



**Defending wildlife and habitat
through:**

**Advocacy
Conservation
Education**

News & Updates: October 2022

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[Visit our website](#)

**Register now for the 5th Annual
Celebration of Cranes!**



AOK's 5th annual Celebration of Cranes is coming to Sterling College and the Quivira

National Wildlife Refuge November 4-6, 2022!

Early November is an excellent time to go bird watching! Although the ongoing drought in western Kansas will likely attract fewer Sandhill and Whooping Cranes than some years, there will still be plenty to see and talk about. Participants can either reserve a spot in a van or drive themselves. Expert bird watchers will be in the van and at stations along the route to point out and identify the birds present. During the mid-day lull in activity on Saturday, participants will enjoy lunch and talks from expert biologists on topics ranging from migration, conservation, and technology.



Schedule

Friday, Nov. 4 – Evening Cranes Tours

Guided Van tours – meet at Sterling College at 3:00pm

Self-guided tours – Pick up Registration materials at Sterling College; Guides will be on route by 3:30pm

Saturday, Nov. 5 – Morning and Evening Cranes Tours

Morning Schedule

Guided Van tours – Meet at Sterling College at 6:30am – return by 11:30am

Self-guided tours – Pick up registration materials at Sterling College; leave Sterling at 6:30am

LUNCH included with Registration - 11:15-12:15 at Sterling College

SPEAKERS at Sterling College

12:15- 1:00 Dr Alice Boyle "Flying through the intersection: bird movements through Kansas"

1:10 - 1:25pm Brandon Case "What is Friends of Quivira National Wildlife Refuge?"

1:30 - 2:15pm Vinita Karki "Technology applied to avian conservation and management"

2:15 - 2:45pm Dr Jackie Augustine "Who is Audubon of Kansas (AOK)?"

Afternoon Tours

Guided Van tours – begin at Sterling College at 3:00pm

Self-guided tours – Pick up registration materials at Sterling College; Guides will be on route at QNWR by 3:30

Sunday, Nov. 6 – Morning Crane Tours

Guided Van tours only

Leave Sterling College at 6:30am – return by 11:30am

Photo: Whooping Cranes by Bob Gress

[Click here to register now!](#)

AOK hosts a Prescribed Fire Training at Achterberg Wildlife-Friendly Demonstration Farm



Audubon of Kansas worked with the Kansas Prescribed Fire Council, and Smoky Hills Prescribed Burn Association to offer 24 attendees in Lincoln County, KS, training on how to safely conduct prescribed fire. Prescribed fire is important for improving wildlife habitat, reducing woody and invasive species, providing excellent cattle forage, and preventing wildfires. Topics covered included reasons for burning, regulations, weather, equipment, firebreaks, burn plans, and prescribed burn associations. We were unable to conduct a prescribed burn at Achterberg due to weather conditions, but hope to find a time to do so in the coming months.

[Read more about the Kansas
Prescribed Fire Council](#)

[Find a Prescribed Burn
Association near you](#)

AOK's Executive Director talks with librarians about Nature Adventurepacks



**AOK Nature
Adventurepacks:**

**Helping Kansans
“check out”
Birds and Butterflies**

Dr. Jackie Augustine presented AOK's Nature Adventurepack program to librarians at the Kansas Library Conference in Wichita this past week. AOK has funding to roll out our Nature Adventurepack program in southwest Kansas this winter. Many other libraries are hoping that we'll be able to roll out the program in their areas soon! Librarians are excited for the in-person programming and opportunities to connect this new resource with their current projects (butterfly garden, home school program, summer education program, etc.). We received helpful feedback as to what resources will help make the program successful.



Give
now!

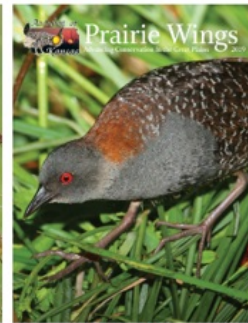
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Prairie Wings



2021-2022 Issue



2020-2021 Issue



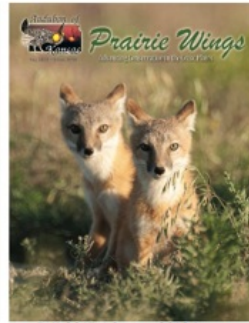
2019 Issue



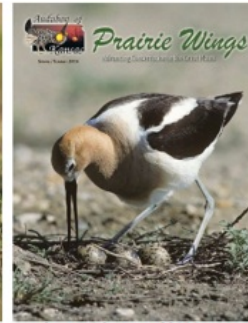
2018 Issue



Winter 2016 / Spring 2017 Issue



Fall 2015 / Spring 2016 Issue



Spring / Summer 2014 Issue



Winter 2012 / Spring 2013 Issue

We are busy preparing this year's edition of *Prairie Wings*. It will include articles on neonicotinoids (a deadly pesticide), prairie dogs, a poem by Poet Laureate Joy Harjo, and many other topics.

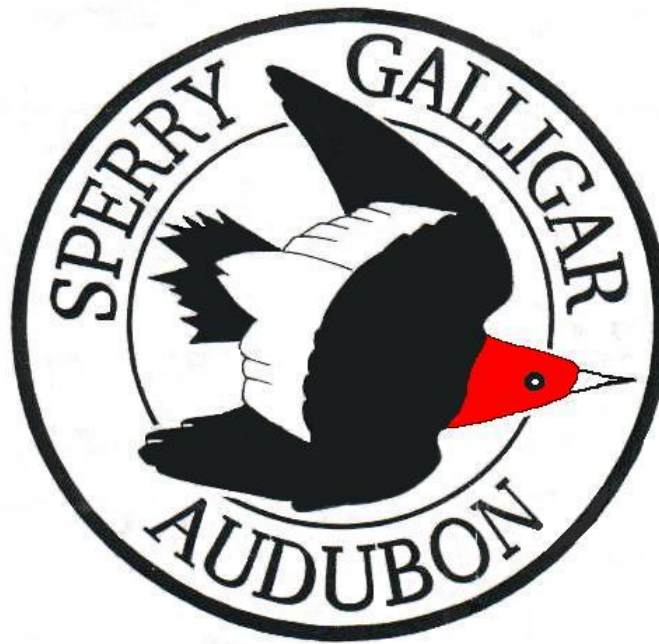
Only members receive the benefit of having a magazine mailed to their home.

If you have not renewed your AOK membership, please renew your membership now. If you have questions about membership, contact Kelley at khurst@audubonofkansas.org.

To renew membership, click on the button below or send a check to:
AOK
PO Box 1106
Manhattan, KS 66505

[Renew your membership now](#)

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society connects with students and members



Most Audubon chapters are named after cities or geographic features in their areas. Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society was named after two Pittsburg-area conservation leaders: Dr. Theodore Sperry and Dr. Gladys Galligar. Together they constructed a natural habitat, called "Paradocs", which remains today - from an acre of abandoned strip-mine land. Gladys Galligar was a strong biology professor and designer of their home. Theodore Sperry's reputation was national in scope. He was referred to as "Father of Prairie Restoration", for his landmark efforts with Aldo Leopold, in Wisconsin, during the 1930's. He was a charter member of The Nature Conservancy, and president of both the Kansas Ornithological Society and the Kansas Wildflower Society. (Information from [Sperry-Galligar's website](#)).

Today, Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society connects college students with older members. Dr. Andy George, a professor at Pittsburg State University, encourages students to attend monthly bird walks hosted by Sperry-Galligar. The next bird walk is Nov 12, 2022 at 8am starting at Wilderness Park west of Frontenac, KS. Contact [Andy George](#) for more information and see Sperry-Galligar's website for additional [events](#).

Sperry-Galligar also connects with members through its monthly newsletter with observations of natural history and current events. The current issue discusses the new appointment of Delia Lister as the Commissioner to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks representing the southeast region. This excellent article puts the appointment into context, sharing that traditionally, commission members were men with strong ties to the hunting and fishing community. Delia's addition to the commission means that two women will serve simultaneously for the first time. She also has a strong academic, biological, and educational background. I encourage you to read the full article by following the link below.

Read more about Delia Lister in
the Sperry-Galligar newsletter

Visit Sperry-Galligar's website

AOK shares favorite walks, hikes and birding spots!



Photo and text adapted from these websites:

Learn more about
Schermerhorn Park

Learn more about the park's
geology

Directions: Schermerhorn Park is located about a mile south of Galena, on the east side of Kansas Highway 26.

Address:
3501 S Main St, Galena, KS 66739

Schermerhorn Park and Southeast Kansas Nature Center in Galena, Kansas

This unique area has something a lot to offer. It is part of the 'Ozarks of Kansas' and has many similar geological features including the oldest rocks on the surface in Kansas, as well as caves and sinkholes. Although you cannot venture inside the cave to protect the habitat, a platform lets you view the cave's entrance.

Several rare salamanders call the park home including grotto, dark-sided, cave, and graybelly salamanders. Rare mussel species are found in the adjacent Shoal Creek. When conditions are cool and damp, they forage for food outside the cave.

Cindy Ford from Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society recommends visiting this park in the fall for the autumn colors and in the spring for the spring wildflowers.

Contact AOK!

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