

A Note from the Editor

Michael L. Donnelly

When they think of Kansas, most people probably do not think of wetlands—either small potholes that are there one season or one year, gone the next, or, even less likely, great marshes with expanses of open water surrounded by sedges and cattails. But Kansas has important examples of both: big marshes of international significance for migratory birds, and ephemeral playas that also provide seasonal habitat for wildlife, and equally important, replenish the aquifers that are crucial to sustainable life in the Great Plains. This issue of *Prairie Wings* devotes seven articles to acquainting our readers with Kansas wetlands, their importance, and their fragility and threatened status. Our other articles explore the how-to's of bird photography for beginners, the Audubon of Kansas Sanctuary Committee's latest initiatives, and AOK activism in the service of conservation, and the recognition it has received. We hope that you will find the articles and the photos equally engaging, and that you will be inspired to learn more, and become more involved with Kansas's rich environmental legacy.

Prairie Wings is a publication of Audubon of Kansas, Inc. — the only widely distributed magazine devoted specifically to statewide conservation and wildlife advocacy initiatives. It is made possible by your generous support and contributions. We encourage you to share this publication with friends, family, and other organizations. Please feel free to leave copies in reception areas, hospitals and other business locations to help spread awareness about critical wildlife issues.

Support AOK and *Prairie Wings* today! Please consider becoming a sustaining member by signing up for monthly giving at audubonofkansas.org. This is convenient and secure for you, and helps us to stabilize our operations all year long. By giving a gift membership and/or contributing to the vital work of Audubon of Kansas, you can help promote the appreciation and proper stewardship of our natural world.

Ensure the future of AOK and *Prairie Wings*! Legacy Gifts ensure the future success of AOK and the continuation of important initiatives such as *Prairie Wings*. AOK gratefully accepts gifts in the form of stocks, bonds, charitable gift annuities, trusts, and bequests, as well as assets to be sold such as gifts of land, real estate, and vehicles. Gifts of land to be preserved as wildlife sanctuaries require an adequate endowment to fund future operations and taxes; property must meet requirements stated in AOK's property acceptance policy. See the AOK brochure, *Your Land, Your Legacy*, copies of which can be obtained from the AOK office on request.

To learn more about AOK or ways to support our mission, please contact (785) 537-4385 or aok@audubonofkansas.org. Audubon of Kansas, Inc. is an independent 501(c)(3) organization that is neither administered nor funded by the National Audubon Society. Contributions are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowable by the IRS. Contributions can be sent to the state office: 210 Southwind Place, Manhattan, KS 66503.