

Kansas Ornithological Society



Nancy Leo, President
4505 W 66th St.
Prairie Village, KS 66208
Phone: Phone: 913-432-0414 (H); 913-205-8847 (cell)
E-Mail: njleo@earthlink.net

6 July 2009

Mike Hayden, Secretary
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
1020 Sth Kansas, RM 200
Topeka, KS 66612-1327

Edwin J. Miller
T & E Program Coordinator
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
5089 CR 2925
Independence, KS 67301

Dear Secretary Hayden and Mr. Miller:

Every five years Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) is responsible for reviewing the listing of rare species of fauna as Endangered, Threatened, or Species-in-Need-of-Conservation as required by Kansas statute (K.S.A. 32-960). A Threatened and Endangered Species Task Committee (Committee) oversees the process and makes listing recommendations to the Secretary of KDWP. The recommended changes must then be approved by the KDWP Commission. In 2008, the Committee solicited input from other entities regarding listing, delisting, uplisting, or downlisting of Kansas wildlife as part of the review process. The Lesser Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*), hereafter LPC, was not petitioned for listing. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) completed a review of the LPC in November 2008 to reassess its candidate status. The USFWS review was completed after solicitation and review of petitions received by KDWP. Moreover, recent published data underscores the vulnerability of the species rangewide.

As such, new data on potential threats to existing populations of LPCs in Kansas necessitates the enclosed emergency petition, pursuant to the authority under K.S.A. 32-960, for the Secretary of KDWP to consider the LPC as a "threatened" species in Kansas. Therefore, the Kansas Ornithological Society as lead petitioner, and Kansas Birds Records Committee, Wichita Audubon Society, Jayhawk Audubon Society, Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society, Burroughs Audubon Society, Topeka Audubon Society, and Smoky Hills Audubon Society, collectively as co-petitioners, request your review and action on the attached emergency petition that we believe warrants emergency State listing of the LPC as "threatened" in Kansas.

On behalf of the petitioners, the point of contact's for all technical aspects related to this petition include:

Mark B. Robbins
Ornithology Division
University of Kansas Natural History Museum & Biodiversity Institute
1345 Jayhawk Boulevard, Lawrence, KS 66045.
Phone: 785-864-3657. E-mail: mrobbins@ku.edu;

and

Eugene Young
Editor, Kansas Ornithological Society Bulletin
Northern Oklahoma College
1220 E. Grand, PO Box 310
Tonkawa, OK 74653-0310
Office Phone: 580-628-6482; Cell Phone: 620-441-8056. FAX: 580-628-6209. E-mail: Eugene.Young@north-ok.edu;

while general correspondence can be directed to the lead petitioner, the Kansas Ornithological Society.

We look forward to any inquiries you have in regards to this action and are willing to answer any questions regarding the listing of the LPC. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Respectfully Submitted;

Nancy J. Leo, President
Kansas Ornithological Society

Co-Petitioners:

Max C. Thompson, Chair
Kansas Birds Records Committee
1729 E 11th St.
Winfield, KS 67156
Phone: 620-221-1856, E-mail: maxt@cox.net

Kevin Groeneweg, President
Wichita Audubon Society
PO Box 47607
Wichita, KS 67201
Phone: 316-687-4268
E-mail: kgroeneweg@sbcglobal.net

Patricia Yeager, President
Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society
5614 Bayers Hill
Manhattan, KS 66502
Phone: 785-776-9593, E-mail: pyky@flinthills.com

John A. Zempel, President
Topeka Audubon Society
15104 94t Rd.
Topeka, KS 66618
E-mail: vjhazz@yahoo.com

Chuck Herman, President
Jayhawk Audubon Society
20761 Loring Rd.
Linwood, KS 66052
Phone: 913-301-3921,
E-mail: hermansnuthouse@earthlink.net

Elizabeth Stoakes, President
Burroughs Audubon Society
7300 SW West Park Rd
Blue Springs, MO 64015
E-mail: lizkvet@yahoo.com

Michael Roy, President
Smoky Hills Audubon Society
PO Box 2936
Salina, KS 67402-2936
Phone: 785-493-2454, E-mail: roynd68@hotmail.com