

Monday, May 24 ~ 7:00 PM

Wildlife Safari in South Africa

Roger and Jan Boyd explored a wide variety of habitats across South Africa for four weeks during the fall of 2019. Join us on the 24th to hear Dr. Roger Boyd bring the trip to life with photos and stories about the birds, wildlife, and gorgeous landscapes. South Africa has been described as “simply one of the most pleasurable birding tour destinations, offering unrivalled wildlife viewing, and world-class infrastructure.” Kruger National Park is one of the best places in the world for viewing spectacular megafauna, while off the tip of the Cape of Good Hope there is a rich seabird diversity to explore. Most South Africa bird tours will see over 500 species of birds and over 50 species of mammals. Put this program on your calendar because we know you will enjoy this glimpse of a far-off land as we dream of being able to discover the world through travel once again.



Male African Lion. Roger Boyd

Dr. Roger Boyd received degrees from Baker University, Emporia State University, and Colorado State University. He retired in 2018 as Professor Emeritus of Biology after 42 years of service at Baker University and the Baker Wetlands. Professionally Roger has conducted research on Horned Larks, Snowy Plovers, Piping Plovers, and Least Terns. He has participated in scientific collecting expeditions with KU Museum of Natural History in China, Paraguay, and Peru.

(Continued in the right-hand column)



Male American Redstart
U.S. Forest Service
H.J. Raffaele

Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day by Supporting the JAS Birdathon

World Migratory Bird Day, the second Saturday in May, marks the spring apex in numbers of birds traversing the globe from winter refuge in the south to northern breeding grounds. JAS honors the feat with our annual Birdathon when members challenge themselves to find as many species as they can in one day—this year either 5/8 or 5/9. Unlike the Christmas Count we just tally species not individuals.

If you bird for the Birdathon, please send your species list to Roger Boyd: rboydbird69@gmail.com. If you would like to donate to Birdathon to support Jayhawk Audubon's conservation education work, visit <https://www.jayhawkaudubon.org/donate>. Or mail a check made out to Jayhawk Audubon Society or JAS to P.O. Box 3741, Lawrence 66046.

Thank you for being a member!

Wildlife Safari continued:

With his wife Jan, Roger has organized and led over 25 natural history tours to the tropics for the benefit of students and adults alike. Over the past 40 years they have traveled to 23 countries and 6 continents. Roger currently serves on the JAS Board as member at large and field trip chair.

To attend this program: on Monday, May, 24 go to the JAS website “Events” section at 6:50-6:55 p.m. and click where it says **Click here for the Zoom link**. That will take you to Zoom. Follow the Zoom instructions.

Dear Jayhawk Audubon supporter,

We hope you enjoy all the information, stories, pictures, and programs that Jayhawk Audubon brings to you each month and throughout the year. **As our membership year comes to a close, we're asking you to renew your commitment to Jayhawk Audubon.**

When you join Jayhawk Audubon, you become part of a group dedicated to the protection of birds and the habitats that sustain them. Your membership contribution supports all the work we do. From Plants for Birds and Kaw Valley Eagles Day to local field trips and monthly programs, Jayhawk Audubon is a vital local voice for bird conservation.

A membership contribution made directly to the Jayhawk Audubon Society provides the greatest benefit to your local chapter. All members receive 9 issues per year of the JAS email newsletter and discounts on the books and feeders at our JAS Seed Sales. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

New for 2021, you may choose the membership level that best meets your situation:

Individual Membership

\$20

Family Membership

\$30

Student/Financial Need

\$10

If you are currently a Chapter-only member (without a National Audubon membership), your local membership expires on June 30. **To join or renew, visit us at www.jayhawkaudubon.org and click on Get Involved.** To mail a check, see page 7 for a membership form and our address.

If you are a local member by virtue of your National Audubon Society membership, your JAS membership continues as long as you maintain your National membership. But **please consider extending your support for Jayhawk Audubon with a separate gift directly to your local chapter.**

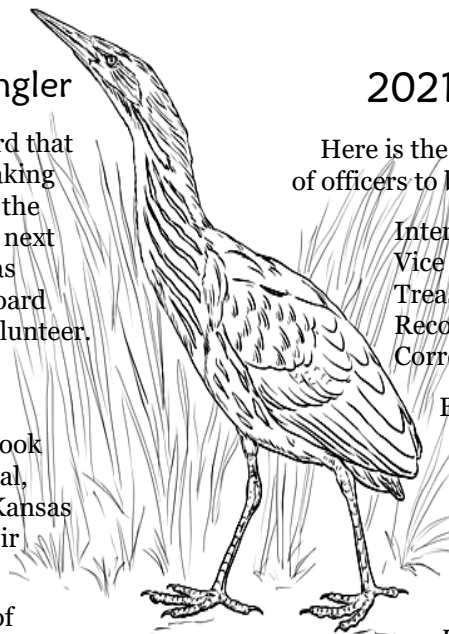
Thank you for the support you provide to the National Audubon Society and Jayhawk Audubon, and all that you do to protect birds and their habitats.

Many Thanks to McKay Stangler

Just this week McKay told the JAS board that he and his family are moving out of state making it impossible for him to continue serving on the JAS board and taking him off the slate to be next year's president. This was sad news for us as McKay has been an active, strong voice in board discussions and decisions and a seed sale volunteer. The board was particularly pleased when he volunteered to be JAS's next president.

Readers of this newsletter will miss his book reviews, sometimes acerbic, but always lyrical, thought-provoking and fresh. Audubon of Kansas will also miss him greatly as he has been their director of development the last year.

Thank you for your service and support of Audubon, McKay. The JAS board wishes you all the best in your new habitat. We know you'll be a welcome member of the flock wherever you land.



American Bittern

2021-22 Slate of Officers

Here is the nomination committee's revised slate of officers to be voted on at the May meeting:

Interim President: Jennifer Deslisle
 Vice President: Lynn Byczynski
 Treasurer: Jennifer Deslisle
 Recording Secretary: Susan MacNally
 Corresponding Secretary: Pam Chaffee

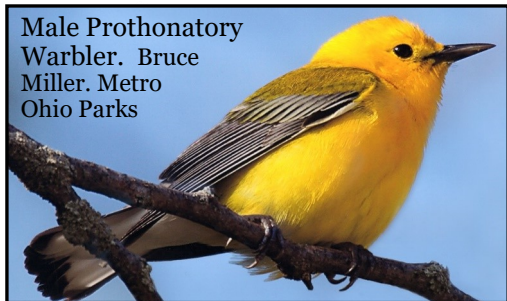
Board Members-at-large:

- Roger Boyd
- Lynn Byczynski
- Dena Friesen
- Len Scotto
- Kaitlin Stanley
- Vacant

However, if you would like to be added to the slate, please note that nominations from the floor at the May meeting will be very welcome.

as well as thousands of initiatives on the ground.
Learn more at: <https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/>

Male Prothonotary
Warbler. Bruce
Miller. Metro
Ohio Parks



It's Showtime for Migratory & Breeding Birds

JAS field trips are just the ticket to put you in the audience

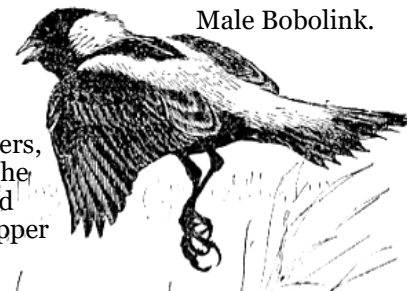
Saturday, May 15: Fitch Natural History Reservation.

8:00 AM. Park at the Roth Trailhead then cross road to east to meet at Fitch. (See KU Field Station for directions: <https://biosurvey.ku.edu/field-station/directions>). Easy walking through woods on established trails, with gravel near the entrance

turning to well worn dirt paths. Expect thrushes, vireos, warblers, tanagers, flycatchers—tropical migrants and residents. It could be wild, depending on current weather and movement of fronts. Spray your clothing for ticks. We will frequently rotate positions on the trail so that everyone has a chance to be at the front. Several hours walking up to 2 miles. Contact Roger Boyd at rboydbird69@gmail.com or 785-424-0595 for more info.

Sunday, May 23: Lone Star Lake with Globe Prairie Area (optional).

8 AM. Meet at east end of dam. We plan to drive the perimeter road with periodic stops, possible short walks. There is an active Bald Eagle nest at the lake and some waterfowl to be expected. Most bird activity will be in the woods around the lake with woodpeckers, flycatchers, vireos, some late warblers, buntings and tanagers. About 9:30 we'll head south and west to the Globe area, the best expanse of prairie that remains in Douglas Cty. Here we hope for Upland Sandpiper, Scissortail Flycatcher, Dickcissel, meadowlarks, perhaps Bobolinks and Grasshopper Sparrows. Wrap up 10:30-11:00 am. Contact Roger as for 5/15.



Male Bobolink.

Wednesday EVENING, May 26: Chicken Creek Bridge (approx. 770 E. 850 Rd – south of Clinton Dam)

Meet at **8:30 PM** for evening birds. We will probably hear, and possibly see, a number of birds singing before sunset, but our real targets will be Eastern Whip-poor-will and Chuck-will's Widow. Barred and possibly Great Horned Owls may be calling. Common Nighthawks could be heard and seen over fields to the east. Anticipate that very little walking (or talking) will be involved. Contact Roger as for May 15.

Saturday, June 12: Mutt Run Dog Park AREA. 1330 E 902 Rd. Let us meet on the turn off north to Sesqui-centennial Park just west of the Dog Park **@ 7:30 am (early start)**. Look for people without dogs and with binoculars! Our main target will be Painted Bunting. Other birds will be in the area—Dickcissel, Field Sparrow, orioles, and Indigo Buntings. We will walk the roads, then head south below the dam and stop at the model airplane field and the marsh to the east to find Marsh Wrens, Common Yellowthroats, and a variety of other local birds. Plan to wrap up by 10:00 or 10:30 am. Contact Roger Boyd as for May 15.

Common Gallinule
Louis Hoeniger



Saturday, July 10: Baker Wetlands. Meet at the Southwest Parking lot by the river, south of the Discovery Center, just east of E 1400 Rd. We'll start at **7:30 am** walking the River Trail to the center road. Indigo Buntings and Dickcissels should be common. We'll search for Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Pileated Woodpecker, Willow Flycatcher and Eastern Wood Pewee. Both Baltimore and Orchard Orioles should be around as well as Blue Grosbeak and Bell's Vireo. If we go north to Grebe Pond we will hunt for Common Gallinule, King Rail, Pied-billed Grebe, and Least Bittern. Wrap up by 9:30-10:00 am. Contact Roger Boyd as for 5/15.

Saturday, August 14: Clinton Lake – East Bloomington

Meet at the parking lot east of the Wakarusa Museum, not at the swim beach. We will start at **7:30 am** to beat the heat and take easy walks around the parking lot and edge of lake as needed. Good chance for Scissortail Flycatchers and a host of other flycatchers and kingbirds. Along the lake and on the spit out into the lake we should find several species of gulls, and early shorebirds returning from breeding in Canada. Caspian and other terns are often here. Buntings, grosbeaks, orioles, even warblers and tanagers are possible as fall migration is already underway. Plan to wrap up the field trip by 9:00 or 9:30 am. Contact Roger Boyd as for May 15.

Scissortail Flycatchers. Male on right. Juvenile on left.



Spring Opportunities

May 1 to June 20: Kansas Bioblitz, KU Natural History Museum

Help document the diversity of plants and animals in Kansas. You will need to download the iNaturalist app to a smart phone. Get details and view a video explaining how to use the iNaturalist app at <https://biodiversity.ku.edu/citizen-science>

May 7 to 9: Kansas Ornithological Society Spring Meeting:

Members are asked to bird at Federal Reservoirs and State Parks in Kansas. See https://ksbirds.org/kos/Spring_2021.htm for a list. You may bird on your own or organize your own group. A few people have offered to lead trips and their contact information is on the website. KOS is hoping that each of the 31 sites will be visited by at least one person over the weekend. Compilation of the bird list, trivia night, happy hour and all other activities will be virtual.

May 8 & 9: JAS Birdathon. See page 1

Saturday, May 15: GHF Native Plant Sale.

10 am to 2 pm. Trinity Episcopal Church Courtyard. 1011 Vermont St., Lawrence, KS
62 species of native plants/ \$4.00 per plant.
Neonicotinoid free! Important as neonicotinoids kill bees. Wear a mask. The sale will be outdoors with social distancing measures. For a plant list: <https://www.grasslandheritage.org/plantsale>

Tuesday, June 8: LPL's Nature Book Club

7:30 PM to 8:30 PM. The book club continues to meet virtually. Read a fiction or nonfiction book that has a strong connection with nature and be prepared to discuss. For more information or suggestions contact Shirley Braunlich at sbraunlich@lawrence.lib.ks.us.
NOTE: new day of the week and later time.

Thursday, June 10: Grant-Bradbury Prairie Walk.

6:30pm. Walk through a remnant prairie on the edge of Topeka. No plant knowledge required; Wear sturdy shoes and bring bug spray and water. Contact: Mick Delfelder themick73@gmail.com 785-357-1465. For a map: <https://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/events.php>
Grant-Bradbury Park • 6600 SW Westview Rd

Birdability: Because Birding Is For Everybody!

On a recent birding trip to Texas (all were vaccinated and wore masks indoors and sometimes out!), several of us chanced upon Birdability founder Virginia Rose, birding from her wheelchair out on a canopy boardwalk in Smith Woods at High Island, the famous migratory bird haven. Rose started the Birdability movement just 4 years ago and it took wing, clearly meeting a huge need. She is a charmer and it was a privilege to chat with her for a few moments before warblers again demanded her attention and ours.



© Birdability logo

The Birdability mission statement is: "Through education, outreach and advocacy, Birdability works to ensure the birding community and the outdoors are welcoming, inclusive, safe and accessible for everybody. We focus on people with mobility challenges, blindness or low vision, chronic illness, intellectual or developmental disabilities, mental illness, and those who are neurodivergent, deaf or hard of hearing or who have other health concerns. In addition to current birders, we strive to introduce birding to people with disabilities and other health concerns who are not yet birders so they too can experience the joys of birding."

The website: <https://www.birdability.org/> has loads of material including what it takes to make a site accessible, and a crowd-sourced map of accessible birding sites around the world. If you know of a site, you can add it. You can also sign up for their newsletter, volunteer or donate.



Male Magnolia Warbler.

A No-Feeder Hummingbird Habitat

Want to attract hummingbirds, but don't have time to maintain a feeder properly? Hummingbird feeders have to be cleaned even more often than other bird feeders as the nectar is highly susceptible to mold and bacterial growth in summer's heat.

The American Bird Conservancy suggests mimicking natural habitat to create a hummingbird "reserve" that will meet their needs without feeders. They have reduced things to 8 steps:

1. Plant *native flowering plants*, making sure that they are species the birds can use as not all flowers are structured the right way or produce enough nectar. Select native columbines, penstemons, bee balms, agastaches, cardinal flower, salvias, trumpet creeper and *native* honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*). The Major Wheeler variety grows well here.
2. If you plant nonnative plants, be sure they are not invasive in our area. Nurseries still sell invasive species such as Asian honeysuckle.
3. Keep your yard free of cats. They are major predators of all types of birds. The invasive, large Chinese praying mantis will also catch and eat hummers. The much smaller native mantis does not and is beneficial.
4. Provide snags/dead branches with clear sight lines so they can perch and watch their territory.
5. Spread out the resources. Hummers can be quite aggressive to other hummers and some space between flower beds or feeders is helpful.
6. Don't use chemicals that can harm insects, wildlife or humans. Hummers actually eat a lot of tiny insects, not just nectar.
7. Maintain native trees, shrubs and vines in your landscape. Hummingbirds may find a place to nest.
8. Provide water. Hummers don't typically visit ordinary bird baths, but a dripper or a mister allows them to drink or bathe. They often take advantage of sprinklers. A dripper or mister may also attract other birds that don't visit feeders.

Excerpted from
<https://abcbirds.org/blog20/hummingbird-paradise>

Native Plants Are Having a Moment... and We Couldn't Be Happier!

Deep Roots KC was created by members of the Westport Garden Club who are concerned about the widespread devastation of pollinators and the ecosystems they depend on:

<https://deeprootskc.org/about/>

As part of their work, they have created an extensive library of free webinars on native plants, native plant garden design and maintenance. Because even if you are deeply committed to gardening with native plants, you still want a beautiful, appealing garden. And if your garden looks great, you're more likely to win neighbors as converts to using native plants in their landscapes.

You'll find the webinars archived here:
<https://deeproots.org/webinars/> . They have the Native Plants at Noon Webinars and a Garden Design and Maintenance Series. Enjoy!



Male Summer Tanager,
a breeding summer
resident in our area.

John James Audubon

The Loudest Bird in Kansas?

There was a lively debate on KSBIRDS lately trying to resolve which is the loudest bird in Kansas. Some pointed out that it would be super difficult to determine this as uncontrollable variables such as humidity, time of day, wind, size of the bird, habitat, distance from the listener, etc. would all affect volume and measurements, and, besides, define what you mean by loudest! But hey, let's ignore those killjoys, and admit it's a fun question.

Among the proposed champions were Western Meadowlark, Pileated Woodpecker, Barred Owl, Carolina Wren, booming Greater Prairie-Chicken, and Jayhawks at Allen Fieldhouse. Do you have another species to suggest for the title?

The Worm-eating Warbler pictured in the drawing below is a boon to birders. Why? No suffering the dreaded warbler neck when you are watching a Worm-eating. They forage and nest down low as do a few other warblers such as Ovenbirds and Waterthrushes. Most of the other beautiful, fidgety warblers spend their time high in the forest canopy searching out caterpillars and other insects. They may have colorful, intricate plumage, but often all you see is their belly, or a glimpse of a tail or a beak and then your neck seizes up from staring straight over your head for minutes at a time! Not that Worm-eating Warblers are easy to see as they skulk among the leaves, fallen branches and other detritus on the forest floor, but at least searching for them is pain free!



Drawing by Julie Zickefoose

JAS Officers & Board Members

President: James Bresnahan.
785-766-9625 or jbresnahan@ku.edu
Vice President: Vanessa Carlos
Recording Secretary: Susan MacNally
Corresponding Secretary: Pam Chaffee
Treasurer: Jennifer Delisle
Board Member: Roger Boyd
Board Member: Lynn Byczynski
Board Member: Dena Friesen
Board Member: Leonard Scotto
Board Member: Kaitlin Stanley
Board Member: Vacant
Membership Chair: Kristine Latta
Newsletter: Susan Iversen:
siversen@sunflower.com
Conservation: Lynn Byczynski
Programs: Joyce Wolf
Education: Sandy Sanders
Field Trips: Roger Boyd
Publicity: Pam Chaffee
Facebook Page: Jennifer Dropkin,
jendropkin@hotmail.com
Webmaster: Lynn Byczynski
Bird Seed Sales: Vacant
Birdathon: Vacant
Christmas Count: Galen Pittman
Eagles Day: Bunnie Watkins
Historian: Ron Wolf
Books & Feeders: Ron & Joyce Wolf
Audubon of Kansas Chapter Rep: Joyce Wolf

Jayhawk Audubon Society Membership Mail-in Form

Online contributions are secure, easier for volunteers to process, and significantly speed up handling time. That means you get your magazine and newsletter faster! See back page for links to join/donate online. But we're happy to receive your membership via mail as well. Please fill out the information below and mail this page along with your check(s) to: **JAS, c/o Membership Chair, P.O. Box 3741, Lawrence, KS 66046.**

- For National memberships make checks to National Audubon Society (\$20.00 minimum contribution);
- For chapter-only memberships, make checks to Jayhawk Audubon Society:
Individual - \$20; Family - \$30; Student/Financial Need - \$10
- Contributions to JAS: any amount is welcome; as with birds, the sky's the limit.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code (9) digit _____

Telephone (with Area Code) _____ *Email address _____

**Providing your email address is the only way to ensure you receive all Chapter communications, including the email newsletter 9 times a year. We do not share membership information with non-Audubon entities.*

JAS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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

- * May 8 & 9: JAS Birdathon p 1
- * May 24: Wildlife Safari in South Africa p 1
- * Local membership renewal; Thank you McKay p 2
- * Newsletter editor needed; Black Birders Week p 3
- * Field trips: May and summer p 4
- * Events; the Birdability movement p 5
- * No-feeder hummingbird garden; The loudest bird in Kansas? p 6
- * Native gardening webinars p 6; Worm-eating warbler love p 7

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

Return Service Requested

Become a Member!

___ **National Audubon Society membership (minimum contribution of \$20).** You'll receive the Audubon magazine and also become a local chapter member. (See benefits below.) Please use this link so that JAS gets credit for your membership: <https://tinyurl.com/ms2e3pz8>

___ **Chapter donation.** Joining through the National Audubon Society? Jayhawk Audubon relies upon direct contributions to support local education and conservation projects. NAS shares only your first membership contribution with the local chapter.

Please use this link to contribute to JAS: <https://www.jayhawkaudubon.org/donate>

___ **Chapter-only membership to Jayhawk Audubon Society.** Prefer to join your local chapter directly? Chapter-only members receive the JAS newsletter (but not the Audubon magazine), plus discounts on books and feeders at Seed Sales. Annual JAS memberships expire on June 30.

___ Individual (\$20) ___ Family (\$30) ___ Student/Financial Need (\$10)

Please use this link to join: <https://www.jayhawkaudubon.org/join>.

Prefer to mail in your membership? Online contributions are secure, easier for volunteers to process, and significantly speed up handling time. That means you get your magazine and newsletter faster! But we're happy to receive your membership via mail as well. See page 7 for the mail in membership form.