



Hoogy had a way of making people feel welcome and comfortable. He took interest in people so sincerely that they welcomed his leadership and were proud to call him a friend.

Hoogy was the new president of the Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society when I met him. He had recently moved to the area and stepped up to the job that he kept for seven years.

I was fortunate to have him in my group when we learned to bird band and he certainly contributed to the fun in that adventure.

Ever ambitious, he took on the management of the bluebird trail at Stagg Hill golf course for years and was a leader in many Christmas bird counts until he was unable to because of his health. Northern Flint Hills Audubon owes a big thank you to Hoogy for all he contributed to our organization. Even so, mostly, we'll miss him.

~ Patricia Yeager

Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society,  
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# prairie falcon

Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society Newsletter

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## Upcoming Events

Mar 7 - Board Meeting 6 p.m.  
Home of Tom & MJ Morgan

Mar 13 - Sat. morning birding -  
Meet at Sojourner Truth Park at 8 a.m.

Mar 17-20 Audubon's Nebraska  
Crane Festival, Kearney, Neb  
<https://nebraskacrane festival.org/field-trips/>

Apr 9 - Audubon of Kansas Conference  
Lawrence Holiday Inn  
<http://www.audubonofkansas.org/about/silent-spring-conference-2016/>

# Hoogy



## Some Thoughts about Hoogy ~ Kevin Fay

Everyone involved with the NFHAS knows of the contributions of Hoogy to the chapter. We are all sad to hear of his death. I think we all feel enriched to have known him. I have known Hoogy since shortly after he came to town. I was not active in the chapter when Hoogy was president and making things happen. Since I rejoined the chapter about seven years ago I served on the board with Hoogy. I participated in the CBC in Hoogy's territory and we would sit together at the compilation dinner.

For the past five I assisted Hoogy with an Eastern Bluebird trail at the Stagg Hill Golf Course. This is a trail comprising about thirty houses that Hoogy had overseen since taking over from Chris Silva. A few of the houses were in rough shape and Hoogy wanted

new ones so I built a few and we installed them. After that I helped him to monitor the trail. From March to September we went out early Sunday morning to check the progress of the birds and clean out wasp nests and do other maintenance to keep the trail in good shape. We kept records but were relaxed about it. It was for fun. It has been exciting to see nest building progress and lovely blue eggs appear. Then the eggs would hatch and it what seemed a short time the birds would fledge and the cycle would start anew. About three fourths of the houses were occupied. The nests had three to six eggs and generally three broods were raised each summer. It has been very gratifying to see the bluebirds throughout the summer and then to see them at the golf course on the CBC.

I have good memories of Hoogy from this time I spent with him. He told me about growing up in Illinois and his career as a school counselor in Boston. One of his stories that stands out is about being attacked in the woods in Massachusetts by a Red-shouldered Hawk. Hoogy and Carol had me over to their home in Ogden many times for dinner and to watch Royals baseball or Wildcat football and talk about birds.

These are just a few of my thought about Hoogy. I'm glad I knew him and I will miss him

*photos by  
Kevin Fay*





# Hoogy



## A Memory of Hoogy ~ Tom and MJ Morgan

It was December 12, 2007, a Thursday and the day of the Great Manhattan Ice Storm. The next day we were supposed to go on the Ogden Christmas Bird Count led by Hoogy. When the ice hit, we lost power and did not have it again for six days. We were living up by the Manhattan Zoo, an area filled with immense red oak trees, many over 100 years old.

Their branches fell with a sound like an actual explosion, hitting parked vehicles, houses, and sheds. Ours was one of the worst-hit areas in town. A state of emergency was declared and people were asked not to leave their homes.

We did not even think about trying for the Ogden Bird Count-- it flew completely out of our minds! All we were focused on was staying warm and making sure we kept our home and vehicles intact. It was 10 degrees out the next day, and the entire neighborhood sat silent and broken under ice. In the afternoon we ventured outside to take inventory. The only vehicles moving on the streets were emergency services and police.

As we stood stunned in our yard, trying to take in the damage, we saw a land rover slowly approaching over the hill. Hoogy and Carol were in it, with Hoogy at the wheel. He rolled down the window. "We didn't hear from you," he called out.

They had actually driven to our home from Ogden, as they could not reach us by phone, and they had heard of the devastation in the zoo area. I do not know to this day what happened with the 2007 Ogden Bird Count, but Hoogy's People Count will always be with us.



*Working the Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society's booth at annual Garden Show.*



*At Richardson's Post banding station on Ft. Riley, taken in June 2004. He loved to come out and help us band birds, and we had some great times together ~ Dave Rintoul*



# Hoogy



*Docent training*

Hoogy's interest in the Konza Environmental Education Program came early in its development. At a time when I was struggling to get the program on its feet, he came with good and deep questions that required thought. His background with youth was ideal for helping me to understand some basic questions. He and Carol became long-term volunteers and great docents. Hoogy was one of the most knowledgeable leaders of our prairie chicken tours, which he volunteered for until just recently. He passed so much of his knowledge on to others. He was a wonderful guy!

~ Valerie Wright, Retired Konza Prairie Education Director

*Hoogy with Chod Hedinger*



*Hoogy leading a bison tour on the Konza*

*Photo from Jackie Augustine*



*Hoogy with Clyde Ferguson and Carol*



# Hoogy



**Irwin "Hoogy" Hoogheem and Carol pose for a photo on a field trip. Hoogy is the Chapter-selected AOK Trustee representing the Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society.**



I remember the day, long ago when he came into the West Central Regional Office of the National Audubon Society in the next building to the north of our existing office here in Manhattan. He had just retired from the public school system in Massachusetts. Carol and Hoogy

elected to retire to Kansas, in part to be close to their son who was a helicopter pilot stationed at Fort Riley. Hoogy soon had an appreciation of Kansas that is unmatched by most Kansas. They enjoyed traveling the country roads, viewing birds and other wildlife, and stopping in small town restaurants for lunch. That gave them an added opportunity to meet people and make friends. As an ambassador for bird appreciation and birding in Kansas, there has never been a better team. I think he participated in almost every Manhattan area Christmas Bird Count

(CBC) and compilation dinner since arriving in Kansas, and participated in others.

Hoogy was an early riser, and one of his faithful springtime observances was to lead folks to the viewing blinds at Konza Prairie to watch the courtship rituals of Greater Prairie-chickens. Hoogy and Carol were both docents, leading Prairie-chicken and Bison Loop tours.

Hoogy helped organize and lead field trips at Kansas Birding Festivals from the first at Great Bend through all of them there and at Wakefield. He represented Audubon of Kansas (AOK) and the Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society (NFHAS) at the festivals and other events. He was a member of the Board of Trustees for Audubon of Kansas since it was transformed from the Kansas Audubon Council in 1999, and long a board member for the NFHAS.

Hoogy and Carol transformed the initial plain backyard on the edge of Odgen into a welcoming place for most of the passerine birds in that area, with hummingbirds and bluebirds among the many that flocked to the diverse feeders and water.

~Ron Klataske, Executive Director, Audubon of Kansas

We are all sad! Hoogy and his wonderful wife, Carol, were indeed a dynamic birding duo. Konza, Audubon and the many environmental organizations he lent his expertise to will miss him. He's proof that one person can make a huge difference!

~Ann Feyerharm, Manhattan

Hoogy made great chili. As coordinator for the Christmas Bird Count supper, I could always count on a big pot of chili from Hoogy. I mean "BIG". Over the years, while out counting birds, Hoogy & Carol would stop by my house to leave the chili. The first time this happened, I was amazed at the size of the large steel stock pot pulled out of the trunk. I was expecting a crockpot size container. In retrospect, it should not have surprised me. The Hoogheem's are generous people and they would always bring more than their share to any event, be it food or time or knowledge. Anyway, no one would go away hungry from the CBC potluck, while Hoogy was involved. If the bird counters were really lucky, Carol would also provide cookies or cake.

~Carla Bishop





## Skylight plus

Pete Cohen

Last month I noted that the potential, and ongoing, process of human activity warming the climate has been noted from about 200 years ago, some time on the happy note that such was preventing the beginning of a new ice age, but by 1917 Alexander Graham Bell was warning against the unregulated burning of fossil fuels.

So where are we now? A special section of *The Economist*, November 18, 2015, reported estimates of The International Energy Agency, a think tank currently made up of 29 member countries who have demonstrated certain energy capabilities and energy-wise procedures. The IEA estimated that in 2013 renewable sources provided 13.5% of the world's energy, but nearly 3/4ths of that came from, in quotes, "biofuels", which included the wood, dung, and charcoal burnt in poor countries. Hydro-power's share was next but falling due to its harm to river ecosystems. Nuclear, non-renewable but clean, provided 5%, while "wind turbines, solar farms, tidal barriers, geothermal stations and the like produced just 1.3% between them".

Those estimates, even if updated, would still leave most of our energy coming from the sources that contribute to the emissions regarded as enhancing the warming way too much. And one difficulty with bringing renewables up to the needed modern capacity is that fossil fuels are so densely packed with solar energy collected over millions of years, and are cheaper on the market. (Cheaper according to what costs are being measured.)

Attitudes matter, too. In a recent op-ed, Wyoming's governor stated that Wyoming's coal was generating a third of the nation's electricity and referred to a Wyoming Energy Strategy to keep that product in the market. The U.S. Energy Information Administration, in an internet item, showed that California currently

produces three times the solar energy than neighboring and sunny Arizona and Nevada combined (and a fourth of total U.S. production). Some say it's because California has managed to embrace net-metering as an incentive; whether that's the case or not, some force beyond geography would seem to be at work.

But do what you will, to make renewables equal to modern needs, one salient requirement exists and remains unfulfilled. It was expressed again in the article of last November. It is that the 'holy grail' (the favorite phrase) of the energy situation remains the finding of a feasible way to store electricity renewably produced in the amount required.

And *The Economist's* report argued that paying (by subsidy) for more wind turbines and solar panels is "less wise than paying for research into the technologies that will replace them".

I wonder why they didn't say "augment" as well as "replace". And I wonder where is written the guarantee that such research is bound to succeed. Meanwhile, as the report noted, there are other things being done. For later.

And meanwhile, during March, Jupiter will continue to be the unmistakably bright spot traveling the sky all night, at its brightest for the year on the 8th (willy-nilly signaling the start of Daylight Savings Time). Saturn will be journeying, too--in the constellation Ophiuchus, the Snake-Bearer, a large bullet-shaped loop of stars tilting a little leftward above the more visible Scorpius; yellowish Saturn will be to the right of the Moon early on the 2nd, forming a triangle with reddish Antares in the wee hours of the 12th and 13th, and also with the Moon and reddish Mars in the pre-dawn of the 29th.

The constellation Leo will lead the evening parades, with its bright star Regulus close to the Moon the 3rd. Virgo will follow with its bright star Spica close to the Moon the 8th. The Moon will have a brief duet with Venus low in the west at nightfall the 22nd before having a penumbral eclipse early on the 23rd that will be more noticeable to the west of us.

Spring arrives at 5p45 CDT the 20th, when the Moon will be new at 4a36, having been full at 12p05 the 5th.

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## Signals/Statements

Dru Clarke



The colors of a morning sky – blood orange and steely grey – and textured like gauzy clouds, my new scarf is lovely. Held aloft, its impressive area of 3' by 6' shows a theme of creatures who drift across it: owls and woodpeckers and a heron, a small songbird, a butterfly, all done in shadowy and blurred lines.

Its message is one of grace and beauty, framing a piece of nature.

People throughout time have worn scarves for a variety of purposes, aesthetic and practical, even emblematic of rank or political persuasion. Sometimes a scarf can be lethal, as the one responsible for Isadora Duncan's tragic death: the famous avant garde dancer's neck was broken when her long and flowing accessory was tangled in the spokes of the car in which she was riding; she had ignored her friend's advice not to wear it.

Where did the wearing of neck accessories originate? I speculate it may have been an imitation of our animal kin who have furry, feathery or other facial enhancements that make them appear larger and more dominant, more gorgeous, or more menacing. Think of the ruff of the wolf and other carnivores: it is thicker and paler than the crown and neck fur, and is, thus quite eye-catching. Our native grouse, the jaunty male prairie chicken, sports a bouffant pouf of neck feathers and erectile crown feathers that, in addition to his bright orange throat sacs, make him impossible to ignore. (So much so that a less obvious male may sneak in and breed with a female while he is so preoccupied with his own grandeur!) Even the male collared lizard, so named for the two black bands separated by a lighter area on the neck, can inflate his throat and scare the bejeezus out of anyone or anything not prepared for this display.

A mane – the arrangement of hair or fur from the head down the spine – can serve as display as well. Lion-tailed macaques, South American sea lions, striped hyenas, wildebeest, warthogs, zebra, and horses all possess manes. Newborn cheetah cubs have erect manes which they lose as they mature. Our stallions, when they run, toss their heads and stream out their manes, making them look awesome. And our Highland

cattle have forelocks (called dossans), impressive thickets of hair that grow between the horns and often obscure their eyes, although we know they can see perfectly well.

Salome had her scarves to dance with, and Eleanor of Aquitaine her 'gossamer cascade'; Roman soldiers, their *focales* to prevent chafing, and *sudaria* to soak up sweat. The cravat (Fr.), from Croat, the Croatian officers' scarves, denoted rank. Religious statements: the hijab, familiar on Muslim women; the tickel and tallit, worn by Jewish men and women. Political signals: the Young Pioneers' thin, red scarves; the black sashes of South African women advancing voters' rights.

And two, side by side, painted on the red brick squares of the Plaza de Mayo of Buenos Aires, denoting the opposite sides of a brutal and prolonged civil struggle. One, a white kerchief encircling a featureless face of blue, symbolizing the Grandmothers who still seek the children of "The Disappeared" who were purged during the "Dirty War", and the other, a faceless black one, reminding us of the victims killed by the militant revolutionaries. Scarves whose meanings shout: "Look at me!" "Think!" "Remember!" Not unlike the ruffs and manes and throats of our animal kin, our scarves are statements about ourselves. And what we seek to emulate.



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