



# AUDUBON OF KANSAS 2025 IMPACT REPORT

# Advocacy



Kansans for Conservation Day at the Capitol

Our advocacy network is strong and growing. We partner with conservation-minded organizations, like Kansans for Conservation, to amplify our impact and engage with legislators to ensure that wildlife needs are being heard.

## This work is grounded in science.

AOK also assists with monitoring the population size of endangered species like the Black-footed Ferret and Lesser Prairie-Chicken. In 2025, our surveys found that Black-footed ferrets are not only surviving in Kansas, but reproducing. As a result the US Fish and Wildlife Service released 26 Black-footed Ferrets at the survey site in November. This on-the-ground knowledge guides management decisions and makes us better advocates.



Sign-up for the Environmental Advocacy Network

## Our network is strong and growing.



*AOK Executive Director, Dr. Jackie Augustine testifying in Crawford County about alternative energy effects on wildlife.*

2025  
ADVOCACY  
HIGHLIGHTS

3  
public comments  
submitted

2  
days at the Capitol

1  
op-ed published

3  
testimonies

# Conservation

In 2025, the Howell and Carmen Johnson Wildlife Preserve near Auburn, KS joined our Legacy Protected Areas program. The property offers beautiful views of grasslands, ponds, and old-growth riparian areas that are teeming with birds and wildlife, and will be managed for wildlife conservation purposes.



Johnson Wildlife Preserve



Creek at Far West Wildlife-Friendly Farm

AOK also welcomed Far West Wildlife-Friendly Farm as a Protected Area. This property, located on the western edge of the Flint Hills in Morris County, boasts towering bur oaks, historic buffalo wallows and rich wildlife habitat. Visitors may spot beavers, white-tailed deer, turkeys, quail, barred owls, wood ducks and many other birds.

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***We are thankful for the incredible generosity***

shown by Gary and Carolyn Haden and Howell and Carmen Johnson.

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***Picnic table at Kendalls Bur Oak Grove made from wood harvested from a natural wind fall on the***

property by Gary Haden and AOK Protected Areas Manager, Samuel Richards

**2025**  
CONSERVATION  
HIGHLIGHTS



***In 2025, AOK formalized a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mount Mitchell Prairie Guards to jointly steward Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie Park.***

AOK provides conservation expertise and monitoring, while the Prairie Guards lead on-the-ground management—together protecting a rare tallgrass prairie with deep historical significance.

nature hikes  
and tours

volunteer  
workdays

feet of new trail  
at Achterberg

acres added to  
AOK Protected  
Areas

breeding bird  
surveys conducted

# Education



Photos from left to right:

Musician Annie Wilson and AOK mascot Boomer at the Kansas Lek Treks Prairie-Chicken Festival Opening Reception

Harold & Lucille Hutton Museum featuring artwork and artifacts from the area at the Hutton Niobrara Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary Open House

AOK Protected Areas Manager, Samuel Richards, leads nature walk during Big Kansas Road Trip in Halstead, KS

Shawnee and Douglas counties joined 25 other counties to provide Nature Adventurepacks to curious kids and kids-at-heart via their public libraries.

**More than 50 of these kits are now available to checkout across the state!**

**Our festivals are growing, too. Our two major birding festivals reached record numbers in 2025.**



Celebration of Cranes attendees at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge



Whooping Cranes spotted at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

Visitors flocked to Hays, Kansas, for the 4th Annual Kansas Lek Treks Prairie-Chicken Festival, which drew a record 149 registrants from across the US and as far away as Denmark. Participants witnessed the unique mating rituals of Greater and Lesser Prairie-Chickens, explored globally important wetlands, and enjoyed evening programs at the Sternberg Museum of Natural History.

The 7th Annual Celebration of Cranes welcomed 123 registrants—its biggest year yet. Many attendees were first-time visitors to Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, where 37 endangered Whooping Cranes were spotted, making it an unforgettable experience.

**Thank you to all our sponsors and partners who made these experiences possible, including:**

Susan Reimer  
Lynda L Brothers  
Royce Guhr  
Sterling Chamber | Main Street  
Rice County Kansas

Ad Astra Radio  
Sterling College  
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks  
Kansas Wetlands Education Center  
Sternberg Museum of Natural History

**2025  
EDUCATION  
HIGHLIGHTS**

events

**2,105**  
attendees

tabling events

presentations

**3,630**  
newsletter  
readers

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# Mission Statement

We are dedicated to promoting the appreciation, understanding, protection, and restoration of the state's natural ecosystems, with a focus on birds, wildlife, and their habitats. Our mission extends beyond conservation—we strive to foster a culture of environmental stewardship and sustainability throughout the central Great Plains, ensuring a thriving natural world for both people and biodiversity.

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## Staff

**Jackie Augustine**, Ph.D., Executive Director

**Kathryn Chambers**, Director of Philanthropy

**Amy Meyer**, Hutton Niobrara Ranch Manager

**Samuel Richards**, Kansas Protected Areas Manager

**Brittney Squire**, Events & Communications Manager

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***2025 marked an exciting milestone as  
AOK welcomed two brand-new positions to our team.***

With our new Kansas Protected Areas Manager and Events and Communications Manager on board, we're taking our work to the next level.

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## Board of Trustees

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