

Introducing McKay Stangler



In early 2020, Audubon of Kansas welcomed a new Director of Philanthropy. McKay Stangler, who is based in Johnson County, spent the last two years on the fundraising team of Donnelly College, where he served as the lead field officer for a successful \$34 million capital campaign. Prior to that, Stangler was a professor of humanities at Berry College and Donnelly College. He brings several years of fundraising experience and, even more importantly, a passion for wildlife and ecosystem conservation.

“As a transplant to Kansas, I just fell in love with the scenery and natural abundance of the Great Plains,”

Stangler said. “There’s so very much to love, ranging from the hilly ecotone of eastern Kansas to the sandhills of Nebraska to the stunning, almost ethereal beauty of the Flint Hills.”

Formerly a board member of the Jayhawk Audubon Society, Stangler has spent his early AOK days contacting existing donors, shoring up the group’s online presence, and making it easier to donate as a monthly supporter. He has also worked closely with AOK staff to develop strategy and execution for new fundraising appeals, and has worked on mapping out a giving strategy for the next two years under a new executive director.

“Certainly the loss of Ron Klataske is a big one,” Stangler said. “Ron’s name is synonymous with conservation in this area. But Jackie Augustine coming aboard in 2021 is a huge opportunity for AOK. It’s an exciting time for the group.”

For any fundraising questions, ideas, or if you just want to talk about birds, write to Stangler at mckay@audubonofkansas.org.