

Audubon
Society of Omaha
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audubon-omaha.org

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OMAHA, NEBRASKA
PERMIT NO. 79

STEWARDSHIP OF THE EARTH AND ITS CREATURES

the Meadowlark

SEPT/OCT 2019
VOL 48 ISSUE 5

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Plants, Pollinators
and People

Follow the Fall
Migration

Upcoming Meetings
& Field Trips

The Eyes Have It
-Your Photos

Bird Seed Sale

Update on our
Prairie Preserves

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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ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Bob Wells
Past President: Matt Miller
1st Vice President: Jackie Scholar
2nd Vice President: Virginia Stauffer
Treasurer: Betty Fullerton
Secretary: Shannon Engberg

ELECTED DIRECTORS

Ruth Bentzinger
Mark Cave
Elizabeth Chalen
Grace Gaard
Anne Maguire

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Art Contest: Virginia Stauffer
Education: Elizabeth Chalen
Finance: Betty Fullerton
Fundraising: Anne Maguire
Grant Review: Shannon Engberg
Legislative Affairs: Bob Fuchs
Marketing and Outreach: Anne Maguire
Membership: Kathy Schwery
Natural Areas Management:
Glenn Pollock
Nominating: Virginia Stauffer
Program: Bob Wells
Bird Seed Sale: John & Betty Fullerton
ASO Administrator: **Now Hiring!**
Executive Director, Audubon Nebraska:
Kristal Stoner



Meadowlark

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Published by Audubon Society of Omaha, a chapter of National Audubon Society since 1971

Pop in for Pollinators and the Papio NRD

The Xerces Society's Jennifer Hopwood will discuss relationships among "Plants, Pollinators and People" at September's ASO General Meeting. Focusing on the conservation of invertebrates critical to bio diversity and ecosystem health, the Xerces Society provides resources and training for pollinators and beneficial insect habitat management, creation and restoration. Jennifer earned a Master's degree in Entomology from the University of Kansas. With experience in field and laboratory research, identification, education and outreach, Jennifer is the co-author of several books including *100 Plants to Feed the Bees* and *Farming with Native Beneficial Insects*. Prior to joining the Xerces Society 10 years ago, she taught Biology and Environmental Science at colleges in Iowa.

Our **September 12** program will discuss the fascinating lives of insects essential to natural, agricultural and urban landscapes and help us understand how we can care for these vital pollinators who impact the food we eat, the clothes we wear and the open spaces we treasure.

Then, mark your calendar to get to know Austen Hill, Education Programs Supervisor for the Papio-Missouri River NRD, at ASO's **October 10** General Meeting. Austen will review the benefits of the NRD's ongoing conservation projects. A Wildlife and Fisheries graduate of UNL, Austen served as an educator at Fontenelle Forest for more than three years before beginning his eight-year stint with the Papio-Missouri River NRD.

Follow the Fall Migration

by Clem Klaphake

The annual "fall" migration of birds is actually somewhat of a misnomer. Many species of birds actually begin their trek south long before the date we humans mark as the autumnal equinox, which falls on September 23 this year. For example:



American Pelicans.
Photo by Mike Benkis

SHOREBIRDS

Adult shorebirds begin their southward migration from areas as far north as the Arctic tundra as soon as their precocious youngsters are on their own. In Nebraska, we start seeing the adults over the last two weeks of July into early August, with the juveniles following about a month later. Look for these migrants in or near standing shallow water and mudflats.

HUMMINGBIRDS

Late July and early August also signal when you may start seeing male Ruby-throated Hummingbirds migrating south across eastern Nebraska and western Iowa, followed by juveniles and females in late August and early September. Remember: there are always exceptions because this species also breeds locally. Your best bet for viewing? Watch late blooming flowers and hummingbird feeders.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird.
Photo by Phil Swanson

RAPTORS

Raptor migration times can vary, sometimes greatly. A few "early bird" species include Mississippi Kites, which take wing in late August and early September in Nebraska, and Osprey and Broad-winged Hawks, which migrate mainly in September. You'll get a great view of these and other raptors at Hitchcock Nature Center just north of Crescent and Council Bluffs, Iowa. Need to ID a bird? If you have a smart phone, download the Audubon App; it's FREE and useful.



Broad-winged Hawk.
Photo by Phil Swanson

RIGHT HERE, RIGHT HOW: YOU CAN COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Stop watering your lawn for September.

This cuts down on harmful runoff, slows growth and reduces mowing, resulting in fewer greenhouse gases.

Make October 'Don't Rake Your Leaves Month.'

Landfills don't need your leaves, but healthy soil does and so do the insects that birds eat during fall and winter.

ON THE HORIZON

September:



MEMBER MEETING THURSDAY, SEPT. 12

Speaker: Jennifer Hopwood,
Xerces Society

When: 7-9 p.m.

Where: Weitz Community Center
on the UNO Dodge Campus

Who: Members and the public (free)

FIELD TRIP: NEALE WOODS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 NEALE WOODS

What: Join Fontenelle Forest Biologist
Matt Miller on a two-hour restoration
hike across varied terrain with stops at
key restoration sites.

When: 9-11 a.m.

Who: Anyone who might enjoy
hiking, birding and learning about
the restoration and land use history of
Neale Woods

October:



MEMBER MEETING THURSDAY, OCT. 10

Speaker: Austen Hill,
Papio-Missouri River
Natural Resources District

When: 7-9 p.m.

Where: Weitz Community Center
on the UNO Dodge Campus

Who: Members and the public (free)

FIELD TRIP: SPOOKY! SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 HOLY SEPULCHRE AND FOREST LAWN CEMETERIES

What: Bird two area cemeteries with
Tisha Johnson. Over the past two years,
birders have witnessed an irruption
of 62 Crossbills at Forest Lawn.

When: 2:30 p.m. at Holy Sepulchre,
4912 Leavenworth; following that, a
15-minute drive north to Forest Lawn

Who: Birders who delight in the
unexpected

BIRD SEED SALE: NOW!

Order by October 9 for pick-up on
October 19 & 20. A reliable source says
this is the good stuff!

Field Notes from the President

by Bob Wells, President Audubon Society of Omaha

I recently had the pleasure of attending the National Audubon Society's 2019 National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin with the delegation from Audubon of Nebraska.

One of the highlights of the convention was the plenary address delivered by National Audubon Society Executive Director David Yarnold. Reviewing the organization's successes and challenges over the past two years, he emphasized that Audubon remains one of the nation's most respected and critically important conservation organizations. Mr. Yarnold also charted progress made toward achieving goals focused on advancing equity, diversity and inclusion in National organizational and staffing decisions, noting that efforts are ongoing.

Another impressive session was Terry Root's climate change overview. Dr. Root, Emeritus Faculty and Senior Fellow at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, shared the Nobel Peace prize with former Vice President Al Gore for their work in climate change advocacy. She warned us that her presentation was scary but that we would learn precisely what we, as advocates and citizens, can do to address the ever-increasing threats posed by climate change. "I don't want to hear any of you saying that you 'believe' in climate change," she said. "Climate change is not a 'belief.' It is a fact."



Large female Bald Eagle at National Audubon Convention in Milwaukee

The Eyes Have It - Your Photos

Want us to feature your photos? Send them to Meadow Lark at asopublisher@gmail.com



Catbird and female cardinal enjoy a dip.

Photo by Phil Swanson



Dickcissel at Cuming City Prairie Preserve.

Photo by Stacey Coury

HELP WANTED:

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR AUDUBON SOCIETY OF OMAHA

ASO is looking for a part-time contractor who has great organizational skills and can provide administrative support to help us achieve our mission and vision. See the job description at audubon-omaha.org under "careers". If interested (or know somebody who might be), contact Betty at FullertonJ@cox.net by September 10.



Hummingbird at feeder.

Photo by Mike Benkis



Photo by Glenn Pollock

Helping Hands and June Tour Sweep Across Audubon Society of Omaha Prairies

Glenn Pollock, Chairman of Natural Areas Management Committee

Audubon Society of Omaha's two prairies buzzed with activity this summer, enhancing the ecosystem and the member experience.

On June 20, ASO joined friends from the Washington County Historical Society for an outing at the Cuming City Cemetery. During the tour, the 25 participants, with interests in history, botany and birds, explored Native American medicinal plants featured in an exhibit staged by the Fort Atkinson State Historical Park. The cemetery's virgin prairie is the Nebraska prairie nearest to Fort Atkinson. If you stop by Cuming City Cemetery, please email ASO to help us keep an accurate visitor count. And, if you can build a weatherproof sign-in box to post on-site, let us know.

No doubt, Audubon Prairie visitors have noticed its new-look entrance, thanks to the hard work of several helping hands. Rumor has it that three "old" men in their late 60s took down 400 feet of fence and cleared an extensive amount of invasive brush. We're also grateful to neighbors Dan and Emmet for sprucing up their side of the entrance.

We encourage you to enjoy the prairie this fall and pay particular attention to the benefits of this year's spring burn. During your visit, feel free to use any of the mowed trails on the prairie's west side.

Board of Directors Recap

Virginia Stauffer, 2nd Vice President



APRIL MEMBERS' MEETING: Noah Strycker addressed an extremely receptive standing room only audience at Fontenelle Forest. He also observed more than 100 species of birds during his stay, which marked his first visit to Nebraska.

COLLEGE AUDUBON BIRDERS: The National Audubon Society aims to establish chapters at colleges and universities and will need local faculty sponsors. The Board has identified likely

candidates and endorsed the effort. Most college chapters are on the coasts, so a chapter in our area could create a unique advantage for its members — and ASO.

DIRECTOR AND OFFICER ELECTIONS: New directors and officers were selected at the April 27 Members' Meeting. They received their orientation on July 17 at the ASO office.

NEWSLETTER UPDATE: Anne Maguire has assumed the role of publisher of "The Meadowlark," with help from Dan Murphy (editing). The redesign will direct readers to more in-depth content on-line and encourage member interaction. The Board wishes to thank Helen Bartee and Laurine Blankenau for their many years of excellent work, as well as the many volunteers who helped with mailings.

RESOURCES & INFO:

HOW TO JOIN/RENEW/UPDATE

Join or renew your membership on-line 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

Sign up to get our email 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, a gift to secure our natural heritage.

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

Audubon Society of Omaha
PO Box 3542, Omaha, NE 68103

We'll send them a thank-you note letting them know of your gift.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS:

We need help for the bird seed sale — strong people especially. Email John Fullerton at FullertonJ@cox.net for more info.

We need volunteers to help clear invasive plants, assist with reconstruction and collect seeds at our prairie preserves. Contact Glenn Pollock at pollockg@cox.net.

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.

Time for Our Bird Seed Sale!

Order by October 9 for Pick-up on October 19 & 20

Do you feed birds? Would you like to contribute to the financial success of Audubon Society of Omaha? Each fall we hold a major fundraiser offering high-quality bird seed from our long-time supplier, Des Moines Feed Co. We offer a wide range of mixes and sizes at reasonable prices. You can place your order by mail using the order form on the back of this page, or you can order and pay by credit card on our website, audubon-omaha.org. **Orders must be received by October 9.**

We offer three locations for you to pick up your order on October 19 and 20: central Omaha, northwest Omaha and Bellevue.

PICK-UP TIMES:

Sat., Oct. 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sun., Oct. 20 from noon to 4 p.m.

QUESTIONS? Or would you like to add a name to the mailing list, please contact Betty Fullerton at 402-493-4362 or FullertonJ@cox.net or Kathleen Crawford-Rose at 402-292-8912 or katcr@cox.net.

Income from the Bird Seed Sale supports our educational programs and conservation activities. We appreciate your support and wish you many happy hours of bird feeding and watching.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Are you in good shape? Can you lift as much as 50 pounds without grunting? Volunteers are needed for unloading bird seed from the delivery trucks to the pick-up garages in the early morning of October 16, 17 or 18. And, we need help for loading customers' orders into their vehicles on October 19 & 20. Please contact John Fullerton at 402-493-4362 (h), 402-957-5901 (c) or FullertonJ@cox.net, if you can assist with our fund-raiser.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTS AND PRICING



Audubon Society of Omaha is 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. Many consider this gourmet bird seed.

Fall 2019 Product Notes: ASO's wholesale costs for bird seed across the product line have increased 7.4% over the prices we paid last year. In particular, products containing sunflower pieces have increased 9-28% and millet has increased by 44%. Weather conditions in 2018-19 and market uncertainty contributed to these increases. Consequently, the price that we are charging for millet and the millet-based blends (products #1-7) has increased by \$.50 to \$3.00. Prices for products with sunflower hearts (products #11-14) have increased by \$1.00 to \$8.00. Prices for safflower seed (#29 & 41) have increased by \$2.00-\$3.00, because of wholesale increases of 10-15%. Our prices are comparable to big-box retailers and lower than specialty bird shops, particularly in large sizes. Some products that we offer are exclusives.

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 - Same basic ingredients as Des Moines Standard, except sunflower is 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, raisins and a protein-vitamin supplement.

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

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

NYJER & FINE HEARTS - Blended at 50/50 ratio for easy flow through finch feeders. Both seed types are re-cleaned by De 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 squirrels' 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 2019 BIRD SEED SALE

PRODUCT NAME	WEIGHT	PRICE	PROD.#	QTY	TOTAL
Cardinal Brand Mix	50#	23.50	1	_____	\$ _____
Des Moines Standard Mix, small	20#	12.50	2	_____	\$ _____
Des Moines Standard Mix, large	40#	21.50	3	_____	\$ _____
Des Moines Classic Mix, small	20#	13.50	4	_____	\$ _____
Des Moines Classic Mix, large	40#	23.50	5	_____	\$ _____
Des Moines Deluxe Mix, small	20#	16.50	6	_____	\$ _____
Des Moines Deluxe Mix, large	40#	29.50	7	_____	\$ _____
Des Moines Regal Mix	35#	39.50	8	_____	\$ _____
Sunflower Seeds, Black Oil, small	25#	12.50	9	_____	\$ _____
Sunflower Seeds, Black Oil, large	50#	22.50	10	_____	\$ _____
Sunflower Hearts, Fine	50#	52.00	11	_____	\$ _____
Sunflower Hearts, Medium	50#	52.00	12	_____	\$ _____
Sunflower Hearts, Coarse	50#	47.00	13	_____	\$ _____
Nyjer & Fine Hearts Mix	20#	27.50	14	_____	\$ _____
Rich & Tweet Mix	20#	25.00	15	_____	\$ _____
Woodpecker Gourmet, small	20#	27.00	16	_____	\$ _____
Woodpecker Gourmet, large	40#	50.00	17	_____	\$ _____
Bushy Tail Treat	20#	21.00	18	_____	\$ _____
Nyjer Seed, (99.5%), small	8#	12.00	19	_____	\$ _____
Nyjer Seed, (99.5%), medium	20#	25.00	20	_____	\$ _____
Nyjer Seed, (98%), large	50#	54.00	21	_____	\$ _____
White Millet (98%)	50#	18.00	22	_____	\$ _____
Peanut Treat Suet	1 cake	2.15	23	_____	\$ _____
Cracked Corn, medium	50#	14.00	24	_____	\$ _____
Ear Corn	35#	18.50	25	_____	\$ _____
Peanuts in the shell	25#	35.00	26	_____	\$ _____
Peanuts (without shells), small	20#	24.00	27	_____	\$ _____
Peanuts (without shells), large	50#	52.00	28	_____	\$ _____
Safflower Seed	50#	31.00	29	_____	\$ _____
NutraSaff (safflower with thin hulls)	50#	35.00	41	_____	\$ _____

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

I wish to donate an additional \$1 to help ASO with education and conservation projects _____ \$ _____

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

NAME

PHONE

EMAIL

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

I WISH TO PICK UP MY ORDER AT:

- 1. Central: 536 Brentwood Rd
near 84th and Pacific
- 2. Bellevue: 125 Bellevue Blvd. South
- 3. Northwest: 11330 Spaulding St.
near 108th and Maple

A reminder with directions to your selected pick-up site will be emailed (or mailed) before the pick-up dates.

MAIL ORDER FORM & CHECK TO:

Audubon Society of Omaha
c/o Betty or John Fullerton
11330 Spaulding Street
Omaha, NE 68164

OR ORDER ONLINE WITH YOUR CREDIT CARD AT:

audubon-omaha.org

ORDERS DUE BY OCTOBER 9.