



MEMORIAL FOR

## JOHN AND LINDA ZEMPEL

*John Zempel's last photo posted on Facebook: Teter Rock with night sky in the Flint Hills*

We were shocked and saddened at the deaths of John and Linda Vidosh Zempel, part of our AOK family, on March 21, 2022. Board Member John and Linda, his wife of 42 years and Honorary Board Member, were a cherished part of Topeka Audubon for more than a decade. John was a dedicated Audubon of Kansas board member for ten years and a member of Jayhawk Audubon in the 1980s.

We wanted to share a bit of what the Zempels meant to our conservation community. They were active birders and contributed sightings and photographs of birds throughout their home county and the State of Kansas, documenting sightings with friends, new birders and on eBird. They loved discovering new birds and also were generous in helping others enjoy the gift of seeing birds. In November of 2021, they were living their love of birds by acting as expert guides during the Celebration of Cranes at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge.

Linda's posts of their backyard birds were lively and her Facebook bird-debating banter with friends engaging. John loved photography of birds and other wildlife, had taken classes in night-sky photography, and also documented his latest culinary creations. After retirement, John served as a docent for the Topeka Zoo and was an Amateur Radio Operator. John and Linda tended their beloved property outside of Topeka, keeping friends up-to-date with the health of the pollinator habitat and the wildlife denizens of the property that they would encounter there.

In an interview with AOK Executive Director Jackie Augustine in the summer of 2020, John said, **“People who appreciate the prairie have a long-term view.” Exemplifying that idea, John's final photograph on Facebook was of the night sky at Teter Rock in the Flint Hills.**

We will remember and cherish our memories of you, John and Linda.