

The Meadowlark

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.

March/April 2018
Volume 47, Issue 2

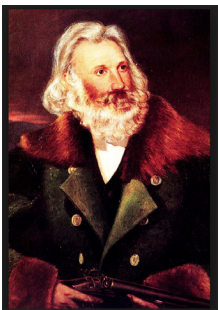


ASO is a chapter of the National Audubon Society, serving eastern Nebraska and western Iowa.

Saturday, March 17th Meeting 175th Anniversary of John J. Audubon's Expedition Up The Missouri River

By Clem Klaphake

With the artistic, financial, and scientific success of the Birds of America behind him, in 1843 John James Audubon set out on a steamship voyage up the Missouri River in search of material for a new project, an equally ambitious illustrated work on the continent's mammals. The expedition did not go quite as planned: John Bachman, Audubon's co-author, complained that the trip brought back hardly any usable specimens, and scientific ornithology has deemed it essentially a waste of time.



It was anything but. Bell's Vireo, Baird's Sparrow, and Harris's Sparrow all owe their names, and in different ways their discoveries,

to Audubon's expedition, and his journals and paintings, along with the notes and memoirs left by some of his companions, preserve a priceless picture of the eastern Great Plains on the verge of "civilization" – and of a brilliant and colorful American naturalist at the end of his career.

Come join Rick Wright as he takes us through Audubon's expedition up the Missouri River



past where the Bellevue Trading Post was located (History Trail) and modern day Bellevue. Rick who grew up in southeastern Nebraska has traveled all over the world leading bird ecotourism trips. He also has taught and lectured at several universities

and currently resides in New Jersey.

The Audubon Society of Omaha and Fontenelle Forest are co-sponsoring Rick's talk on Saturday March 17th at 7:00p.m. at the Fontenelle Forest Buffett Center located at 1111 Fontenelle Blvd. North; Bellevue, NE. Everyone is welcome.



See box on page 4 for additional information

April Meeting Saline Wetlands: Beyond the Beetle

By Alex Wiles

On April 12th we will be joined by wildlife photographer Ethan Freese as he discusses his current project - Saline Wetlands: Beyond the Beetle. This project is focused on showing the diverse assemblage of resident and migratory species that rely on saline wetlands beyond the Salt Creek tiger beetle. While the

tiger beetles are an important indicator species for this unique ecosystem, there are hundreds of other species that call these wetlands home. The meeting will be held at 7pm in the UNO Weitz Community Engagement Center. Meetings are open to the general public, so feel free to bring some friends.

Field Notes from the President: By Matt Miller

Hello fellow Audubon Society of Omaha Members,

As spring approaches and our migrant friends return I wanted to encourage everyone to venture outside and visit Nebraska and Western Iowa's natural areas. Land and Park managers all over our region work extremely hard provide the healthiest landscapes for wildlife and humans. As the snow melts and the ground dries, dust off your binoculars and get outside and stretch those legs.

On another note I wanted to thank our entire support group

for buying, volunteering your time, and spreading the word about our last bird seed sale. If you or anyone that you know wants to get involved with our next sale please feel free to email or call us. The italicized thank you from our Bird Seed Sale Committee shows why it is so important for a small group like ours to find new ways to help generate more revenue while also finding ways to help the environment. I feel going paperless is one way to do that. Remember, if you want to order seed we now have an online order form on our website. ASO also has an

option of getting a paperless newsletter, if you are interested feel free to call or email us to get your newsletter emailed to you:

Thanks for helping with our eighth midwinter Audubon Bird Seed Sale. By using an Email format, eliminating our printing and mailing costs, we were able to generate over \$2,000 (after expenses) to help fund our conservation and education projects.

**The Bird Seed Sale Committee,
Jer, Neal, Kathleen, John & Betty**

*Yours in conservation,
Matt Miller*

SAVE RESOURCES. GO PAPERLESS.

Thank you to the many people who have already committed to going paperless! We are still hoping for at least 100 more members.

Why make the switch? A large part of ASO's mission is conservation, but over the course of a year, we use more than 12,500 sheets of standard printing paper to mail the newsletter. Not to mention, mailing the newsletter takes money (printing and postage costs) and time (each mailing takes a group of 10 volunteers an hour to prepare).

Signing up is easy. Simply email audubonomaha@gmail.com with the subject: "I want to go paperless."

Want program reminders? Follow us on Facebook!

Omaha Youth Birding Group

By Tisha Johnson

Hello friends,

We have been sharing with our beginning birders locations that have been birded year after year by local experts. It has always been our goal to show field trip participants where to bird close to home. This spring season we are interested in introducing new birding locations and adding another field trip per month. In order to accommodate several more Audubon families, we will be offering trips at different times both Saturdays and Sundays.

Saturday 3/17 3:15pm

Sunday 4/1 3:30pm

Saturday 4/28 9:30am

Sunday 4/29 3:30pm

Please check our website closer to these dates to see the location of our field trip. Determining

sites closer to the field trip dates allows us to scout locations prior to field trips and view recent Ebird data (accessible under migration calendar on our website). Please join us and bring your friends, members or not. We will offer free annual memberships to those who join us two to three times this Spring.

The last week of January and the first week of February, there were numerous sightings of Snowy Owls, first in Bellevue, then Maple St. and the 680 interchange. When speaking to Denise Lewis, director of the Raptor Refuge program at Fontenelle Forest, she knew of 5 or 6 Snowy Owls who had been rescued, only one made it as the others were so hungry they weren't able to recover from their exhaustion.

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR OTHER BIRDING OPPORTUNITIES THIS SPRING.

Get Lucky Friday, April 13 • Get Energized Saturday, April 14 AUDUBON STUDENT ART CONTEST AND SHOW 2018

Lucky volunteers get a preview of the artwork for this year's Art Show one day early when they help with hanging the artwork for display on Friday, April 13. If you have the time, it is a great way to see the creativity of many student artists at your own pace and help our organization.

The Student Art Show and Awards Ceremony draws a large number of attendees so we need volunteers to help with greeting students, their families and friends on the day of the show. If you are free (and available) and would like to help it would be greatly appreciated. PLUS there will be a bonus cartoon or two before the awards



Fox Woska

ceremony. This is a great opportunity to get energized about our club's mission and meet fledgling birders. Here are the dates and times we need your help:

Friday, April 13

9:00 am till Noon:

Hanging of artwork

Saturday, April 14

12:00 pm till 3:00 pm:

Help with hosting the show

Saturday, April 14

3:00 pm till 4:00 pm:

Help with take down and take away

Please contact Virginia Stauffer at vstauffer1@yahoo.com or 214-676-6289 if you would like to be a part of this annual event.

Bird Identification Class 2018

By Clem Klaphake

8:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. \$25.00 for all 3 classes must be paid before the start of the first class.

Part 1

MARCH 10th

Fontenelle Forest Nature Center

Part 2

APRIL 14th

Wetland Learning Center

Part 3

MAY 5th

Fontenelle Forest Nature Center

With over 50 million 'birders' in the U.S., bird watching is the fastest

growing outdoor activity today. Led by Clem Klaphake and Justin Rink, past presidents of the Audubon Society of Omaha, this class includes local field trips/walks designed to teach you how to identify the birds in your backyard or any other location you might en-

counter them, use of field guides and use of binoculars. No prior knowledge of bird identification is needed. If you are interested, contact Clem Klaphake at 402-292-2276 or ckavian@cox.net to register. For ages 12 and up. The class is limited to 15 people.



"The earth has music for those who listen."

- William Shakespeare

Photo by Phil Swanson



Sarah and Matt Miller, Deb and Neal Ratzlaff and Jerry Toll helped with distribution of seed for our Winter Email Bird Seed Sale.

ANNUAL BANQUET TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY MAY 16TH

This year's banquet will be held at Anthony's Steakhouse. Reservations can be made online or through the mail. A reservation form is provided for you below. Reservations are due by Wednesday, May 9th.

Patron tickets are available for the May 16th banquet for \$50 per person. Tax deductible amount per patron ticket is \$50 minus the cost of the dinner. Conservation and education projects that your donations helped support in the last year included Audubon Society of Omaha's Youth Birding group, Pottawattamie County Hawk Watch and restoration of the prairie near Hilltop Trail at Fontenelle Forest's Neale Woods.

BANQUET RESERVATION

Anthony's Steakhouse • 7220 F Street • Omaha, NE 68127
Wednesday, May 16, 2018 • Cash Bar 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m.

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address and zip code _____

Email Address _____

Please choose from the following entrees:

___ \$29 Top Sirloin ___ \$24 Chicken Piccata ___ \$21 Pasta Primavera

Patron ticket(s) ___ \$50 (Tax Deductible amount is \$50 minus price of dinner)

Enclosed is \$_____ for _____ person(s).

Make check payable to Audubon Society of Omaha.
Mail to: Helen Barteo, 521 Beverly Drive, Omaha, NE 68114
Online reservations can be made at omahaaudubon.org

Reservations must be received by Wednesday, May 9th.

Election of Officers for 2018-2019

By Tisha Johnson

The annual election of officers will be held at our April general meeting. The slate of officers and directors is listed below.

OFFICERS:

President

Matt Miller

1st Vice President

Bob Wells

2nd Vice President

TBA

Treasurer

Betty Fullerton

Recording and Corresponding Secretary

Shannon Engberg

DIRECTORS:

Mark Cave

Galyn Langar

TBA

Nominations can be presented at the meeting provided permission has been obtained from the nominees.



FONTENELLE  FOREST

The Audubon Society of Omaha and Fontenelle Forest

Present "CELEBRATING JOHN JAMES

AUDUBON'S VOYAGE UP THE MISSOURI

RIVER 175 YRS AGO"

by Rick Wright

Professional bird guide for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours
as well as historian, philosopher, and scientist

Saturday, March 17 at 7 pm

Fontenelle Forest Buffett Center

1111 Fontenelle Blvd N. , Bellevue, NE

A copy of John James Audubon's book "The Birds of America" will be won by one lucky person. For more information go to the Audubon Society of Omaha website: www.audubon-omaha.org or the Fontenelle Forest Leaflet.

Talk is free and open to the public.

Addresses to Remember

President Donald Trump, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500-0001, Comments: 202-456-1111

Senator Deb Fischer, U.S. Senate, Washington DC 20510; Phone: 202-224-6551; Fax: 202-228-1325; Lincoln Phone: 402-441-4600; Omaha Phone: 402-391-3411; Omaha Address: 11819 Miracle Drive 68154

Senator Ben Sasse, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510; Phone: 202-224-4224; Lincoln Phone: 402-476-1400

Representative Don Bacon, U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515; Washington Capital Switchboard: 202-225-3121; 13906 Gold Circle, Suite 101 Omaha, NE 68144, 402-938-0300

Representative Jeff Fortenberry, House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515, Phone: 202-225-4806; Lincoln Phone: 402-438-1598

Governor Pete Ricketts, Capitol Bldg, Lincoln, NE 68509; Phone: 402-471-2244

Mayor Jean Stothert, Omaha/Douglas Civic Center 1819 Farnam St., Omaha NE 68183, Phone: 402-444-5000 Hot Line: 402-444-5555

Lincoln Capitol Switchboard: 402-471-2311

Washington Capitol Switchboard

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

Bequests

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

Memorials

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

DONATE DIRECTLY FROM IRA, TAX-FREE

IRA owners age 70-1/2 or older are able to make a direct transfer of a distribution from their IRA trustee to a qualified charity, up to 100,000 annually. This amount is not taxable and may be excluded from the IRA owner's taxable income. If this is done, no additional tax deduction is available for these funds. Contact 402-505-9494 for more information. (Be sure to discuss with your professional tax preparer)

Memberships

For membership in the National Audubon Society (which automatically includes membership in the Audubon Society of Omaha), go to omahaaudubon.org and select "Get Involved." The drop down menu will allow you to choose "Become a member" or "Renew." The membership fee is \$20. You will receive the Audubon magazine and our local newsletter, the Meadowlark.

If you do not wish to join the National Audubon Society, you may opt to join our local chapter (ASO) only. This can be done online by following the steps given above and selecting Join/Renew ASO. Local memberships can also be obtained by filling out the form below and sending it, along with a check for \$20 made out to the Audubon Society of Omaha, to the following address:

Audubon Society of Omaha
19612 Ridgeway Road
Plattsmouth, NE 68048

With membership in the Audubon Society of Omaha, you will receive our local newsletter, *The Meadowlark*.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip code _____

Telephone _____

Email _____



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

Find ASO on social media:



@AudubonOmaha

Audubon Society of Omaha
P.O. Box 3542
Omaha NE 68103-3542

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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Audubon Society of Omaha, Mailing Address: P. O. Box 3542, Omaha 68103-3542

Phone: 402-445-4138 – omahaaudubon.org

Office: 1941 S. 42nd St., Omaha NE 68105

Elected Officers:

President Matt Miller – 402-681-4625

1st Vice President Bob Wells – 402-393-4683

2nd Vice President Tisha Johnson – 402-885-0990

Corresponding and Recording Secretary

Kathleen Crawford-Rose – 402-292-8912

Elected Directors:

Alex Wiles – 559-349-7359

Galyn Langar – 402-595-8543

Jackie Scholar – 402-551-5045

Sarah Miller – 402-980-9678

Shannon Engberg – 402-598-2127

Virginia Stauffer – 402-933-6063

Standing Committee Chairpersons:

Conservation Bob Fuchs – 402-553-8242

Education Clem Klaphake – 402-292-2276

Field Trip Clem Klaphake – 402-292-2276

Finance Nelli Falzgraf – 402-292-9687

Membership Kathy Schwery – 402-296-4788

Natural Areas Management Glenn Pollock – 402-571-6230

Program – Alex Wiles 559-349-7359

Publication Helen Bartee – 402-657-3845

Publicity Jackie Scholar – 402-551-5045

Other Activities:

Bird Seed Sale Chairs

Betty and John Fullerton

Art Contest Chair

Virginia Stauffer – 214-676-6289

Historian – Eric Scholar – 402-551-5045

Interim Exec. Dir. Audubon NE – Bill Taddicken – 308-465-5282

ASO Administrator – Stacey Coury – 402-445-4138

ASO Accountant – Betty Fullerton – 402-493-4362

NAS Board Member – Michele Crist – 208-863-1918

Pan-Flyway Director – Karim al-Khafaji

Six issues of *The Meadowlark* are published annually:

January - February, March - April, May - June, July -

August, September - October, November - December.

The newsletter may be accessed on our website,
omahaaudubon.org

Send address changes to: Kathy Schwery, 19612

Ridgeway Road, Plattsmouth NE 68048, or

email: djschw@windstream.net.