

Andrew Burnett, Erie, KS

HB 2273 - Testimony Supporting Setbacks for State Wildlife Areas.

Topic: Setbacks needed for state/sensitive wildlife areas from industrial wind power projects

Andrew Burnett – 9180 Pratt Rd Erie, KS 66733

Education: Bachelors of Science; Electronics Engineering Technology; Pittsburg State University

Personal experience: Vice President SEK Audubon Society;
Bird Census - Kansas Biological Survey;
Breeding Bird Surveys – US Department of the Interior;
Bird Census – International Shorebird Survey;
Bird Census – Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks & Tourism- Seasonal Employee;
Volunteer at the public Parsons Kansas Purple Martin Colony;
Compiler Parsons Christmas Bird Count;
Cornell Lab of Ornithology- eBird regional reviewer;
Kansas Ornithological Society - member;
American Birding Association - member.

Large Scale Wind Projects Cause Bird Displacement

One of the most significant concerns with large scale wind projects is displacement. Displacement is the macro level effect of a localized population of birds moving out of or avoiding the general area of an industrial scale wind generation project. This is an understudied aspect of these projects, one that can have drastic effects on state wildlife properties. The following studies support the concept that displacement is a real concern for these properties and they need setback protection. A brief summary of each study and its name will follow for further review if desired.

[Impacts of Wind Turbines on Redheads in the Laguna Madre](#) - Lange, Ballard, & Collins 2017
Wintering Redhead populations declined 77% post construction despite a population level increase of 3 times.

[Effects of wind-energy Facilities on breeding grassland bird distributions](#) – Shaffer & Buhl 2015
7 of 9 grassland bird species showed a sustained displacement at the 5 year mark of the study.

[Avoidance behavior by prairie grouse: implications for development of wind energy](#). Pruett, C. L. et al. 2009. Conservation Biology.
Evidence on avoidance of grouse presented

[It's not easy being green: wind energy and a declining grassland bird](#). Pruett, C. L. et al. 2009.
Evidence on avoidance behavior in birds presented