, bring that too, though Monarch Watch and JAS will provide tags, nets, and instructions in how to net and tag monarchs. The monarchs are usually roosting or clustering until around 8:30am. As it warms up, they begin foraging to fuel up on nectar for the long journey to our southern neighbor. This is feel-good fun, so do come out and **stay as long or short a time as you like.**

NOTE: No food will be on offer so bring any snacks you need and a water bottle. Wear sunscreen, a hat and sturdy shoes. Please see map and/or directions at [https://monarchwatch.org/tag-event/](https://monarchwatch.org/tag-event/) Or visit [https://www.facebook.com/BakerWetlands/](https://www.facebook.com/BakerWetlands/)

Monday, September 24

Where Are the Baby T. rex?

*Tyrranosaurus rex*, with its massive skull and tiny arms is perhaps the best known of any dinosaur. But very little is known about them as babies or even youngsters. Those few specimens that are known suggest that *T. rex* changed quite dramatically with age. At the September 24 JAS meeting Dr. David A. Burnham will present on recent discoveries of several young *T. rex* fossils collected in the Hell Creek rocks of Montana. He will also share the experience of what it is like to search for and excavate these iconic creatures.

Dr. David A. Burnham is a Paleontologist at KU’s Biodiversity Institute specializing in dinosaur research and public outreach. He has travelled around the globe documenting the natural history of dinosaurs and has published extensively on raptors and *T. rex*. Currently, his lab at the KU Natural History Museum, is working on a *T. rex*; and this summer’s field work will continue the excavation in Montana. He will speak about what they have discovered so far about the lifestyle of these monstrous predators. Dr. Burnham also likes to share his expertise with those who are interested in natural history and he welcomes students, volunteers, and visitors to learn about the hands-on technical expertise used to excavate and prepare dinosaur fossils.

~ David Burnham

**BYO Dinner:** 5:00 p.m. 715 Restaurant, 715 Massachusetts St., Lawrence
Please let Joyce Wolf know if you will dine: rjawolf@sunflower.com or 785-887-6019

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

---

**2018-19 Seed Sale Calendar**

This year’s seed sales will be at Trinity Lutheran Fellowship Hall again. The church is very kindly hosting us while the Senior Center is remodeling. Thank you Chuck Herman for arranging this! Sale dates are:

**November 3, 2018** 10:00 am ~ 1:00 pm
**December 8, 2018** 10:00 am ~ 1:00 pm
**February 2, 2019** 10:00 am ~ 1:00 pm

We hope to have price information in time to include an order form in the October newsletter.

Questions? Contact Linda Lips, Seed Sale Chair at ditchlily@sprynet.com or text to 785-766-3567.
JAS Field Trip to Baker Wetlands

Saturday, September 8 ~ 7:00 am

Join Jayhawk Audubon as we walk the trails at Baker Wetlands in search of southbound migrants. This time of year, it’s a grab bag of birds ranging from shorebirds to terns to woodland birds like warblers and everything in between - who knows what we’ll find!

Meet Matt Longabaugh and Roger Boyd at the Baker Wetlands Discovery Center at 7:00 AM.

If you have questions, please contact me at MKLongabaugh@gmail.com or 785-285-1465.
~ Matt Longabaugh
JAS Field Trip Coordinator

Quivira and Cheyenne Bottoms Field Trip Report

On August 18 Matt Longabaugh led the Jayhawk Audubon Society field trip to Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and Cheyenne Bottoms State Wildlife Area near Great Bend, Kansas. It was an early day meeting up at 5am and returning to Lawrence at 6:15pm. The next time this trip is planned it will probably be an overnight trip. The weather began partly cloudy but quickly became overcast by mid-morning. However, the temperature was pleasant, in the 70s to low 80s all day with a very slight breeze.

We saw a great number of avocets, many White-faced Ibises, Snowy Egrets, and large flocks of American White Pelicans. Sandpipers and other shore birds were abundant and among them we spotted a couple of Snowy Plovers, always a good find. The habitat is varied, especially at Quivira, and we also had good looks at a Red-headed Woodpecker and some Yellow-headed Blackbirds. We didn’t see much in the way of waterfowl but it is a bit early in the migration season. A great trip!
~ Jim Bresnahan
JAS President

JAS Field Trip to Baker Wetlands

Saturday, September 8 ~ 7:00 am

Join Jayhawk Audubon as we walk the trails at Baker Wetlands in search of southbound migrants. This time of year, it’s a grab bag of birds ranging from shorebirds to terns to woodland birds like warblers and everything in between - who knows what we’ll find!

Meet Matt Longabaugh and Roger Boyd at the Baker Wetlands Discovery Center at 7:00 AM.

If you have questions, please contact me at MKLongabaugh@gmail.com or 785-285-1465.
~ Matt Longabaugh
JAS Field Trip Coordinator

Quivira and Cheyenne Bottoms Field Trip Report

On August 18 Matt Longabaugh led the Jayhawk Audubon Society field trip to Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and Cheyenne Bottoms State Wildlife Area near Great Bend, Kansas. It was an early day meeting up at 5am and returning to Lawrence at 6:15pm. The next time this trip is planned it will probably be an overnight trip. The weather began partly cloudy but quickly became overcast by mid-morning. However, the temperature was pleasant, in the 70s to low 80s all day with a very slight breeze.

We saw a great number of avocets, many White-faced Ibises, Snowy Egrets, and large flocks of American White Pelicans. Sandpipers and other shore birds were abundant and among them we spotted a couple of Snowy Plovers, always a good find. The habitat is varied, especially at Quivira, and we also had good looks at a Red-headed Woodpecker and some Yellow-headed Blackbirds. We didn’t see much in the way of waterfowl but it is a bit early in the migration season. A great trip!
~ Jim Bresnahan
JAS President

JAS Officers & Board Members

President: James Bresnahan. 785-766-9625
jbrresnahan@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: Jennifer Dropkin
Board Member: Phyllis Fantini
Board Member: Dena Friesen
Board Member: McKay Stangler
Membership Chair: Wayne Kennedy
Newsletter: Susan Iversen: 785-843-1142
siversen@sunflower.com
Conservation: Lynn Byczynski
Programs: Joyce Wolf
Education: Sandy Sanders
Field Trips: Matt Longabaugh
Publicity: Pam Chaffee
Facebook Page: Jennifer Dropkin, Administrator
jendropkin@hotmail.com
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

White-faced Ibis. Photo taken on JAS field trip by Jim Bresnahan.

Black-necked Stilt.
Taken on JAS field trip
By Jim Bresnahan
Your Jayhawk Audubon Society Board Is Acting for Sustainability

At the annual planning meeting in June, your JAS board decided to learn about the City of Lawrence Sustainability Advisory Board current initiatives to determine where to focus our energies. SAB issues that best mesh with JAS goals are a proposal for a local Stream Buffer Ordinance, and the push for a ban on single-use plastics. JAS work then began with two actions:

1) Joyce Wolf wrote a letter to the City & County Commissions detailing the importance of a Stream Buffer Ordinance (see below). As the ordinance is developed we’ll work to make it as strong as possible.

2) Lynn Byczynski, Conservation Chair, joined SAB’s subcommittee on single-use plastics to give JAS a voice. We’ll keep you posted through the year on progress on these key environmental fronts.

JAS Stream Buffer Ordinance letter:

August 20, 2018
To: Mayor Stuart Boley, Commissioners Lisa Larsen, Jennifer Ananda, Matthew Herbert and Leslie Soden:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Jayhawk Audubon Society (JAS) and our more than 400 local members, we want to offer our support for the proposal to develop a Stream Buffer Ordinance within the city limits. At the JAS Board’s June planning meeting, we decided to examine the goals of the Sustainability Advisory Committee to see how we might find a proposal that we could concentrate on in the coming year (August 2018 to June 2019). The Stream Buffer Ordinance proposal is one that we heartily endorse because we think it would provide multiple benefits to community members:

Naismith Valley Park, south of 24th Street, provides an outstanding example of how having buffers on both sides of a stream deliver both water-quality protection, recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat protection and enhancement, as well as flood prevention by keeping development away from an area subject to flooding (and likely more so in the future with all the impervious spaces that have been added recently on the KU campus in the upper reaches of the watershed).

a) Water quality will be protected/enhanced by keeping land disturbances away from the stream, thereby eliminating erosion of soil into the streams. In this regard we would urge the City to use native plantings within the buffer areas as much as possible since they are more adapted to our climate and therefore less prone to needing extra care, water, fertilizers, etc.

b) Providing added recreation for areas within the City other than “The Loop” would offer residents living along streams corridors valuable health benefits and make these areas more accessible without having to travel to the periphery of the city. We urge the City Commission to instruct City Planners to explore options for connecting city parks to an interior system of streamside trails.

c) We especially like the fact that these vegetated buffer areas provide more wildlife habitat for birds, squirrels, rabbits, etc. Thus, these buffer areas offer a chance for residents to become more familiar with interesting wildlife species. Naismith Park is the site of an annual birding trip which JAS offers its members each spring and it is exciting how many different bird species that can be seen in just a few hours of observation. (Great-horned Owls, Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Mississippi Kites, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Robins, Cardinals, House Finches, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Mourning Doves, Black-capped Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, Harris’ Sparrows, and many others.)

d) During the 1993 flood in Lawrence, although Naismith Creek experienced significant flooding (the water over-topped its banks and some folks canoed down the creek), no property abutting the park experienced damage from the floods. So, keeping development well away from creeks and streams prevents flooded homes and saves taxpayer dollars.

There has been a lot of discussion in Lawrence about completing “The Loop” as a recreational corridor around the city. We support this concept; however, we also feel it’s important to provide other chances for recreation within other places in the city rather than limiting it to the periphery. Again, we think a system of connected, streamside corridors will provide the above-mentioned benefits to Lawrence citizens and we urge the Commission to proceed with recommending formation and adoption of such an ordinance.

Although we recognize that the City Commission does not have authority over matters outside the city limits, we urge you to reach out to the County Commissioners to pursue adopting a similar proposal for the remainder of the unincorporated areas of Douglas County. All the above-mentioned benefits (a through d) would accrue to a similar system of stream buffers in the county with one exceptional addition – protecting Clinton Lake from further sedimentation. By enacting similar strategies, it would greatly prevent loss of storage due to the accumulation of water-borne sediment, thereby delaying and possibly even preventing costly dredging (John Redmond Reservoir cost approximately $20 million to dredge within the last couple of years and an additional $5 million was suggested for watershed treatment practices to better manage erosion in the watershed). Providing buffers to streams in the Upper Wakarusa River watershed would also help to restore the capacity of Clinton Lake to prevent floods and continue to be a reliable source of drinking water for Lawrence.
Antlers: truly bone-headed & very costly, yet so magnificent & sexy that they persist.

The sight of large, pointed elk (wapiti) antlers protruding from the grass in the redwoods was both fascinating and threatening. Most animals inhabiting our planet are arthropods which have their skeleton on the outside. Mammals and other vertebrates, however, have an internal skeleton. Bone present on the outside of the body is not generally a good condition in mammals.

The deer family is an exception. The horns of most hoofed animals that have them—rhinoceros, sheep, goats—are permanent structures made mostly of keratin, the protein in hair and nails, and grow larger gradually over years; by contrast, male deer shed and regrow external bones from the top of their heads every year. Antlers may grow over a half-inch a day for about six months with development complete at the beginning of rutting season in September—a tremendously fast rate, about three times as fast as skeletal bone in growing fawns. In bull elk and moose these bones develop into huge, spiked, intimidating excrescences weighing as much as 50 pounds on an older, half-ton bull as shown in the photo. By comparison, total bone weight of a 158 lb. human is 15% of body weight or 24 lbs. So every year in just six months, bulls of large deer species may produce the equivalent of twice the bone weight of a human! To manufacture antlers at such a rate and size is a tremendous nutritional and metabolic burden enabled by resorption of calcium and phosphorus from long bones & ribs.

So what is the point of antlers? Are they defensive weapons conferring survival advantages against predation? Although they are dangerous weapons and are used for defense, it is unlikely this is their primary purpose. Wolves, in the case of moose and elk, and coyotes, in the case of mule and white-tailed deer, attack from behind to hamstring. Cougars attack from above. In both cases antlers are useless. Also, antlers are shed after the rutting season and serve no defensive purpose the rest of the year. In addition, after the rut, the competitive battles to gain and the vigilance of protecting a harem little time to eat. A male may lose 15% of body weight and become a figurative skeleton of his condition at the beginning of rut, leaving him more vulnerable to predation.

Conspicuous, extreme and costly traits that have no obvious survival value yet are attractive to the opposite sex are considered to have evolved by sexual selection. This process involves male-male competition for access to females and female choice of mates. Males with the largest antlers are more likely to obtain mates due to their competitiveness and because females choose males with big antlers to fertilize their eggs sensing that these exaggerated traits demonstrate that their mate is phenotypically superior. The ultimate result is that the genome of the herd and species is strengthened.

When I look at the terrible majesty of these magnificent head armaments I see not only the competitive male violence they represent, but also the mind of the doe.

~ Jim Bresnahan
JAS President

Your Voice Needed on Farm Bill

The federal Farm Bill really, really matters. In Kansas, land use is overwhelmingly directed by the Farm Bill through subsidies for a few select crops and some conservation programs. Both the House and Senate have passed versions, and now a conference committee is attempting to reconcile the differences. KS Senator Pat Roberts is chairman of the U.S. Senate Agriculture committee and Co-Chair of the conference committee. Rep. Roger Marshall is a committee member. They need to hear from us. Action on the 2018 Farm Bill needs to be completed before September 30.

> Passage is important. If a bill is not passed by the end of September, the 2014 Farm Bill will be extended. This means programs for sustainable agriculture, and local/regional food systems will end instead of being extended, as they do not currently receive permanent mandatory funding.

> Call Sen. Roberts (202-224-4774) and Rep. Marshall (202-225-2715). Ask that the final bill permanently fund programs for local food systems, beginning farmers, farmers of color, organic/sustainable ag research, & food aid for families:

> Local Agriculture Marketing Program (which combines and strengthens the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program, Value-Added Producer Grant Program, Regional Food Economy Partnership Program, and Food Safety Cost-share Assistance);
> Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach Program;
> Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative;
> Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives Program;
> Conservation Stewardship Program, the largest resource conservation program on working farm and ranch lands;
> Maintain payment limits and close loopholes for farm subsidies so support is targeted to family farmers instead of Wall Street (as in provisions adopted by the Senate);
> Protect the SNAP program from cuts to ensure food access and dignity for families in need.
> Adapted from an article by Paul Johnson, Policy Analyst for the Kansas Rural Center, Prairie Wings 2018 issue, pp 24-26; Audubon of Kansas. Full article will be on the JAS website.
**MONARCH WATCH**  
**FALL OPEN HOUSE**  
Saturday, 15 September - 9a to 2p  
Foley Hall, KU West Campus

At the Open House, learn about Monarch Waystations and see the magnificent butterfly/pollinator garden created and maintained by the Douglas County Master Gardeners. On a good day over 20 species of butterflies visit the garden. The Biohouse, adjacent to the garden, will be filled with wildlife. Butterfly flowers are everywhere. Bring cameras!

There will be refreshments, lots of show & tell (including a honey bee observation hive and some "Oh, my!" insects you may have never seen before), tours of gardens and lab space, hands-on activities, games, videos, monarch tagging demonstrations, and, of course, monarch caterpillars, pupae, and butterflies!  
https://monarchwatch.org/openhouse/

**Birds Are on the Move!**

* Having raised their broods, hummingbirds are flying tropic-ward for the winter. As their need to fatten up becomes urgent, reports are in of 10 to 20 visitors a day “buzzing a feeder like bees on a hive.” (John Bollin, KOS listserv.) They’re not all Ruby-throats either. Rufous are reported from Lenexa, and Black-Chinned, Calliope, Rufous, and Broad-tailed from further west. So scrutinize your nectar sippers!

* Kettles of Mississippi Kites are reported in Topeka and other places in the state. A Swallow-tailed Kite was keeping company with the kettle in Topeka, cooperatively flying low over the walking trails near the Governor’s mansion and the new Riverfront Park. Noteworthy because Swallow-tailed Kites breed along the eastern half of the Gulf Coast and spend the winter in tropical South America. This bird is far out of its usual haunts.

* In Hays, 100 Common Nighthawks, a pre-migratory flocking up, were seen hunting a swarm of dragonflies—massing for their own short-distance move.

Our precious Kansas River was designated a National Water Trail in 2012. *The Kaw is the source of drinking water for over 800,000 people. Love your river!*

**FRIENDS OF THE KAW AWARDED 2018 DOUGLAS COUNTY NATURAL & CULTURAL HERITAGE GRANT**

Friends of the Kaw received the grant in June for its project “Protecting the Watershed of Douglas County through History, Education and Action”.

“Despite many successes in restoring the Kaw, the most neglected piece of the Kansas River’s ecosystem is the connection between the riparian buffer and the water quality of the river”, said Dawn Buehler, Kansas Riverkeeper with Friends of the Kaw. “The riparian buffer is the last line of defense to filter out pollutants.”

Using history as a guide and working with project partner Courtney Masterson, botanist/ecologist with Native Lands LLC, invasive plants will be removed and natives planted on Kansas riverfront property owned by the City of Lawrence and managed by Lawrence Parks & Recreation and the Lawrence Mountain Biking Club. Tree saplings will be provided by Kansas Forest Service and the project will include a kiosk to be designed by Westar Energy’s Green Team to educate about the effectiveness of native plants and their benefit to water quality.

FOK will host paddle trips on the Kaw to educate the community about the importance of riparian buffers for water quality. Also, FOK will bring its program Kids About Water (KAW) to schools in the county. KAW is a five-lesson water quality issues and actions curriculum for students in grades 6-12.

_Everyone is invited to get involved in the restoration process through hands-on volunteer work days. The first two work days are Saturday 9/15 from 9-11:30am and Thursday, 10/4 from 4-6:30pm. Sign up and see a map of the site on the FOK website: [http://kansasriver.org/](http://kansasriver.org/)

~ Dawn Buehler  
Kansas Riverkeeper
Have You Used the Kaw Valley Environmental Calendar on the JAS Website Yet?!

Many different groups post events there, so it is a good one-stop way to find out what’s going on. Also follow JAS on Facebook for bird and other news.

Weds. 9/5:  **Bird is the Word: Birds and Conservation.**  7:00pm at the KU Natural History Museum. Ornithology Curators Town Peterson and Rob Moyle honor the 100th Anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Agreement. Reception after. [http://biodiversity.ku.edu](http://biodiversity.ku.edu)

Sat. 9/8: **JAS Field Trip to Baker Wetlands.**  See page 2. Contact MKLongbaugh@gmail.com or 785-285-1465.


Tues. 9/11: **Oak Hill native garden maintenance.**  6 - 7:00pm. Map to garden: https://tinyurl.com/v7mps2yu

Thurs. 9/13 & 9/20: **Native Plant Sale.**  4 - 6:00 pm. Grassland Heritage Foundation. Locally grown, neonic free plants. $4.00 each. Cottin’s Farmers’ Market. Behind the store at 1832 Massachusets, Lawrence.

Thurs. 9/13: **Kaw Valley Native Plant Coalition** installs and maintains multiple gardens for public enjoyment on Parks & Rec land. We will weed and check on the emerging native plants! Learn about native gardening, pollinators and more. 6 - 7:30 pm. Meet at Burroughs Creek. Reach out to Courtney Masterson: For.ThePrairie@gmail.com

Fri. 9/14: **Bug Blitz!**  7 - 9:00pm. South Park. Help KU entomologists to find & ID insects. [http://biodiversity.ku.edu](http://biodiversity.ku.edu)


Sun. 9/16: **Hidden Valley Camp Workday.**  1-3 pm. Family friendly; chores for all ages. Enclosed shoes a must! Bring your hat, water bottle, insect repellant. 3420 Bob Billings Parkway. Contact: durandi@sunflower.com


Wed. 9/19: **A Web of Success.**  Science on Tap at Free State Brewery. 7:30pm. All about spiders from fossils to present.  

Wed. 9/19 & Thurs. 9/20: **Wee Walks.**  10-11am. Stories, crafts & outdoor walk for 5 years and under at Baker Wetlands

Fri. 9/21: **Night at the Arboretum.**  7-9pm. $3.00. Overland Park Arboretum. No pre-registration necessary. Walk the trails to see who’s active at night. Indoor activities too. Info: [https://www.opkansas.org/events/night-at-the-arboretum-3](https://www.opkansas.org/events/night-at-the-arboretum-3)

Sat. 9/22: **Monarch Tagging with JAS & Monarch Watch at Baker Wetlands.**  FREE! 8am-noon. See page 1.

Sat. 9/22: **Garden Workshop: Divide & Multiply.**  Seed collection, plant propagation, preparing your garden for winter. 9-11am. KU Medicinal Plant Garden, 1865 E. 1600 Rd. RSVP appreciated to grasslandheritage@gmail.com

Mon. 9/24: **Where Are the Baby T. rex?.**  JAS Meeting. 7:00pm. David A. Burnham PhD. Trinity Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 1245 New Hampshire Street, Lawrence. See page 1 for more information.

Thurs. 9/27: **Chimney Swifts!**  Topeka Audubon Society field trip. 6:30-7:30pm. Randolph Elementary School has the perfect chimney. 1400 SW Randolph, Topeka. [http://www.topekaaudubonsociety.org/calendar](http://www.topekaaudubonsociety.org/calendar) for more info.

Fri. 9/28: **38 North Adventure Festival.**  5-9pm. Carnegie Building, 200 W. 9th St., Lawrence. Stories of self-propelled outdoor adventure in Kansas, music, beer, fellow-nature lovers. Part of Final Friday. [https://38northfest.com](https://38northfest.com)

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

Sat. 10/6: **Electronic Recycling Event.**  9am-1pm rain or shine. KU Park and Ride East Lot. Be Responsible! They’re even taking tapes, CDs, DVDs, batteries. For full list: [https://lawrenceks.org/swm/electronicrecyclingevent/](https://lawrenceks.org/swm/electronicrecyclingevent/)

Weekend, **Ks Ornithological Society Fall Weekend.**  Field trips; tours of the Biodiversity Institute bird collection; Bob 10/5-10/7: Gress, speaker; research papers. Various venues in Lawrence. Visit [http://ksbirds.org/ks/KOSindex.html by mid-September to register for this event, the 70th(?) meeting of KOS.](http://ksbirds.org/ks/KOSindex.html)

Sun. 11/4: **Beers of the KAW.**  Fundraiser for Friends of the Kaw. *This event sells out!! Visit the FOK website to get your tickets soon: [http://kansasriver.org/beers-of-the-kaw/](http://kansasriver.org/beers-of-the-kaw/)

Sat. 11/10: **Waterfowl Migration.**  Field trip led by Bunnie Watkins. 9am-1pm. **Must sign up at [www.lprd.org](http://www.lprd.org).**

Click “Online enrollment”. Class number is 427464. $24.00.
By J.A. Baker
Reviewed by McKay Stangler

“Magic is equated to the quality of attentiveness,” wrote the novelist Jim Harrison. “Perhaps magic is... the ultimate attentiveness.” Certainly we lovers of all things avian are familiar with this feeling, given that we are usually the ones with our eyes to the sky, urging others to notice this or that winged friend. But no JAS member’s quality of attentiveness can compare to the mysterious J.A. Baker, the man who composed the exquisitely beautiful book that is *The Peregrine*.

In keeping with the mysterious, shrouded tone of the book, not much is known about Baker himself—not even the year of his death. Though a biography was published last year—Hetty Saunders’ *My House of Sky*—the actual information about Baker’s life is scant. He lived in Essex, England, where he is believed to have worked as a librarian, and he only traveled by bicycle. *The Peregrine* was published when he was 41, in 1967; *The Hill of Summer*, a deeply localist account of his native region, came two years later.

The book in question is an account of one year spent watching peregrine falcons near his home—a year he collapses and consolidates into a series of daily dispatches. The language of the book is lyrical throughout ("Sparrow-hawks were always near me in the dusk, like something I meant to say but could never quite remember"), and is shot through with a kind of morphing transfiguration, as if Baker himself yearns to break free of his human body and join the peregrines in their ascents and dives. One can’t ignore the undercurrent of self-loathing that occasionally afflicts all environmentally minded humans, the muted desire to slip the bonds of our form and live through and within another creature.

“I have always longed to be a part of the outward life,” Baker writes, “to be out there at the edge of things, to let the human taint wash away in emptiness and silence as the fox sloughs his smell into the cold unworldliness of water; to return to the town as a stranger. Wandering flushes a glory that fades with arrival.” Baker’s journeying occupies what we might term narrative borderlands: he walks the line between human and avian as much as he walks the line between civilization and wilderness.

What grabs the reader throughout is the stunning power of evocation present in Baker’s descriptions of both bird and landscape, as in this note from October 8: “Fog lifted. The estuary hardened into shape, cut by the east wind. Horizons smarted in the sun. Islands grew upon the water. At three o’clock, a man walked along the sea-wall, flapping with maps. Five thousand dunlin flew low inland, twenty feet above his head. He did not see them. They poured a waterfall of shadow on to his indifferent face. They rained away inland, like a horde of beetles gleamed with golden chittin.”

Many nature writers have, of course, argued for the return of what could be called a “wild consciousness”—restoring a space in our minds and culture for greater awareness of our role within nature, not a place separate from it. In Thoreau’s formulation, this required “direct contact” with the wild. For Aldo Leopold, it meant harmony with the seasons in a directly experienced place.

For Baker, it means the return of something we have largely escaped: fear. “Man might be more tolerable,” he writes, “less fractious and smug, if he had more to fear. I do not mean fear of the intangible, the suffocation of the introvert, but physical fear, cold sweating fear for one’s life, fear of the unseen menacing beast, imminent, bristly, tusked and terrible, ravening for one’s own hot saline blood.” To Baker, this kind of fear is today found only in non-human animals, and this is our loss.

Following the peregrines is a way for Baker to escape his own affliction: the “suffocation of the introvert” he mentions. “Wherever he goes this winter,” he writes of the peregrine, “I will follow him. I will share the fear, and the exaltation, and the boredom, of the hunting life... My pagan head shall sink into the winter land, and there be purified.” We are lucky that we can purify ourselves with this astonishing book.
★ 9/8: Field trip to Baker Wetlands. p 2
★ 9/22: Monarch Tagging Event. p 1
★ 9/24: Where Are the Baby T. rex? JAS Program. p 1
★ JAS Streambuffer ordinance letter. p 3
★ **Farm Bill Activism Needed:** Why Antlers? p 4
★ Monarch Watch Open House; Migration sightings p 5
★ FOK Riverbank Grant p 5; Calendar p 6
★ **The Peregrine.** Book Review by McKay Stangler p 7

---

**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/Donation?df_id=9431&9431_donation=form1&s_src=2015_AUDHP_topbanner-button-menu](https://secure.audubon.org/site/Donation?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/](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.n.z@gmail.com.

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