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News & Updates: September 2021

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A Visit to Hutton Niobrara Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary



Ron Klataske, AOK's Founder and former Executive Director taking his successor, Jackie Augustine Ph.D. through the Hutton Legacy House. The Hutton's donated their beautiful 5,000-acre ranch and wildlife sanctuary to AOK in 2001. It is located along the Niobrara River near Bassett, NE. It consists of spectacular scenery, including upland prairie, steep canyons, woodlands, and high bluffs that overlook meadows, marshes, and riparian forest along the river, which forms the Sanctuary's northern boundary. Two guesthouse provide opportunities for visitors to experience the diverse wildlife and gorgeous scenery.

[To see more about Hutton](#)



A dragon fly rests on the barbed wire fence that keeps the local cattle out of the Niobrara River. The Niobrara River has been designated as a National Scenic River.



The fencing at Hutton has a non-barbed wire bottom row that allows small mammals such as fox, fawns and others to cross the fence without harm.

Endangered Interior Least Tern & Threatened Piping Plover sighting at Niobrara



Gordon Warrick, Resource Management Specialist for the Niobrara National Scenic River, a part of the National Park Service, conducted his annual survey for federally listed "endangered" Interior Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*) and state and federally listed "threatened" Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*). The birds prefer to nest on sandbars in large rivers that are devoid of vegetation, but high enough to survive spring flooding events. When he visited in July, he found two tern chicks and two plover chicks, although he suspected more tern chicks. He returned in August

and found five tern fledglings and three adults in attendance. He also found three plover chicks only a few days from flight stage, with one female in attendance. Fledglings are young birds that have left the nest and are capable of short flights, but are still being cared for by their parents. Photo provided by Gordon Warrick and the National Park Service.

AOK at Walnut Valley Festival

Audubon of Kansas will have a booth at the Walnut Valley Festival/Winfield/Bluegrass Festival from September 16-19. Kelley Hurst, Director of Philanthropy will be at the booth on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and Jackie Augustine will be there Friday morning, Sept 17. If you are a bluegrass, stop by and see us at the Pavilion, Building 6, next to stage 3.



Our Board shares their favorite walks, hikes and birding spots!



Tom Ewert recommends:

Chisholm Creek Park is located about 29th and Oliver, just off K-96 in NE Wichita. It is one of the largest parks in Wichita and has more than 2 1/2 miles of trails that wind through and around the park. The Great Plains Nature Center is located at Chisholm Creek Park.

[More information about Chisholm Creek Park](#)



Wichita Audubon hosts a bird walk for birders of all skill levels at Chisholm Creek Park in Wichita on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Meet in the Great Plains parking lot by 8am for a 1.5 - 2 hour walk, depending on how many birds are sighted or how hot, windy or cold it is. The route is about 1.8 miles. The trail is all on cement, pavement or boardwalk and is wheelchair accessible.

Support AOK while you shop!



When you shop at these companies, you can designate AOK to receive a portion of your purchase dollars. We hope you will take a few moments and register. If you would like any additional help, please contact [Kelley](#).

Dillons:

Go to www.dillons.com

Sign in to your account (or create one if you don't already have one - you will want to connect the account to your Dillons card). Then, choose account (top right of page), then in the left vertical menu choose Community Rewards. Search for Audubon of Kansas, and select it as your recipient. That's it! Every time you shop at Dillons, AOK gets a donation.

Amazon:

Instead of going to Amazon.com when you shop, consider using smile.amazon.com. Some sellers agree to allow a portion of your spending (through Amazon) to go to a non-profit. From smile.amazon.com, choose the "All" button at the top left (just under the Amazon logo).

Then, select "Your AmazonSmile" (toward the bottom - in the Help & Settings section). Next, search for Audubon of Kansas, and hit "Select" when it comes up. That is all there is to it!

PayPal:

Sign in to your account (or create one if you don't already have one) or [click here](#) to go directly to the AOK page. If signing in, select the "More" button with three dots in it located beneath the Log out button, next select "Donate to a cause". Search "Audubon of Kansas" (you can leave the other fields blank) and click "Favorite Charity" to give \$1 for every purchase or donate directly from PayPal to have them cover all our fees.

Even though these are individually small donations, they add up to regular income throughout the year for AOK. Thank you!

Please contact us!

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