

# *The Meadowlark*

March 2009

Volume 38 Issue 3

*ASO is a Chapter*

*of the National Audubon  
Society*

*Serving Eastern Nebraska  
and Western Iowa*

## **Butterflies, Moths and Tiger Beetles**

Delicate and beautiful members of the insect world, as well as their plainer relatives, are all around us in their seasons. Most of us thrill to the sight of butterflies and recognize some by name. Less well-known are the species of moths, except perhaps the large and spectacular luna moth. The tiger beetle we likely have heard of but probably have not seen.

At our Thursday, March 12, general meeting, Steve Spomer, a faculty member at UNL, will present a Power Point talk on the butterflies, moths and tiger beetles of Nebraska. He will guide us on a trip through our state, showing the diversity of habitats and these three insect families associated with them.

Mr. Spomer began collecting butterflies at about age seven, an interest that eventually led to a career in entomology. He received both a B.S. and M.S. degree in entomology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and immediately started working as a research technician in the Entomology Department.

He has worked with many insect pests and crops over the last thirty years, but his main interests include

**Intro Bird Identification Class  
at Fontenelle Forest**

geographic variation in butterflies and tiger beetles, Nebraska distribution, and rearing.

Spomer began investigating the Salt Creek tiger beetle, endemic to Lincoln's salt basin, in 1991 and has conducted population estimates every year since. This research eventually led to the Salt Creek tiger beetle being placed on the state and federal endangered species list.

Please join us for our meeting Thursday, March 12, 7:30 P.M., at the Hanscom Park Methodist Church, 4444 Frances Street (1 block south of 45th & Center Streets).

The program will be followed by a brief business meeting and conclude with a social hour, coffee and cookies. Nonmembers are welcome.

## **Branched Oak Lake Trip March 28**

A field trip will be held Saturday, March 28, to Branched Oak Lake near Lincoln. Don and Jan Paseka will lead the trip. We will depart from Southroads Mall in Bellevue (where we intend to carpool) at 6:30 A.M., arriving at the south end of the dam at 8:00 A.M.

To reach the site, take I-80 to Exit 401, bear right (northwest) on Hwy 34; after

Saturdays: March 14, April 11 and May 2; 8:00 A.M.\_Noon; Ages 12 and up; Limit 15 persons.

Admission is \$20 for the three sessions. Led by Clem Klaphake, ASO President.

Includes local field trips to teach you how to identify birds in your yard or places you go on vacation. No prior knowledge of bird ID is needed. To sign up, contact Clem Klaphake at 292-2276 or ckavian@cox.net

5 miles, turn right (north) on Hwy 79, go 5 miles and turn left (west) on Raymond Road; go 3 miles and bear right, then turn left into the parking lot, our meeting place.

Bring a hot drink and snacks—and a lunch if you care to, or you may join us in Malcolm at a restaurant. By all means, dress for the weather. The trip will officially end after lunch, but weather permitting, we will bird our way home stopping at locations along the way.

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## Birder's Spring Fever

By Clem Klaphake

Can you feel it? Do you feel a kind of antsy-ness or restlessness these days? Do you even look in the mirror to see if you might look a little pale or gray in the face? Or, heaven forbid, take your temperature to see if your body is in the "normal" range of 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit? Of course there is birding to be done twelve months of the year, but there is something different about the approaching spring birding season.

Despite the fact that there will probably be a number of very cold days yet to come and the possibility of a big snowstorm, birders know the winter season's days are numbered and the annual northern migration of birds has already begun. Some of the early migrants have already shown up and are moving through the area in late February.

The early movers include a great variety of waterfowl and raptors. On February 12, I observed 6 different male Northern Harriers migrating north at mid-level heights—in other words, they were very

surroundings, hormone level changes, and finding a nesting- place to reproduce (here the early bird may not only get the worm but also the best site to attract a mate and raise young). Others are just part of the way on their journey to a nesting site and can't waste much time in our back yards, parks, or other stop-off places.

For many of the migrants, Benjamin Franklin's maxim, "Time is of the essence," certainly applies to their need to reach their destinations within a "reproductive window" time frame. For the waterfowl, cranes, shorebirds and eagles, this also means pushing up to the edge of ice melt and thaw in lakes and wetlands as they move north of us. As many of you know, for many of the above species, that means a push-and-wait, push-and-wait pattern all the way to the Arctic and for some, across the Bering Strait to Siberia.

So when you see those Sandhill Cranes, Snow Geese, Swainson's Thrushes, Orange-crowned and Blackpoll

determinedly moving north by soaring and flapping, and not interested in any kind of hunting or food-seeking at a low height. The same was true with several Bald Eagles—not locals but birds very high moving on a southerly wind. Have you also noted the early morning vocalizations of the Cardinals and Chickadees? Like turning a switch from "winter chipping" to "spring vocalization."

And then of course for me there is the ultimate experience every February of hearing the first calls of the Sandhill Cranes. Once I hear them, for me winter is over and spring has arrived, regardless of what we may still experience with spring cold fronts or snowstorms. If any early migrants get my spring birding juices flowing, it is the Sandhill Cranes. With their arrival, I know the other species are close behind, and it is just a matter of being patient and watching every week for the new arrivals until into the middle of May.

The migrants themselves show a certain sense of urgency and restlessness about them as well. Theirs is for good reason, many having already traveled well over 2,000 miles, parts of which may have been nonstop over the Gulf of Mexico. Their sense of urgency has to do with finding food in unfamiliar

Warblers this spring, remember they may be more focused, intent, destination-oriented and restless than we birders are when we see them again for the first time in the new year. What they don't need is additional unnecessary pressure put on them just to get a better look or photograph.

I hope everyone has a great and wonderful spring observing these magnificent colorful long-distance travelers. Hope to see many of you along the flyways and byways enjoying this annual spring ritual.

February 21 Field Trip

By Jerry Toll

Seven members, including a new member, Karen Johnson, visited two cemeteries to look for wintering residents.

It was a blustery day, my friends! Still, 16 species were found.

Westlawn Cemetery at 57th & Center had 14 species present, including two Red-breasted Nuthatches, uncommon this winter. Two Red-tailed Hawks were quite put out by our presence. A few  
*See next page*

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### **Art Contest - April 4**

By Jackie Scholar

The 2009 Audubon Society of Omaha Student Art Contest is underway. Students from K-12 grades submit hand-drawn artwork focusing on Midwestern or endangered birds. Awards for excellence and merit will be given for realism, graphic design, or cartooning. (Deadline for submissions was February 28.)

### **Entries Wanted for Photo Contest**

By Eric Scholar

Audubon's photo contest will be held again this year, and entries are being sought. These will be on display at the May 14 annual spring banquet. All Audubon members are eligible to enter.

The categories are Birds, Other Animals, Wildflowers, Insects, Scenics/people in Nature/Humor in Nature. The photos must be from nature—zoo shots or

All artwork will be hung and on display Saturday, April 4, from 11:00 A.M.\_4:00 P.M. at the Bellevue University Gordon Lozier Center, 1000 Galvin Road South, Bellevue NE. An awards ceremony will take place at 2:00 P.M.

Rules and other details are posted on the website [www.audubon-omaha.org](http://www.audubon-omaha.org). Contact Jackie Scholar at 551-5045 for questions or to help with the following:

1. Hanging of art work at Bellevue University

Friday, April 3: 9:00 A.M.\_noon.

2. Greeting the public and helping with the ceremony

Saturday, April 4: 10:30 A.M.\_4:00 P.M.

## **Neale Woods Nature Center to Open**

The Neale Woods Nature Center will be open weekends from Saturday, March 28, through Sunday, June 21 (Father's Day). The hours are Saturday 8\_5 and Sunday 12\_5.

Visitors may enjoy hands-on educational experiences with their resident animals, as well as Critter Encounters Saturday and Sunday from 1\_3 P.M. These are good experiences for children.

### *Field Trip, cont.*

Wild Turkeys sauntered by—in midtown, mind you.

At Forest Lawn Cemetery on Mormon Bridge Road, 10 species were seen, including bluebirds and Cedar Waxwing, as well as Pine Siskins (also at Westlawn).

Ed: Thanks to Jerry, who led the trip.

photos of pets are excluded.

Entries are limited to two per person per category. They may range in size from 5x7 to 16x20. Matted or framed photos are preferred, but they can be submitted unmatted as long as the owner is clearly indicated.

First and Second prizes will be awarded in each category, along with Best of show. In addition, a prize of Most Popular will be voted by those attending the banquet.

Entries must be received by Friday, April 24. Please phone Eric Scholar at 551-5045 to arrange for delivering your photos.

## **Election of Board Members at April 9 General Meeting**

By Nelli Falzgraf

Election of officers and directors will be held at the April 9 General meeting.

Nominees were recruited by nominating committee members Jerry Toll, Linda Dennis, Tad Leeper, Loren Padelford, Nancy Williams, Neal Ratzlaff and Nelli Falzgraf, Chair. Audubon members at the meeting are eligible to vote.

The slate of candidates are as follows:

Clem Klaphake for President

Jerry Toll for 2nd Vice-President

Linda Dennis for 2nd Vice-President

Maureen Hoskinson for Treasurer

Laurine Blankenau for Recording Secretary

Kathleen Crawford-Rose for Corresponding Sec'y

Nancy Williams, Phil Swanson, Helen Barteel, and Jason McMeen for positions

of Director

Eric Scholar and David Crawford will be serving the 2nd year of their two-year terms as Director.

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The most recent issue of the Alaska Wilderness League's newsletter carried an interesting synopsis of its current Arctic campaigns. With a new Democratic administration, there is hope that wilderness areas from the Tongass forest to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge can be preserved from logging and oil and gas drilling. Following are highlights from the article.

The Alaska Wilderness League continues to pursue lasting protection for the Tongass National Forest in southeast Alaska, one of the last natural forests of its kind still intact with wildlife, salmon, old-growth trees and productive rivers and streams. The League will work with local community and regional leaders, using sound science to craft new legislation for the Tongass.

Under the Bush Administration, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) had recently announced a decision that could alter Alaska's commercial fishing industry and affect the future of Alaska natives in the Bristol Bay area of southwestern Alaska. The BLM plans to allow oil, gas and mining development in key salmon habitat on lands along the Nushagak and Kvichak Rivers that had been off limits for the past 35 years. This region is already targeted for development of Pebble Mine, which would be one of the world's largest copper and gold mines. The Alaska Wilderness League plans to continue fighting the government's efforts to open up to development more than 1 million acres of wild lands in the Bristol Bay area. It hopes to protect the largest commercial salmon fishery in the world, which is located in the region.

Last year environmental groups were successful in keeping Teshekput Lake and nearby National Petroleum Reserve lands closed to oil and gas leasing. Now the Alaska Wilderness League will push for permanent protection for the Lake area, as well as other parts of the Reserve. The League also hopes to require the new administration to study and recommend ways to protect other wildlife areas.

development of new oil spill technology —drilling in the severe Arctic temperatures is extremely risky.

Lastly, the Alaska Wilderness League's campaign to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which most people are familiar with by now, should be easier to accomplish with the new administration. However, Alaska's Senators, one of whom is a ranking member of the Senate Energy Committee, both support Refuge drilling. Economic woes and fluctuating oil prices could affect the passage of permanent protection.

Achieving success in the Arctic campaigns seems more likely with the new administration. The National Audubon Society works on many of the same issues as does the Alaska Wilderness League, and our members should be supportive of these efforts.

A forest organization I belong to is pushing a proposal to combat the effects of global climate change. According to the Forest Service for Environmental Ethics (FSEE), our national forests have the potential to increase their storage of climate-changing greenhouse gases by 43%—the equivalent of removing nearly 20 million cars from our nation's roads.

Forests do better than any other ecosystem on earth at removing carbon dioxide, a key greenhouse gas. Through photosynthesis, trees absorb and convert carbon dioxide and water into oxygen and simple sugars, thereby locking in the carbon as wood. Rainforests are the best carbon sinks, storing vast amounts of carbon.

There are 192 million acres of public forests in our nation. The temperate rainforests like the Tongass in southeastern Alaska and on down the Pacific coast would provide the best storage of carbon. Boreal forests of the Rocky Mountain area and in the Lake states could contribute much to this effort, as could the forested areas of the southeastern states.

The Bush administration has pushed for massive and risky offshore oil and gas development in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. As part of its campaign in this area, the Alaska Wilderness League will work for legislation that calls for a moratorium on all oil and gas development, legislation that would also require the

Currently the U.S. Forest Service's governing law directs that forests be managed for "outdoor recreation, timber, range, watershed and wildlife and fish purposes." The FSEE would like for the law to be modernized to include management for reducing global warming as well. In order for the Service to administer the forest with that

**Continued on page 5**

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**Addresses to Remember**

President Barack Obama

The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW

Washington D.C. 20500-0001

Comments: 202 456-1111

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 Michael Johanns

U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 202 224-4224

Lincoln: 402 471-2311

Representative Lee Terry

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 : Phone: (202) 225-4155 ; Fax: (202) 226-5452

Omaha Address: 11717 Burt St, Omaha 68154

**Audubon Society**

Membership Application

The *Audubon Magazine* and your membership card will be sent to this address:

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**National Audubon & Local Chapter**

**(1st & 2nd Year \$20)**

**Make check payable to National Audubon Society**

**Mail to Audubon Society of Omaha**

**19612 Ridgeway Road**

**Plattsmouth NE 68048**

**PO 3**

**7XCH**

**Memorials**

Omaha phone: (402) 397-9944

Representative Jeff Fortenberry

House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202)  
225-4806

Lincoln phone: (402) 438-1598

Lincoln Address:

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

Lincoln Capitol Switchboard: 402  
471-2311

Washington Capitol Switchboard

Senate: 202 224-3121; House: 202  
225-3121

Wild  
Alaska,

**Cont.from  
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goal in mind, carbon sequestration must  
be made a priority.

Making carbon sequestration a primary  
objective rather than a by-product of  
forest policy would be a very good  
thing. For the health of our planet, our  
public forests need to be managed to  
combat global climate change. This  
mitigation would cost nothing; in fact,  
it would save taxpayer dollars,  
requiring fewer logging roads and less  
subsidizing of timber sales. It is hoped  
that forest scientists and the public can  
convince Congress and the new  
administration to make this change in

The Audubon Society of Omaha greatly appreciates the  
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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 NE 68103-0542

## **Bequests**

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

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



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

**Phone: 451-3647 - <http://audubon-omaha.org>**

**Office: 1941 So. 42nd Street, Omaha NE 68105**

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**1st Vice President Urban Lehner 330-  
3888**

**2nd Vice President Nelli Falzgraf.....  
292-9687**

**Past President Elliott Bedows.....292-  
5017**

**Treasurer Fritz Davis..... 391-4945**

**Recording Sec'y Urban Lehner.....  
330-3888**

**Corresponding Sec'y Kathleen Rose....  
292-8912**

**Elected Directors Linda Dennis.....  
733-6548**

**Jackie Scholar.....551-5045 Eric  
Scholar..... 551-5045**

**Nancy Williams.....291-8580**

**Jerry Toll..... 453-9239**

**David Crawford....884-1660**

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**Conservation Bob Fuchs..... 553-  
8242**

**Education Clem Klaphake.....292-  
2276**

**Field Trip Elliott Bedows.....292-  
5017**

**Finance Nelli Falzgraf..... ...292-9687**

**Fund Raising**

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Send address changes to Kathy  
Schwery, 19612 Ridgeway Road,  
Plattsmouth NE 68048.

**Membership Kathy Schwery..... 296-4788**

**Program ----- Linda Dennis.....  
733-6548**

**Nancy Williams.... 291-8580**

**Natural Areas Mgt. Eric Scholar.....  
551-5045**

**Publication Laurine Blankenau. 451-3647**

**Publicity Jackie Scholar..... 551-5045**

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