

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings!

As I write this we are in a season of change. Fall has initiated its glorious color spectrum in tree leaves. My garden is transforming from fruits - tomatoes, eggplant, sweet peppers and melons - to leafy greens - green and maroon chard, purple Chinese cabbage, kale and ruby-tinged lettuce. My mules are slowly putting on their fuzzy coats. And by the time you read this, the nation will have elected a new President.

This issue of *Prairie Wings* also represents a change. This is the first issue of *Prairie Wings* published by Audubon of Kansas Trustees. Board Trustees Dick Seaton, Joyce Wolf, Elizabeth Schultz, Bill Browning and his wife Jennifer, led by Michael Donnelly crafted this issue from the solid foundation of past work Audubon of Kansas Executive Director Ron Klataske has created. New features include a tear-out children's section and increased variety of contents including poetry and nature essays. I appreciate the effort this group has put forth and the challenges they faced in delivering this edition.

The Board of Audubon of Kansas is composed of respected individuals with tremendous talents, extending well beyond visual and auditory identification of birds in fields and woods. We will welcome one of these members as our new Board Chair at our next meeting. New members of the Board of Trustees John Head, Mike Corn, and Lucia Johnson have added their talents to our leadership cadre. I have appreciated the experience of serving as Chair of this group for the past 3 years and look forward to new leadership for the organization. The past year has seen important new initiatives for Audubon of Kansas. Ron Klataske as Executive Director and Monica Goss as our recently added Development Director continue their outstanding devotion of time and effort to the cause of conservation in Kansas and the heartland. A committee headed by Joyce Wolf conceived and ran our first major conference, the Silent Spring Conference on nicotinoid threats to birds and other pollinators, as well as updates on other conservation activities in Kansas. A series of gatherings for eager birders-to-be and experienced birders, the weekend Birds and Breakfast outings, have been started in Lawrence and Shawnee Mission. With our expanded scope and new initiatives have come new financial challenges, which we hope our heightened profile in Kansas conservation will help to answer.

We welcome your feedback, along with your support of Audubon of Kansas' mission to promote appreciation and stewardship of birds, wildlife, prairies and other habitats in Kansas and the heartland.

-Lisa Stickler, Chair of AOK

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"It's a big world out there!"

When a farmer informed AOK honorary trustee Glenn Chambers of a coyote den and its sheep-killing attendant, Glenn sprang into action. After probing the swale side lair to establish its dimensions, he dug a man-sized hole just beyond its upper reaches. After climbing in, he scraped a camera lens-shaped opening from his position into the den and snapped away. By the next morning, the five one-third grown pups had all been moved to a neighboring farm.