



Meadowlark

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Be an Early Bird – Bird Seed Orders due September 23

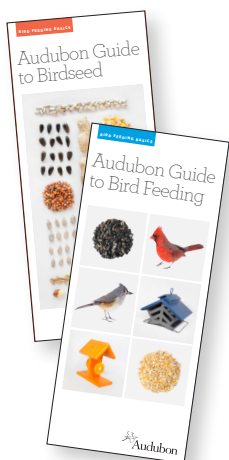
by Betty Fullerton, bird seed sale chair

The savvy birder catches the early date of this fall’s Bird Seed Sale — Saturday, October 2, and Sunday, October 3. Due to extreme drought conditions in the North Central and Northwest United States, the 2021 bird seed crop could be sparse and sub-standard — particularly millet, safflower and sunflower. Because these seeds are primary seed sources for bird feeders, Audubon Society of Omaha is locking in better quality seeds, which are available earlier. Bird feeding has taken off during Covid-19, and the wholesale prices that ASO will be paying are up 21% over October 2020 and 35% over October 2019, with prices for many products soaring 30-57% in a single year.

Your orders and donations during the Fall and Winter Bird Seed Sale are Audubon Society of Omaha’s main fundraiser for local education and conservation activities. We offer a wide

range of bird seed mixes and sizes at reasonable prices. Look for two brochures chock full of ideas about attracting a range of birds on our website, <https://audubon-omaha.org>

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Clean feeders provide impeccable protection to keep birds healthy

by Lauren Robinson

Your bird feeder is kind of a tourist trap. Imagine a bustling restaurant on Times Square, drawing countless visitors from across the country and around the world in a single season. They gather around tables or at the bar, bunched close and chowing down.

Sure, most people maintain an acceptable level of hygiene, and some seasons are slower than others. But what if the restaurant were never cleaned?

Let’s face it: It’s probably time to clean your feeder. A dirty feeder can cultivate deadly bacteria and promote the spread of disease as seed decays and droppings accumulate. This summer, an as-yet unknown pathogen has harmed thousands of birds that visited feeders on the East Coast and as far west as Indiana. The disease has not been identified in Nebraska, meaning it is not necessary to take down your feeders, but it is important to stay vigilant.

To ensure your tiny feathered tourists (and, of course, honorable residents) are convening at disease-free feeding zones, you’ll need to make cleaning your feeders a routine occurrence.

Cleaning frequency can differ depending on the type of feeder as well as the weather. Hummingbird feeders need more frequent cleaning, approximately every 3-5 days, sooner if the water begins to look cloudy. Plastic tube feeders with small feeding holes can trap moisture and speed up mold growth, especially with the help of summer heat and rain.

“You don’t want it to get rotten or moldy,” says Jason St. Sauver, senior education manager at Audubon Nebraska’s Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center. Sometimes, he says, if a feeder just won’t clean, it’s safest to throw it away and start fresh.

As a general rule, most non-hummingbird feeders need cleaning every couple of weeks. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology recommends either taking the feeder apart

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RIGHT HERE, RIGHT HOW: YOU CAN COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Conservation begins at home; each of us can help restore our unique ecosystem.

Mulch Better September

When mowing or raking, don’t bag and discard your clippings. Use the mulch setting on your lawn mower.

Your lawn will become a healthy micro-habitat and food source for wildlife.

Creating Creepy October

Planning your Halloween theme? Look at DIY decor ideas that utilize materials destined for the landfill.

Go to happydiy.com for spooky ideas for trick or treat time.

ON THE HORIZON

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Speaker: Robert Wells,

Program Committee Chair

Topic: Identify birds by song using the Merlin Bird ID smart-phone app

When: 7 p.m.

Where: Computer, laptop, tablet or phone, in your setting of choice

How: Find the link for our Zoom meeting on our website or Facebook.

Who: Members and the public (free)

FIELD DAY: TBD

FALL BIRD SEED SALE

ORDER BY SEPTEMBER 23

What: Order our special selection of delicious, gourmet bird seed

Where: Order online, or mail the order form in this issue

Who: Anyone who likes to or wants to feed birds and more

FALL MIGRATION LIST

Shorebirds from the Arctic pass through our area. Look for these traveling shorebirds and their young in shallow water or mudflats and at area lakes and marshes:

- American Pelicans
- Gulls
- Terns
- Geese

Many raptors migrate down the Missouri River Valley. A good place to see them is at Hitchcock Nature Center:

- Mississippi Kites
- Ospreys
- Broad-winged Hawks
- Swainson's Hawks
- Peregrine Falcons
- American Kestrels
- Merlins
- Sharp-shinned Hawks
- Cooper's Hawks
- Turkey Vultures

As the season segues into November:

- Bald Eagles
- Rough-legged Hawks
- Red-tailed Hawks
- Dark-eyed Juncos
- Cedar Waxwings

Conversation with Christine, ASO's New President



The Meadowlark recently caught Christine Jacobsen for a brief chat between her roles as Director of Education at Lauritzen Gardens and newly

installed President of Audubon Society of Omaha.

Tell us a little about yourself. What drew you to Audubon Society of Omaha?

I was born and raised in Northwest Iowa, where I learned to respect and care for the natural world. I enjoyed endless hours playing outdoors, camping with my family and traveling to national parks. I also spent a lot of time with my grandma, who was an avid gardener and bird watcher. That led me to Iowa State University, where I earned an undergraduate degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology. After working for a natural resources district for a couple of years, I went back to school at the University of Nebraska Omaha and obtained a Master's degree in Public Administration.

So far, I have invested 24 years in the non-formal, natural sciences education field. I truly enjoy talking to people about conservation and helping them connect with nature. And that's why I'm here: ASO's mission and strategies

resonate deeply within me and the values I hold dear. We have such amazing natural resources in our communities' landscapes, grasslands and rivers that I believe we have a calling to help people appreciate their importance in our lives. Over the last 18 months, we've seen an increase in bird watching and backyard habitats, and we need to build on that momentum, working with landowners to show them how their microhabitats help.

How do you think Audubon Society of Omaha can serve our local communities?

By providing information and programming to increase knowledge and understanding of strategies to protect and preserve our region's landscapes/grasslands, climate, water, and native plant habitats. ASO needs to reach constituents of all ages through youth and adult programming while convincing policy makers to make decisions that will ensure the future of our irreplaceable natural resources.

How can ASO members help achieve these goals?

Members can participate regularly in meetings, provide input about programming, and help with projects. They can recruit new members and spread the word. In other words ... Get involved!

Clean feeders *Continued from page 1*

and putting it in the dishwasher on a hot setting or hand-washing it with soap and boiling water or with a bleach solution, no more than 1 part bleach to 9 parts water.

St. Sauver says he prefers to use natural ingredients, such as distilled white vinegar or apple cider vinegar, with up to a 1-to-1 vinegar-to-water ratio.

After washing, be sure to rinse the feeder thoroughly and allow it to dry completely.

Wildlife specialists across the country have been working around the clock to deduce the cause of the illness affecting birds east of Nebraska. While the race continues, fortunately, the number of sickened birds in Mid-Atlantic states has declined in recent weeks, St. Sauver says.

Still, we encourage you to maintain a watchful eye. If you notice birds in your backyard with swollen or crusty eyes and exhibiting odd behavior, call Nebraska Game and Parks at (402) 471-0641 or Audubon Nebraska at (402) 797-2301.

Bird Seed Sale

Continued from page 1

Once again, seed pick-up will be at ASO's office and warehouse at 4339 So. 90th Street, between F Street and L Street. We are offering contactless delivery again to your front porch or garage for an extra donation. See the bottom of the order form for details.



In addition to the order form included in this newsletter, an order form will be mailed to all members and past customers in late August. You can place your order by mail OR you can order and pay by secure credit card on our website, audubon-omaha.org. **All orders must be received by Thursday, September 23.**

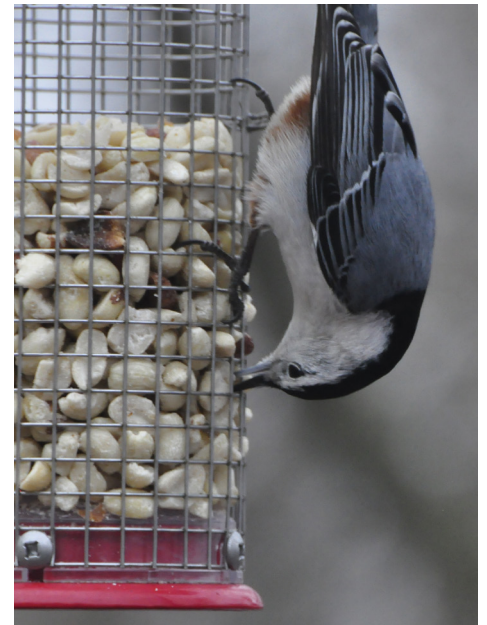
QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS

Contact John or Betty Fullerton at 402-493-4362, 402-957-5901 or FullertonJ@cox.net or Kathleen Crawford-Rose at 402-292-8912 or katcr@cox.net.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

Are you in good shape? Can you lift as much as 50 pounds without grunting? Volunteers are needed for unloading the bird seed delivery from our supplier on a weekday morning between 5 a.m. and 8 a.m. the last week of September. And, for loading customers' orders to their vehicles on the October 2 and 3 pick-up days. Please contact John Fullerton at 402-493-4362 (h), 402-957-5901 (c) or FullertonJ@cox.net, if you can assist Audubon Society Omaha with its major fundraiser.

Audubon Society of Omaha remains committed to providing you and your feathered winter visitors with the highest quality bird seed, available at competitive prices from our long-time supplier, Des Moines Feed Co. We are proud to offer a wider selection than anywhere else in town. Below you will find a product listing with detailed descriptions for each item we offer. Thank you for your support. We wish you many happy hours of bird feeding and watching.



White-breasted Nuthatch photo by Eric Scholar

CARDINAL BRAND MIX - Millet base with added milo, cracked corn, peanut chips and 20% sunflower by volume.

DES MOINES STANDARD MIX - Higher-quality basic mix with millet base, cracked corn, oat groats, peanut pieces and 40% sunflower seeds by volume. No milo.

DES MOINES CLASSIC MIX - Basic ingredients same as Des Moines Standard, except sunflower is a 50/50 mix of seeds and hearts, and it also contains safflower. Attracts the widest variety of seed-eating birds.

DES MOINES DELUXE MIX - Same as Des Moines Classic, except it contains more peanuts and hulled sunflower hearts.

DES MOINES REGAL MIX - A premium blend of sunflower hearts, shelled peanuts, safflower seed, dried cherries, raisins and a protein-vitamin supplement.

SUNFLOWER SEED, BLACK OIL - Smaller, more nutritious seeds preferred by most winter birds.

SUNFLOWER HEARTS - Fine hearts are ground seeds suitable for mixing with nyjer in a thistle feeder. Medium hearts are about 1/3 the size of whole hearts. Coarse hearts are larger pieces.

NYJER & FINE HEARTS - Blended at 50/50 ratio for easy flow through finch feeders. Both seed types are re-cleaned by Des Moines Feed before packaging to enhance the mix's appeal to finches, chickadees and nuthatches.

RICH & TWEET - Nutritious, no-mess mixture with dried raisins and cherries. Contains 50% peanut hearts and pieces. It is designed to attract fruit-eaters such as robins, thrushes and other ground feeders.

WOODPECKER GOURMET - A blend that is full of nuts. Contains almonds, other tree nuts, pumpkin seeds and raisins.

BUSHY TAIL TREAT - No squirrel tails in it! A mix of peanuts, sunflower, whole corn, raisins, pumpkin seed and feed pellets that will tempt even an anorexic squirrel's palate!

PEANUT TREAT SUET - A mix of rendered beef suet and roasted, chopped peanuts for woodpeckers, nuthatches and chickadees.

NUTRASAFF - Hulled safflower seed. Higher in protein and oil with less mess.

THANK YOU - From the Bird Seed Sale Committee and all of us at Audubon Society of Omaha.

ORDER FORM: ASO FALL 2021 BIRD SEED SALE

PRODUCT NAME	WEIGHT	PRICE	PROD.#	QTY	TOTAL
Cardinal Brand Mix	50#	35.00	1	_____	\$ _____
Des Moines Standard Mix, small	20#	18.50	2	_____	\$ _____
Des Moines Standard Mix, large	40#	33.50	3	_____	\$ _____
Des Moines Classic Mix, small	20#	19.50	4	_____	\$ _____
Des Moines Classic Mix, large	40#	35.50	5	_____	\$ _____
Des Moines Deluxe Mix, small	20#	23.00	6	_____	\$ _____
Des Moines Deluxe Mix, large	40#	43.00	7	_____	\$ _____
Des Moines Regal Mix	35#	51.00	8	_____	\$ _____
Sunflower Seeds, Black Oil, small	25#	17.00	9	_____	\$ _____
Sunflower Seeds, Black Oil, large	50#	33.00	10	_____	\$ _____
Sunflower Hearts, Fine	50#	63.00	11	_____	\$ _____
Sunflower Hearts, Medium	50#	70.00	12	_____	\$ _____
Sunflower Hearts, Coarse	50#	70.00	13	_____	\$ _____
Nyjer & Fine Hearts Mix	20#	32.00	14	_____	\$ _____
Rich & Tweet Mix	20#	30.00	15	_____	\$ _____
Woodpecker Gourmet, small	20#	30.00	16	_____	\$ _____
Woodpecker Gourmet, large	40#	57.00	17	_____	\$ _____
Bushy Tail Treat	20#	26.00	18	_____	\$ _____
Nyjer Seed, (99.5%), small	8#	13.00	19	_____	\$ _____
Nyjer Seed, (99.5%), medium	20#	30.00	20	_____	\$ _____
Nyjer Seed, (98%), large	50#	60.00	21	_____	\$ _____
White Millet (98%)	50#	37.00	22	_____	\$ _____
Peanut Treat Suet	1 cake	2.25	23	_____	\$ _____
Cracked Corn, medium	50#	17.50	24	_____	\$ _____
Ear Corn	35#	19.50	25	_____	\$ _____
Peanuts in the shell	25#	43.00	26	_____	\$ _____
Peanuts (without shells), small	20#	29.00	27	_____	\$ _____
Peanuts (without shells), large	50#	64.00	28	_____	\$ _____
Safflower Seed	50#	47.00	29	_____	\$ _____
NutraSaff (safflower with thin hulls)	50#	57.00	41	_____	\$ _____
Contactless Delivery - 6 or fewer bags		25.00	42	_____	\$ _____
Contactless Delivery - more than 6 bags		40.00	43	_____	\$ _____
Contactless Delivery - outside Metro Omaha		75.00	44	_____	\$ _____

Prices already include sales tax. Do not add sales tax. TOTAL _____ \$ _____

I wish to donate an additional amount to help with local education and conservation efforts _____ \$ _____

Enclosed is my check payable to Audubon Society of Omaha for: \$ _____

NAME

PHONE

EMAIL

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

MAIL ORDER FORM TO:
Audubon Society of Omaha
c/o Betty Fullerton
11330 Spaulding Street
Omaha, NE 68164

PICKUP LOCATION:
Audubon Society of Omaha
4339 S. 90th Street

PICKUP DATES/TIMES:
Sat, Oct. 2, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun. Oct. 3, Noon - 5 p.m.

Your order can also be placed and paid by credit card online at **audubon-omaha.org**
Please check your email for order confirmation.

A reminder with directions to the pickup site will be emailed before pickup dates.

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 23

Audubon Guide to Birdseed

Excerpted with permission from National Audubon Society

More than 100 North American bird species supplement their natural diets with birdseed, suet, fruit, and nectar obtained from feeders. Bird feeding can benefit birds and also provides great birdwatching in your own backyard. Different birds are attracted by different kinds of seed, so try offering a variety in separate feeders. Just make sure that the seed is compatible with both the feeder and the birds you hope to attract; homemade recipes offer even more options.

Offer a variety of seeds

A variety of seeds will attract the greatest variety of birds. To avoid waste, offer different seeds in different feeders. Black-oil sunflower seed appeals to the greatest number of birds. Offer sunflower seeds, Nyjer® (thistle) seeds, and peanuts in separate feeders.

When using blends, choose mixtures containing sunflower seeds, millet, and cracked corn—the three most popular types of birdseed. Birds that are sunflower specialists will readily eat the sunflower seed and toss the millet and corn to the ground, to be eaten by ground-feeding birds such as sparrows and juncos. Mixtures of peanuts, nuts, and dried fruit are appealing to woodpeckers, nuthatches, and titmice. Relatively few species prefer milo, wheat, and oats, which are featured in less expensive blends.



Quick reference seed and food chart

SPECIES	PREFERRED SEED/FOOD											
	Black-oil Sunflower	Striped Sunflower	Sunflower Hearts	Nyjer (Thistle)	Peanuts	Tree Nuts	Fruit	Millet	Safflower	Milo	Cracked Corn	Suet Cakes
Bluebirds			●				●					●
Buntings			●				●	●				
Cardinals	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Chickadees	●	●	●	●	●	●						●
Doves			●	●				●	●	●	●	
Goldfinches	●		●	●				●				●
Grosbeaks	●	●	●						●		●	
House Finches	●		●	●	●			●	●			
Jays	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Juncos			●	●	●			●		●	●	
Mockingbirds							●					●
Nuthatches	●	●	●		●	●	●		●			●
Purple Finches	●		●	●				●				
Quail								●		●	●	
Siskins	●		●	●							●	
Sparrows	●		●	●				●		●	●	
Tanagers			●				●					
Titmice	●	●	●	●	●	●					●	●
Towhees								●		●		
Woodpeckers	●		●		●	●	●					●
Squirrels	●	●	●		●	●	●				●	

Audubon Guide to Birdseed

Excerpted with permission from National Audubon Society

Best bird seed for backyard birds

SUNFLOWER SEEDS

Black-oil sunflower seed is preferred by many small feeder birds, especially in northern latitudes. Striped sunflower seed is also readily eaten, especially by large-beaked birds. Hulled sunflower seed is eaten by the greatest variety of birds; it attracts jays, Red-Bellied Woodpeckers, goldfinches, Northern Cardinals, Pine Grosbeaks, titmice, nuthatches, and grackles.

MILLET

White millet is the favorite food of most small-beaked ground-feeding birds; red millet is also readily eaten. Millet attracts quail, doves, juncos, sparrows, towhees, cowbirds, and Red-winged Blackbirds.

CRACKED CORN

Medium cracked corn attracts many kinds of ground-feeding birds, but it is prone to rot, since the interior of the kernel readily soaks up moisture. Feed small amounts, mixed with millet, on feeding tables or from watertight hopper feeders. Avoid fine cracked corn, since it quickly turns to mush; coarse cracked corn is too large for small-beaked birds. Cracked corn attracts quail, doves, jays, juncos, and towhees.

SAFFLOWER SEEDS

Safflower seed is readily eaten by cardinals, grosbeaks, sparrows, and doves; starlings, House Sparrows, and squirrels usually find it less appealing than sunflower seed.

NYJER® (THISTLE)

A preferred food of American Goldfinches, Lesser Goldfinches, House Finches, and Common Redpolls, Nyjer® is sometimes called “black gold,” because it can be expensive compared with other birdseed. Do not confuse it with prickly thistle, a pink-flowered weed used by goldfinches to line their nests.

SUET AND BIRD PUDDINGS (BEEF FAT AND SEED)

This mixture attracts insect-eating birds such as woodpeckers, wrens, chickadees, nuthatches, and titmice. Place the suet in special feeders or net onion bags at least five feet above the ground to keep it out of the reach of animals. Although suet is particularly helpful during cold weather and migration, when birds need extra fat reserves, “no melt” suet cakes are now available for use in warmer weather.

PEANUTS

Whole and crushed peanuts attract woodpeckers, jays, chickadees, titmice, bushtits, nuthatches, Brown Creepers, wrens, kinglets, Northern Mockingbirds, Brown Thrashers, starlings, and Yellow-rumped and Pine Warblers. Provide these in tube-shaped, metal mesh feeders.

MILLO, WHEAT, OATS

These agricultural products are frequently mixed into low-priced birdseed blends. Most birds discard the uneaten seed in favor of other food, which leaves it to accumulate under feeders, where they may attract rodents. In the Southwest, however, milo attracts pheasants, quail, and doves.

Homemade recipes to add to your bird feeders

PEANUT BUTTER PUDDING

Peanut butter is a good substitute for suet in the summer. Mix one part peanut butter with five parts cornmeal and stuff the mixture into holes drilled in a hanging log or into the crevices of a large pine cone. This all-season mixture attracts woodpeckers, chickadees, titmice, and occasionally warblers.

FRUIT FOR BERRY-EATING BIRDS

Fruit specialists such as robins, waxwings, bluebirds, and mockingbirds rarely eat birdseed. To attract these birds, soak raisins and currants in water overnight, then place them on a table feeder, or purchase seed blends with a dried fruit mixture. To attract orioles and tanagers, skewer halved oranges onto a spike near other feeders, or provide nectar feeders.

NECTAR FOR HUMMINGBIRDS

Make a sugar solution of one part white sugar to four parts water. Boil briefly to sterilize the mixture and dissolve the sugar crystals (there's no need to add red food coloring). Feeders must be washed every few days with very hot water and kept scrupulously clean to prevent the growth of mold.



SUNFLOWER SEEDS



MILLET



CRACKED CORN



SAFFLOWER SEEDS



NYJER (THISTLE)



SUET

Sure *looks* like a weed patch

by Glenn Pollock

That's what I said about my latest prairie restoration project. It all started when Audubon Society of Omaha acquired the virgin prairie and old brome field next to its existing prairie in north Omaha. While brome grasses are great for grazing, they choke out native vegetation that make our Plains prairies beautiful to behold. To return our three-and-one-half-acre brome field to native prairie, we had work to do.

So, last fall, with a little help from my friend, I started collecting seeds to revitalize our "back to the future" prairie. But dry weather threw me a curve ball, making it nearly impossible to banish the brome. That meant waiting until spring, when the Fontenelle Forest burn crew could execute a prescribed burn. After the crew wrapped up its work, I borrowed our neighbor's disc and turned the soil with my 1965 John Deere tractor before sowing the carefully curated seeds we had saved. Then, another round with the John Deere to drag in the seeds.

A few weeks passed, and bunches of brome grass and bind weed exploded through our meticulously tilled field. So much for my seed bank! To ensure

that the native plants I seeded survive, I'll need to wait until they go dormant after fall's first frost before applying the horrible chemicals that will put the brakes on the brome and bind weed. Even though our new, smaller prairie plot still looks like a weed patch, when I look "next door," to the east, the seven acres that I and the late Ione Werthman reconstructed 22 years ago thrive in their natural state. Over those 22 years, while my mind has cultivated a much keener understanding of prairie restoration, my body has simply grown 22 years older.

And that's where you come in, dear reader. Although I have continued collecting and curating seeds this summer, I need to train volunteers, like you, how to collect, protect and preserve seeds we can sow in our prairie next spring. So, please contact me at pollockg@cox.net or call 402-203-5789 to learn how you can help bring our beautiful prairie back to the future, bursting with color, birds and butterflies. As Captain Jean-Luc Picard of the USS Starship Enterprise says, "Make it so!"

RESOURCES & INFO:

HOW TO JOIN/RENEW/UPDATE

Join or renew your membership online at audubon-omaha.org and select "Get Involved." Save paper and avoid confusion.

Your membership with National Audubon automatically makes you a member of Audubon Society of Omaha.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Please call National Audubon toll-free at 1-844-428-3826, or send an email to audubon@emailcustomerservice.com

STAY CONNECTED

Join our email list at audubon-omaha.org under "Get Involved."

BEQUESTS & GIFTS

A bequest to Audubon Society of Omaha is a gift to those who will succeed us and secure our natural heritage.

Want to send a gift on behalf of someone? Mail your check along with the name and address of the person to be notified to:

Audubon Society of Omaha
P.O. Box 3542, Omaha, NE 68103
We'll send them a thank-you note letting them know of your gift.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED:

If you have ever ordered bird seed from ASO, you know we rely on strong arms and able bodies. We need help unloading the seed from our supplier and loading customer orders. Strong, young volunteers are essential. Contact John Fullerton at 402-493-4362 or 402-957-5901 if you can be a part of our biggest annual fundraiser.

TAKE ACTION

Big things are happening, so communicate with your elected officials. Go to audubon-omaha.org for links to contact info for each.

INJURED BIRD?

Raptors: Call 866-888-7261 to speak to a Raptor Recovery volunteer.

Non-raptor: Call Nebraska Wildlife Rehab at 402-234-2473.

The eyes have it – your photos

We need your bird photos! Please email them to Meadow Lark at asopublisher@gmail.com



Barred Owls, photo by Rita Frickel



Yellow-headed Blackbird, photo by Bobby Walz

Audubon
Society of Omaha
P.O. Box 3542
Omaha, NE 68103
audubon-omaha.org

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**INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF
THE MEADOWLARK:**

Bird Seed Sale
Starts NOW!

Clean Feeders =
Healthy Birds

Autumn Migration

Prairie Restoration
Update



STEWARDSHIP OF THE EARTH AND ITS CREATURES

the Meadowlark

SEPT/OCT 2021
VOL 50 ISSUE 4



Photo by Ron Hiatt

The Audubon Society of Omaha is dedicated to the active promotion of environmental awareness to our community through education, conservation, and enjoyment of our natural heritage, especially birds.

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