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Review of *Watching Kansas Wildlife: A Guide to 101 Sites* by Bob Gress and George Potts

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Watching Kansas Wildlife: A Guide to 101 Sites. Bob Gress and George Potts. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1993. 104 pp. Maps, photos, and references. $9.95 paper, (ISBN 0-7006-0594-0).

This publication is designed for the novice wildlife watcher and it is a guide to where to go to watch wildlife, not how to identify them. The authors

are enthusiastic, and rightfully so, about wildlife in Kansas. There is considerable wildlife diversity throughout the Great Plains yet many people do not know or appreciate this treasure.

The book provides a statewide map showing the physiographic regions and all 101 viewing sites in Kansas. Additionally, there are six maps indicating the locations of sites and highways in that region. Each site description includes directions to the site, its size, ownership, wildlife symbols (quick reference to wildlife occurring on the site), and recreational symbols indicating whether trails, parking, restrooms, etc., are present. Other useful features include the Dynamic Dozen Sites and Dynamic Dozen Wildlife Index which provide useful information on the "can't miss" areas to visit. A page reference helps readers find areas to visit for viewing selected wildlife such as pronghorns or prairie dogs. These are useful features.

There are a few minor annoyances in the book. On pages 2 and 3 the authors list tips on viewing wildlife and related viewing etiquette. I thought these were properly included. One viewing etiquette listed was to not pet or rescue young animals. However, there is a full-page color picture on the page facing the acknowledgments section of a little girl petting a baby blue jay. Next, the authors mainly use the American Ornithologists' Union common names such as northern cardinal, northern harrier, and sedge wren. These are other than the common names referred to in older references. However, they still used bobwhite quail (older name) instead of northern bobwhite. Also, their choice of photograph for the tallgrass prairie might leave the true novice in doubt. The picture might appear to some as a severely overgrazed pasture, while in fact it is vigorous new growth, probably shortly after a spring burn. The point is, the picture does not depict tall grasses. Another minor irritant was the authors overuse of the exclamation mark.

Those not residing in the Great Plains often think of our climate as harsh and the landscape boring. Maybe we ought to keep it that way, to keep our treasures selfishly for ourselves. However, Gress and Potts make you want to visit Kansas and view the wildlife. And in that regard, the book is very useful.

The book has many good photos of wildlife. They cover the gamut from butterflies to snakes, to birds and mammals. The book is basically free of typos. The cost is modest and half of the proceeds from book sales are returned to the Chickadee Checkoff Program in Kansas. **Ronald M. Case**, *Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.*