

# Kaw Valley Almanac

December 11 - 17, 2017

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Day	Moon rises	Moon south	Moon sets	% Illum.	Phase
Monday	01:01 AM	07:22 AM	01:35 PM	35%	
Tuesday	02:02 AM	08:07 AM	02:05 PM	26%	
Wednesday	03:01 AM	08:51 AM	02:35 PM	18%	
Thursday	03:59 AM	09:36 AM	03:07 PM	11%	
Friday	04:56 AM	10:21 AM	03:41 PM	6%	
Saturday	05:53 AM	11:07 AM	04:17 PM	2%	
Sunday	06:47 AM	11:54 AM	04:58 PM	0%	



As is evidenced in Kevin Siek's photo from December 4, the snow geese are present in big numbers again at Loess Bluffs NWR near Mound City, MO along the Missouri river. Lots of eagles, too.



## Sun

Venus, Jupiter Mars east at dawn

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	06:32 AM	07:30 AM	04:59 PM	06:05 PM
Tuesday	06:32 AM	07:31 AM	04:59 PM	06:05 PM
Wednesday	06:33 AM	07:32 AM	04:59 PM	06:06 PM
Thursday	06:34 AM	07:32 AM	04:59 PM	06:06 PM
Friday	06:34 AM	07:33 AM	05:00 PM	06:06 PM
Saturday	06:35 AM	07:34 AM	05:00 PM	06:06 PM
Sunday	06:36 AM	07:34 AM	05:00 PM	06:07 PM

## Nature Notes

§ Decorating for the holidays? Cedar (actually juniper) boughs are easily harvested as a fragrant and popular indoor decoration to festoon a mantle or window sill. The blue berries are a favored food of many an overwintering bird, too.

§ Lawrence's Christmas Bird Count takes place Saturday, December 16 this year and if you can't make that, Baldwin City has one on the 17<sup>th</sup> (contact Jayhawk Audubon for details).

§ Some things to look for on a hike this time of year: rabbit and deer nibbles on last year's new growth twigs; dismantled nuts and hedgeballs from hungry squirrels; feather and fur piles from raptor/owl/coyote catches; tracks in the mud/around open water; piles of sticks (pack rat) or leaves (squirrel nests); nibbled off dry grass stalks that are made into rodent nests. Finally, be on the lookout for winter mushrooms including pleurotis and puff balls. Keep an eye out for mosses, too.

§ It's a good time of year to spot native prairies. Green grasses are usually brome, bluegrass or fescue and if the seedheads are still on those, they are gray. Native prairies are orangish/coppery and have lots of different kinds of plants.

§ Wednesday night after midnight, check out the Geminid meteor shower with 100 or more meteors/hour--the best meteor shower of the year.