



**Defending wildlife and habitat through:**

**Advocacy**  
**Conservation**  
**Education**

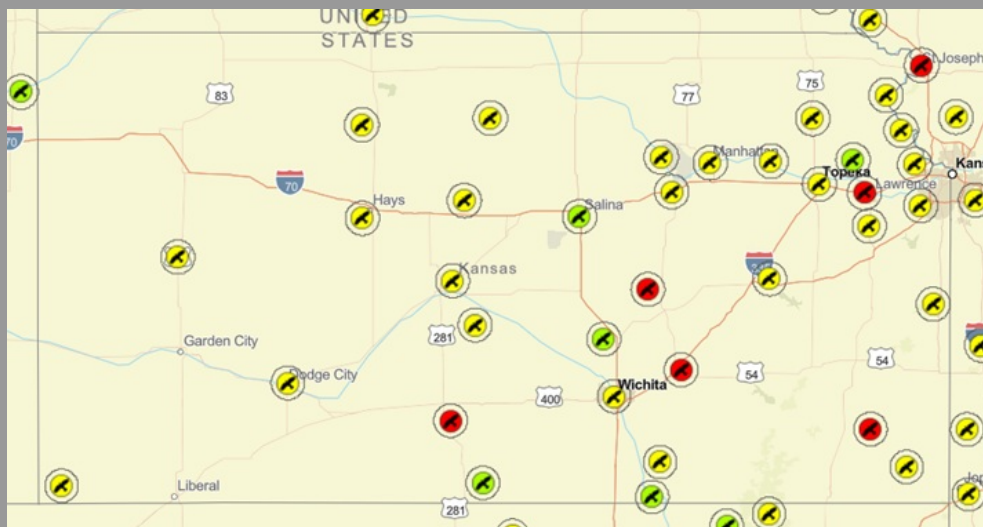
## News & Updates: December 2021

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## Join a Christmas Bird Count near you!



Christmas Bird Counts are a great way to learn more about birds, get to know fellow birders and contribute to science! Birders of all skill levels are encouraged to be bird spotters because even expert birders cannot see birds behind them. This data contributes to information on population trends of birds that winter in the United States, Canada, and around the world. An example of how the data is used is the [recent study](#) which documented a loss of 3 billion individual birds in North American since 1970.

To find more information about Christmas Bird Counts, [click here](#).  
To find a list of Christmas Bird Counts in Kansas, visit the [Kansas Ornithological Society's page](#).

**Join the flock!**

# Remember AOK in your end-of-year giving



1) Join our flock! Become a member and give today! There are multiple membership and giving levels, so choose the best for you. You also have the option to give monthly, annually, or make a one-time gift. [Click here to join](#). If you need assistance, contact [Kelley](#).



2) Give while you are shopping! Link AOK to your Dillons, AmazonSmile, or PayPal accounts, and AOK will get a donation for every purchase that you make. For more information, [click here](#).

## Chapter Spotlight: Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society celebrates 50 years



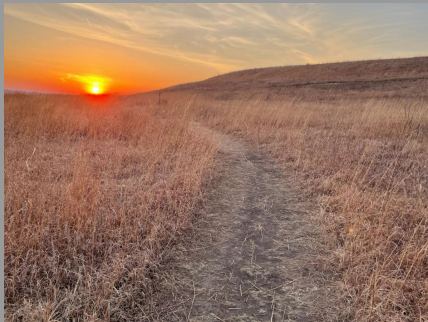
On Sunday, Dec 5, [Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society](#) (NFHAS) celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a bird walk, a talk presented by its first president, Perry Conway, and beautiful and delicious hand-painted cookies created by [MHK Cookie Company](#). Gary Haden, Chair of AOK's Board of Trustees, introduced Perry as they have known each other since college. Perry highlighted how Ron Klataske, AOK's former Executive Director, was influential in helping Perry establish the chapter, NFHAS's conservation projects over the years, and the biology of falcons. Numerous displays

showed historic newsletters, the typewriter that wrote the first NFHAS newsletter, memorabilia from the campaign to Save Cheyenne Bottoms, and much more. More photos from the celebration can be found [here](#).

## Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie nominated for listing in the National Register for Historic Places

On November 13, the Kansas Historical Society considered Mount Mitchell Historic District for listing to the National Register for Historic Places. The Mount Mitchell Prairie Guards submitted the application, and it was endorsed by AOK. The Historic District includes not only AOK's Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie (45 acres of unplowed remnant prairie), but also the Captain William Mitchell homestead, and an additional 100+ acres of restored prairie that connects the aforementioned sites. The entire area contains a Native American archeological site, two memorial monuments, Captain William Mitchell's log house and outbuildings, and trail swales from the Fort Riley road. The committee supported the nomination under criteria A which is 'associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history'. The committee thought it should also be listed under criteria D, 'that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in the prehistory or history' in reference to the Native American artifacts that were found there. Now the listing will be considered on the federal level before the final designation will be made.

## Members of AOK share favorite walks, hikes and birding spots!



Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie is located 4 miles south of Wamego, KS (29377 Mitchell Prairie Lane, Wamego, KS 66547).

### Jackie Augustine suggests:

Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie is one of [AOK's sanctuaries](#). This time of the year, the fall grasses wave in the breeze and numerous migrating sparrows enjoy eating the ripe seeds of summer's wildflowers. The hiking trails hug the slope of Mount Mitchell, and there are several historical monuments to enjoy. The namesake, Captain William Mitchell, was a key figure on the Underground Railroad in Kansas prior to the Civil War. The area is jointly managed with the [Mount Mitchell Prairie Guards](#).

## Contact AOK!

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