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KANSAS

Wildlife & Parks Magazine



2022 Photo Issue
The Next Generation: Young Wildlife





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KANSAS
Wildlife & Parks Magazine



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FRONT COVER A black-tailed prairie dog pup grasps its mother. Danny Brown photo.

INSIDE COVER King rail chicks follow their mother. David Seibel photo.

Editorial Creed: To promote the conservation and wise use of our natural resources, to instill an understanding of our responsibilities to the land.

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2022 Photo Issue: Behind the Theme

If you recall, last year's 2021 photo issue brought you "Wild Attractions." As you flip through this issue, you will notice the result of those attractions – young wildlife.

While some species rear only one offspring, others have litters to better ensure their species' survival. Some species stay near their offspring until they mature, while others take a more "hands-off" approach.

No matter the species, it's important to remember to leave all wildlife wild. When a young animal is taken away from its natural habitat, its chances of survival diminish greatly, with most perishing shortly after capture. For the animals that do survive being "rescued," their lack of learned survival skills – that can only come from a life in the wild – means they can likely never again return to their intended home.

Before we present each image, a special "thank you" goes out to our photographers who put the time, effort and expertise into

capturing and editing these wonderful shots. We challenged them with a tough theme to capture this year, and I am thoroughly impressed with what they have delivered. Thank you!

Be sure to check out the back of this magazine, which includes our 2021 Wild About Kansas photo contest winners. These photographs, chosen out of 502 entries, were judged on sharpness, lighting, subject matter, composition, and creativity. This year, we wrap up the ninth Wild About Kansas photography contest, and the photographs continue to impress year after year. Stay on the lookout for more information regarding our 10th anniversary contest; it'll be sure to not disappoint!

And now I present to you, Kansas' Young Wildlife.

Jessica Ward, managing editor

American Bison

American bison calves are born with an orange-red coat. Their hair changes to dark brown after a few months.

Judd Patterson



Red-winged Blackbird

Like most birds, red-winged blackbirds hatch without plumage.

Judd Patterson





American Robin

Young American robins are fed by both parents. Their diet consists mainly of insects and earthworms. **Danny Brown**

American Coot

Young American coots are adept swimmers soon after hatching.
Bob Gress





Least Tern

Least terns will leave their nest a few days after hatching and find a place nearby to hide. They will remain with their parents for another 2-3 months.

Bob Gress



Red Fox

Red foxes can have litters of 4-9 pups, which are typically born in late winter to early spring. **Danny Brown**





Bobcat

When bobcat kittens are just over a month old, they will emerge from their den. They will stay with their mother, play with littermates, and learn how to hunt until they disperse at about eight months old.

Left: Gail Huddle, Below: David Seibel



Opossum



Opossums are born the size of a housefly, and attach to one of their mother's 13 nipples in her fur-lined pouch for two months. Then, they will leave the pouch and ride on their mother's back. **Bob Gress**

Muskrat



Baby muskrats, called kits, are able to swim, dive and feed by themselves at just 30 days old. **Bob Gress**

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Blue-gray gnatcatchers decorate the outside of their nests with lichen to guarantee their chicks remain hidden. **David Seibel**





Pied-billed Grebe

Pied-billed grebes build their nests in shallow marshes so the birds can approach the nest underwater. Young chicks often ride on their parents' backs, even underwater! **Bob Gress**

Common Grackle

Both parents will feed common grackle nestlings. Young common grackles leave the nest about 16 to 20 days after hatching. **Gail Huddle**





Groundhog

Young groundhogs are called kits, pups, or even chucklings!
Groundhog families stay together until dispersing in the fall.

Danny Brown





Fox Squirrel

Fox squirrels construct nests of leaves in trees to rear their young.

Danny Brown

Gray Fox

Gray fox pups are typically born in April or May. They venture out of their den around 4 weeks old, and at 10 weeks, they are usually weaned. The pups will stick around until late fall, but become solitary during the winter. **Judd Patterson**

Eastern Screech Owl

Young Eastern screech owls leave the nest about four weeks after hatching. **David Seibel**





Burrowing Owl

Burrowing owls can lay anywhere from three to 12 eggs. Young owls will leave the nest about six weeks after hatching.

Judd Patterson



Mourning Dove

Both parents feed their young. Mourning doves leave their nest after 15 days, but usually stay near to be fed for another week or two. **Gail Huddle**



Wood Duck

Wood ducklings remain in the nest until the morning after hatching. They are tended to by their mothers for five to six weeks and are capable of flight at round eight to nine weeks. **Danny Brown**



Canada Goose





Canada goslings change plumage colors as they grow. Younger goslings are bright yellow with brown backs, before turning completely brown. As the goslings mature, they will begin to sport their iconic black neck and head.

Top: David Butel

Left: David Seibel

White-tailed Deer

White-tailed does leave their fawns alone much of the time, but stay within hearing range, so as to not alert predators of their location.

Tony Pinalto





Raccoon

Raccoon sows typically birth litters of three to seven kits in the spring.

Gail Huddle

17-Year Cicada

The 17-year cicada remains in the nymph stage for 17 years. During that time, they develop underground and mature slowly before emerging en masse. **David Butel**



Tussock Moth Caterpillar

Tussock moth caterpillars are known for their striking yellow, black and white prickly hairs. Their looks don't last long, however; adult moths usually have muted colors. **David Butel**



Dog-day Cicada

Dog-day cicada nymphs burrow into the soil and molt through several growth stages. Fully developed nymphs burrow out of the ground and climb onto tree trunks or other objects. Adult cicadas emerge from the light brown cast skin as part of the last nymph stage. **Gail Huddle**







Eastern Red Bat

While some Eastern red bats live alone, others live in family groups consisting of a mother and the young. **Bob Gress**

Killdeer

Killdeer chicks hatch with their eyes open, and will come out running - literally! As soon as their fluffy, downy feathers dry, they start scurrying about and looking for something to eat. **Danny Brown**



Mallard Duck

Mallard ducklings typically stay with their mothers for up to two months prior to flying away. **Michael Irwin**

Eastern Cottontail

Eastern cottontail rabbits are an altricial species, meaning their young are underdeveloped at the time of birth, but mature with the aid of their mother. They stay with their mother until they are about eight weeks old. **Danny Brown**





River Otter

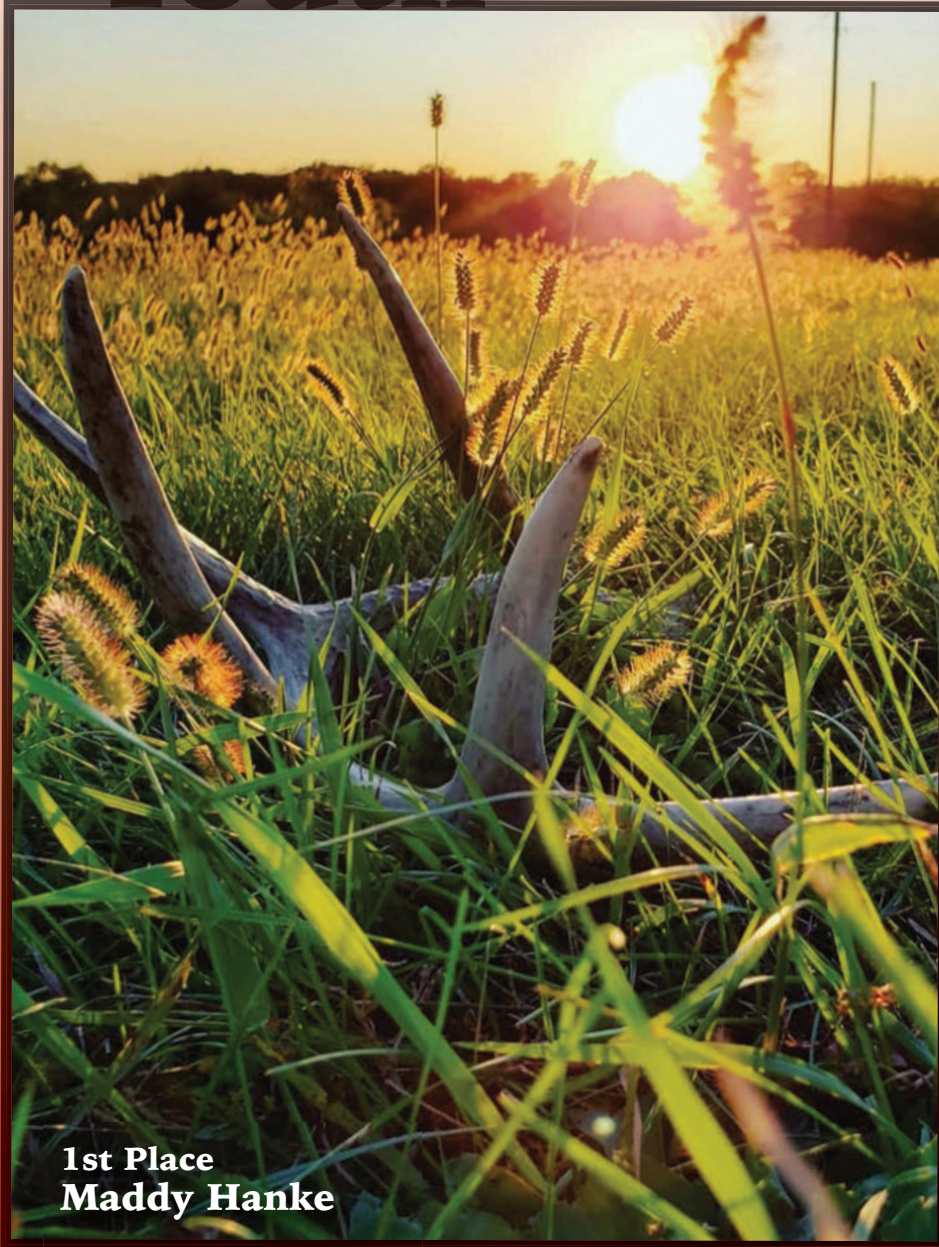
By the age of four months, river otter pups are able to swim and dive to catch their own food. **Danny Brown**





20

Youth Hunting and



1st Place
Maddy Hanke



2nd Place
Wyatt Amos

2021 Winners and Fishing

Adult



Youth

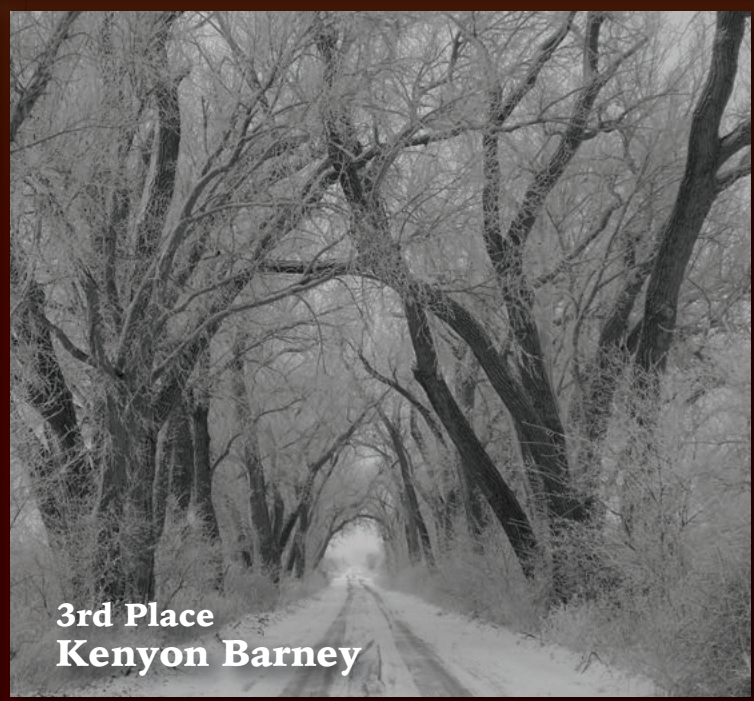
Lands



**1st Place
Kylie Metsker**



**2nd Place
Jarett Abel**



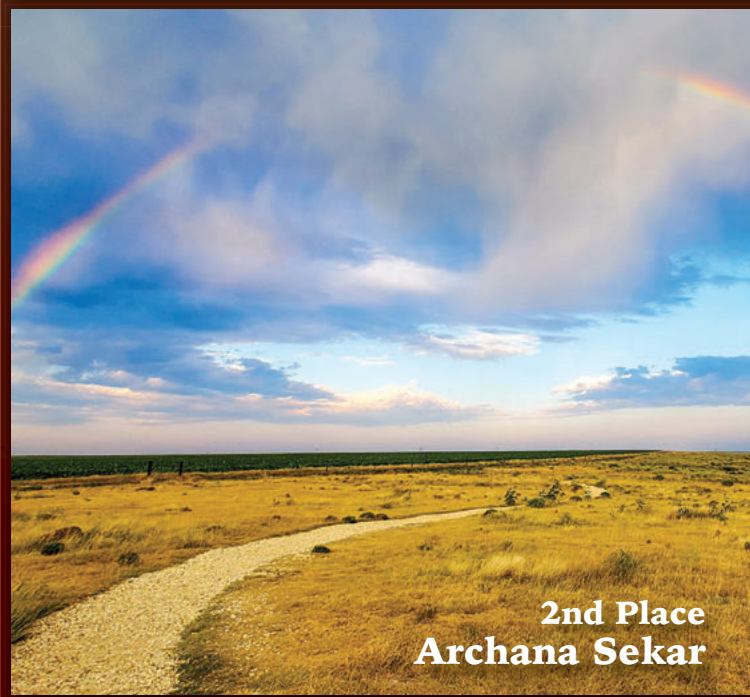
**3rd Place
Kenyon Barney**

scapes

Adult



**1st Place
Tom Arnhold**



**2nd Place
Archana Sekar**



**3rd Place
Bob Dilla**

Outdoor R

Youth



1st Place
John Walker



2nd Place
Haven Knapp



3rd Place
Benjamin Mejia

Recreation

Adult

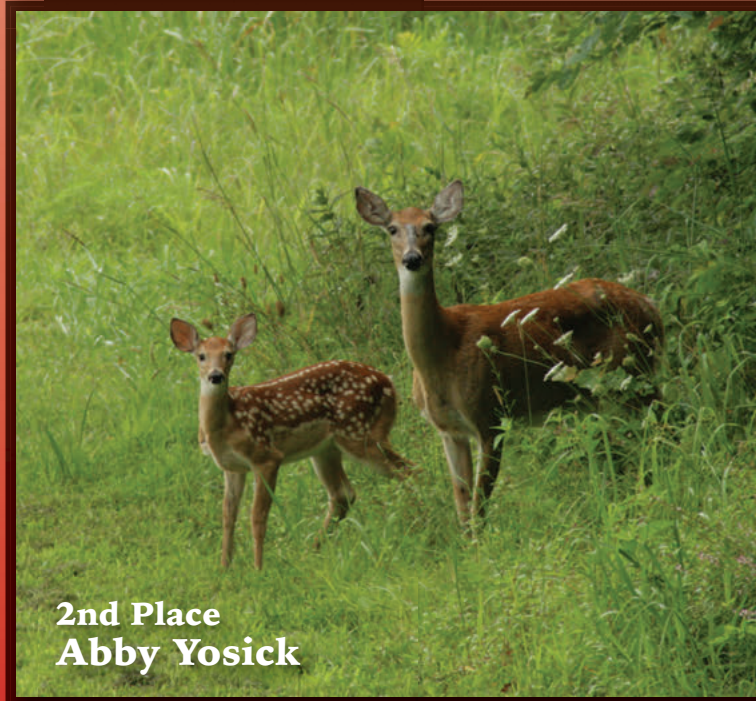


Game S

Youth



**1st Place
Michaela Gold**



**2nd Place
Abby Yosick**



**3rd Place
Abby Yosick**

Species

Adult



1st Place
Fred Schatzki



2nd Place
Jessica Abel



3rd Place
John Frisch



Chickadee

Non-gam

Youth



1st Place
Michaela Gold



2nd Place
Danielle Gold



3rd Place
Maddie Anderson

Lee Checkoff Species Adult



1st Place
Kathy Carroll



2nd Place
Sabari Rajendran



3rd Place
Sabari Rajendran

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