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Undergraduate Scholar: Ready, set, graduate

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Taking research to the next level

Sarah Winnicki, student in ornithology at Kansas State University, is hillier as a lark, or at least a grassland species. Winnicki is a master's student in ornithology at Kansas State University where she is a member of the lab of Alice Boyle, assistant professor of bird ecology. See page 19 for more on Boyle's work.

The team is studying grassland birds at the Konza Prairie Biological Station, a tallgrass prairie reserve jointly operated by the university and The Nature Conservancy. The team searches for nestlings and then tracks them using transmitters and tags to monitor their growth and the predators the young birds face. Winnicki is using the work for her master's thesis on cowbird parasitism and the predators the young birds face. Winnicki is using the work for her master's thesis on cowbird parasitism and the predators the young birds face. Winnicki is using the work for her master's thesis on cowbird parasitism and the predators the young birds face.

An Institute of Museum and Library Services grant. In 2016, she was accepted to the Sunset Zoo's Science Communication Fellowship program for graduate students and professional researchers. The fellowship is part of the Manhattan zoo's Behind the Science program that is funded by the National Science Foundation and an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant. Winnicki also takes part in the Kansas Science Communication Fellowship, which helps K-State faculty, students and staff engage the public in science and research.

The training with the zoo's fellowship programs provided valuable feedback about my science communication skills and techniques, such as presenting when I was using jargon or when I was being too technical and how to contact my research to the public. Winnicki said. "The experience has been helpful only for my professional communication but also for my teaching and for my professional science communication as well."