

May 2005

Volume 34 Issue 5

**ASO is a Chapter
of the National Audubon Society
Serving Eastern Nebraska
and Western Iowa**

Join Audubon at Banquet Tuesday, May 10

Johnny's Cafe on L Street will be the site of our Spring Banquet held on Tuesday, May 10. We will begin with cocktails at 6:00 p.m. followed by a buffet dinner at 7:00.

The Photo Contest is back with us through the work of Eric Scholar, coordinator. Entries will be displayed for our enjoyment, having been

Highlight of the evening will be a presentation by Michael Forsberg, acclaimed for his outstanding photographs of Sandhill Cranes and his fine writing about the Cranes. Michael's engaging presentations are loved by audiences for the beauty of photos, music, and his witty and wise commentary.

judged and prizes awarded. All present at the banquet may also vote for their favorite, resulting in a prize of Most Popular. Eric Scholar, 551-5045, is organizing this contest. The deadline for drop-off of entries is May 2, so hurry with yours!

His photos and articles may be best known in our state through their appearance in *Nebraska Land Magazine*. Also part of the evening will be They have also been published in *National Geographic* presentation of a Service Award and and other national publications. His recent book, "On Installation of officers.

Ancient Wings," with appeal to Sandhill Crane lovers, will be offered for sale during the evening.

Please use the form on page 3 to make your reservations and mail to the addressee shown.

Do not delay - the deadline is May 6. We hope you will join us for dinner, an outstanding presentation, and conviviality to wrap up our year of activities!

Sarpy County Bird Count - Sunday, May 8

**ASO Garden Walk Sunday,
July 10**

The annual Sarpy County Bird Count will be held Sunday, May 8 (Mother's Day), rain or shine. To sign up, please phone Clem Klaphake, Count organizer, 292-2276, or email him at ckavian@cox.net.

How does your garden grow? Do you have a garden that you spend hours on so that you can relax and enjoy it? Why not invite others to see the fruits of your labors?

Editor's Note: The reference in the April issue to quadrants outside Sarpy County was erroneous. For more information, contact Clem at the above phone number or email address.

Calendar of Events

Entire Month of May - Birdathon

May 4 (Wed) Board Meeting

May 8 (Sun) Sarpy County Bird Count

May 10 (Tue) Banquet

July 10 (Sun) Garden Walk

Some Fine Summer Evening - TBA in July issue of the *Meadowlark* : Picnic

We have had many wonderful, beautiful, and creative gardens on the previous years' Garden Walks. We especially like gardens with some unique feature such as a shade garden, vegetable gardens, gardens of grasses, ponds, ironwork, or other features. If you love your garden, why not let others enjoy it too?

Please consider being in this year's Audubon Society of Omaha Sunday, July 10, from 12:30 until 5:00. Master Gardeners will be on hand at several of the sites to answer questions you might have about gardening.

The Vintage Car Club has scheduled their annual summer event to coincide with our Garden Walk, in order to give their members an additional activity to enjoy that day. We wholeheartedly

welcome their participation.

We need volunteers to help with planning and with the pleasant task of

By Nelli Falzgraf

I want to thank the membership for the opportunity to serve as President of vation Partnership; and led trips for ASO since 2003. Without your Nebraska and Iowa Ornithologists' participation and fellowship, our Unions. We worked with Audubon Chapter couldn't continue its diverse Nebraska's Important Bird Areas, programs, projects, and partnerships. Nebraska partnership for All Bird Conservation Birding Trail Workshop, and NGPC's Natural Legacy Project.

It seemed my job was to back up elected officers and directors, support committees who provide activities, facilitate core functions, and take care of finances.

We're fortunate that Board members have come to us with a background working with other organizations, have experience managing surprises and changes of directions, and work for the good of ASO as a whole. I appreciate adjacent land for a shopping mall and am grateful to Chapter and Audubon leaders.

Mission and Priorities

The NAS mission was restated, tailored specifically to ASO, as follows: to promote environmental awareness to the community through education, with an emphasis on birds. We identified priorities: continue educational efforts, strengthen birding interests, and encourage research at Heron Haven.

Education

The ASO continued to provide monthly nature programs and informative newsletters. Volunteers provided outreach to our community, including birding classes; programs on birds, wildflowers, Lewis & Clark, and others; and partnered with the Birding Club and Omaha Raptor Team. Volunteers participated in the Nebraska Alliance for Conservation and Environmental Education planning and informed our readers of conservation issues via the Meadowlark, programs, and emails.

Birding Interest

We continued birding trips, NAS and DeSoto Counts, and the Great Backyard Bird Count. Our members monitored bluebird and kestrel trails; helped with HawkWatch, USGS's Breeding Bird Survey, and Tern & Plover Conser

The ASO monitored a 52-acre greenspace in Washington County since 1998 and managed two natural areas. Volunteers continued to restore our 13-acre Prairie Preserve under the direction of Glenn Pollock, Prairie Manager. There were attempts to develop the adjacent land for a shopping mall and cut an access road through the never-mowed part for a housing area. The Prairie Manager wrote the Planning Board and City Council to protect and defend ASO land against claims.

The ASO contributed \$87,530 to the Papio-Missouri NRD for its purchase of the 10-acre Heron Haven wetland in 1992, mostly using ASO general funds. Much volunteer time and effort was put into fundraising to develop it for talks and walks, including \$240,000 for construction and other costs for maintenance, projects and programs. Because of high costs and the uncertainty of a possible project to remove invasive grass, it was decided to hold off on big projects for awhile. The butterfly garden, attracting 22 species of butterflies, continues to be a highlight of Heron Haven, and we welcome volunteers who have a green thumb and love of beauty.

In December the NRD was contacted that a corporation was formed, the Friends of Heron Haven, that is outside of the ASO, has separate funds, and intends to "operate Heron Haven." Recently they resolved that the ASO should sign an NRD contract and give them management. However, it's owned by the NRD and the decision will be theirs.

Administration

We nominated new officers and directors, held orientation for new board members, handled Chapter funds, compiled a grants list since 1993, used email to facilitate communication (minutes and business), kept current with Audubon Nebraska, and attended a symposium on volunteer resources.

Nelli's Notes

The ASO contributed \$70,000 to the NRD for its purchase of the building in 1996 and moved in 3 years later. Many volunteers worked to renovate, maintain, and staff for visitors, but it was costly—over \$1,200 a month the past 6 years. Almost 2/3 of the building overhead was paid

Continued on page 3

Eastern Towhee -
Photo by Phil Swanson

Nelli's Notes, *Continued from page 2*

from ASO general funds, which are mostly our bequest funds, Birdseed Sales, and NAS chapter share for new members that National recruited.

The building on the floodway was found to have mold from floods and roof leaks. Two board members had difficulties with allergies in the building. ASO paid for one inspection.

Support Services

Our resource-raising efforts included new merchandise and outside marketing venues, Birdseed Sales, Yonkers Community Day, Zoo Safari International Migratory Bird Day.

Farewell

Thank you all for volunteering and supporting the ASO and partners. I hope you will continue with the good work and give your wholehearted support to the next administration.

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Help is needed for work that is a birder's delight. Annually the U.S. Geological Survey sponsors monitoring of breeding birds to track their population and distribution.

A structured protocol is involved, with a birder and a recorder team driving a specific 25-mile route in Nebraska counting all the birds seen and heard at 1/2 mile intervals.

This is an opportunity to become familiar with birds of a niche different from that of our local species. A route is to be monitored any day in June.

If you can help, please contact Loren & Babs Padelford, 292-5556, for more information and available routes.

Banquet Reservation

Johnny's Steakhouse on L Street

Tuesday, May 10 Cash Bar 6:00 p.m. Dinner 7:00

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Number and Street

Ten Commandments for a Healthy Yard

From the National Audubon Society

1. Go Organic

Just say NO or limit exposure to toxic chemicals.

Nourish with "brown gold" (compost), slow release organic rock fertilizers or limestone.

9. Respect Your Neighbor's Right to Know

Notify your neighbor before using pesticides that could drift, remain active on lawn areas, or settle in water.

2. Make Your Turf Tough

Use grass varieties developed for your area.

Use sharp blades to mow 3 to 4 inches high. Short clippings decompose fast to add nitrogen instead of thatch.

Water deeply only when needed and aerate for dense, deep roots.

Children and pets are easily exposed and can take residues into homes.

As neighbors and lawn service to do the same.

Contact local municipalities to learn what, where, and when chemicals are used.

3. Go Native

Native plants mean less care, less time, less expense.

The more native plants in your yard, the more healthy habitats for birds and other wildlife.

10. Teach Tolerance and Be Tolerant

Create natural yards with a variety of pests, predators, weeds, wildlife and native plant species.

Plant bird and wildlife habitat.

Enjoy controlled untidiness, not time-consuming lawn maintenance.

Challenge—Reduce Lawn Area by 25% this season.

4. Know Your Enemies

Get a field guide to identify insects.

Match control to pest.

Use control only if a high number of insects exist.

Learn life cycles so that you do not treat unnecessarily.

5. Treat Only When Necessary

Use nontoxic methods first.

Pick off and dispose of insects, vacuum, prune out infestations, or hose off garden plants.

6. Pick Your Pesticides

Not all chemicals are created qual.

"Shotgun killers harm beneficial insects.

Ask your lawn-care service to list pesticides used.

Look for EPA toxicity ratings: caution (least toxic), warning, poison (most toxic).

7. Use Biological Controls or Biopesticides

Most have very little environmental impact.

Most decompose quickly and affect only the target pest.

8. Follow Directions and Protect Yourself

Read labels before you buy or use a product.

Always wear protective clothing while mixing and applying.

Never use more than recommended.
Remember—Less is Best for survival of beneficial insects!

Do not apply pesticides in windy conditions, near water sources, people, pets or wildlife habitat.

Learn signs of pesticide poisoning.

Show by doing.

Encourage neighbors to build continuous habitat from yard to yard.

For a complete copy of National Audubon's "Guide to a Healthy Yard and Beyond," email audubonathome@audubon.org. To learn more about pesticides, contact National Pesticide Information Center (npic.orst.edu/index.html) or call 1-800-858-7378.

It is Unbelievable that.....

.. 3 times more pesticides are applied per acre to home lawns and gardens than are applied to agricultural crops.

.. Homeowners apply an estimated 60 million pounds of herbicides and insecticides per year to their homes, gardens, and lawns. This does not include applications made to these areas by pest control or lawn care professionals.

.. 86,880 pesticide exposure cases were reported to the national network of Poison Control Centers in 2000. More than half of these poisoning cases involved children under the age of six.

.. It is estimated that 72 million birds die each year as a result of direct exposure to pesticides on agricultural lands alone. Lawn pesticides cause the death of an additional 7 million.

.. Home lawns blanket at least 21 million acres - that's an area larger than Maryland, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire combined.

.. Non-native weeds consume 4600 acres of wildlife habitat per day on public land in the U.S.



Addresses to Remember

President George W. Bush

The White House, 1600
Pennsylvania Ave NW

Audubon Society

Membership Application

The *Audubon Magazine**(see below, chapter-only membership)
and your membership card will be sent to this address:

Washington D.C. 20500-0001

Comments: 202-456-1111; fax:
202-456-2993

Senator Ben Nelson

U.S. Senate, Washington DC
20510; 202-224-6551; fax 202-228-
0012; Lincoln: 402-437-5246;
Omaha 391-3411; Omaha address:
7602 Pacific St, #205, 68114

Senator Chuck Hagel

U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.
20510-2705

Phone: (202) 224-4224; Fax: (202)
224-5213

Omaha phone: (402) 758-8981

Representative Lee Terry

U.S. House of
Representatives, Washington, DC
20515

Phone: (202) 225-4155 ; Fax: (202)
226-5452

Omaha phone: (402) 397-9944

Representative Jeff Fortenberry

U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC 20515

Phone: (202) 225-4806

Lincoln phone: (402) 438-1598

Governor Dave Heineman

Capitol Bldg, Box 94848 Lincoln,
NE 68509

Phone: (402) 471-2244; Fax: 471-
6031

Mayor Mike Fahey

Omaha/Douglas Civic Center
1819 Farnam St, Omaha NE 68183

Phone: 444-5000 Hot Line: 444-
5555

If you find an
injured bird or
prey, please
contact a Raptor
Recovery Center
volunteer at
402-731-9869.



Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____
Zip Code _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____

Introductory Membership

National Audubon & Local Chapter

(1st & 2nd Year \$20)

Chapter-only Membership: \$15

(No National Audubon Magazine)

Mail to Audubon Society of Omaha

19612 Ridgeway Road

Plattsmouth NE 68048

PO 3

7XCH

Memorials

The Audubon Society of Omaha greatly
appreciates the memorials it receives.

When sending your gift, please identify the
person you wish to memorialize and the name
and address of the person to be notified.

Mail to Audubon Society of Omaha

P. O. Box 3542, Omaha 68103-0342

Bequests

A bequest to Audubon is a gift to those who will
succeed us; a gift to secure our natural heritage.

You are alone in the woods. There
is solace and safety there. I know
that our ancestors were born there.
We are home.

Jenean Hornbuckle, Cherokee 2000

**Audubon Society of Omaha, Mailing Address: P. O. Box 3542, Omaha
68103-0542**

**Office Building and Heron Haven Wetland: 11809 Old Maple Road,
Omaha 68164**

Phone: 445-4138 - <http://audubon-omaha.org>

Elected Officers:

President Nelli Falzgraf, 414 Ridgewood Dr, Bellevue 68005 292-9687

1st Vice President Elliott Bedows, 309 Greenbrier Ct, Bellevue 68005 292-5017

2nd Vice President Laurine Blankenau, 3808 Grebe, Omaha 68112 451-3647

Treasurer Patty Albright, 1716 Avenue L, Council Bluffs 51501 323-1966

Past President Eric Scholar, 5012 Nicholas St, Omaha 68132 551-5045

Recording Secretary Linda Dennis, 1011 Homer St, Omaha 68107 733-6548

Elected Directors Jenny Henricksen, 4845 So. 167 Ave Omaha 68135 895-5487

Mace Hack, 1735 So. 87th St, Omaha 68124 934-5040

Mark Armstrong, 12741 Forestdale Dr, Omaha 68123 292-9770

Bob Fuchs, 1113 Dillon Dr, Omaha 68132 553-8242

Sharon Draper, 6220 Kansas Ave, Omaha 68104 572-4026

Tad Leeper, 7750 Park Lane, Ralston 68127 593-8508

Standing Committee Chairpersons:

Conservation Tad Leeper, 7750 Park Lane, Ralston 68127 593-8508

Education Brian Jensen, 12430 Bel Drive, Omaha NE 68144 333-6375

Field Trip Clem Klaphake, 707 Garden Ave, Bellevue 68005 292-2276

Finance Nelli Falzgraf, 414 Ridgewood Dr, Bellevue 68005 292-9687

Fund Raising Pauline Dickey, 2534 Benson Gardens Blvd, Omaha 68134 932-8205

Hospitality DwanDean Leach, 3006 Poppleton, Omaha 68105 346-5769

Membership Kathy Schwery, 19612 Ridgeway Road, Plattsburgh 68048 296-4788

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Program Nancy Leonard, 15526 Pierce Circle, Omaha 68144 330-3888

Publication Laurine Blankenau, 3808 Grebe, Omaha 68112 451-3647

Publicity Jackie Scholar, 5012 Nicholas St, Omaha 68132 551-5045

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Bird Seed Sale Co-Chairs Kathleen Rose, 123 Bellevue Blvd So, Bellevue 68005 292-8912

Carol Rasmussen, 4503 So. 16th St, Omaha 68107 731-3939

Speakers Bureau Eunice Levisay, 9903 Cady Ave Omaha 68134 393-0545

Historian Kathleen Rose, 123 Bellevue Blvd So, Bellevue 68005 292-8912

Building Supervisor Bechara Embaid, 3218 No 120th Ct Apt 221 Omaha 68164... 965-9598

ASO State Board Rep. Mace Hack, 1735 So. 87th St, Omaha 68124 934-5040

NAS Board Member Ione Werthman, 11649 Burt St, #011, Omaha 68154 493-0373

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