

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.

May/June 2018
Volume 47, Issue 3



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

ANNUAL BANQUET Wednesday, May 16th, 2018 Anthony's Steak House 7220 F Street, Omaha, NE Cash Bar 6:00 pm Dinner 7:00 pm

Chris Helzer will give the following presentation at our banquet.

THE POWER OF DIVERSITY, REDUNDANCY AND RESILIENCE IN PRAIRIES

Prairies face tremendous challenges in today's world, and things will only get more difficult as the climate continues to change rapidly. However, the incredible diversity of plants and animals found in prairies doesn't just make them fascinating to study and explore – it also provides them with the capacity to adapt and survive. This presentation will celebrate that diversity through photographs and natural history stories, and will give you reason to feel optimistic about the future of prairies.

CHRIS HELZER

Chris Helzer is The Nature Conservancy's Director of Science in Nebraska. His main role is to evaluate and capture lessons from the Conservancy's land management and restoration work and share those lessons with other land managers. He also works to raise awareness about the value of prairies and prairie conservation through his photography, writing, and presentations. His writings and photos have been featured in NEBRASKAland Magazine. He is the author of the book entitled "The Ecology and Management of Prairies in the Central United States". Reservations for the banquet must be made by Wednesday, May 9th. A registration form for the banquet is located on page 6.



Online reservations can be made at
omahaaudubon.org

SUPPORT ASO'S NEW EDUCATION INITIATIVE ON MAY 23 THROUGH OMAHA GIVES!

by Betty Fullerton

To further accomplish our society's mission, we are raising \$4,000 to help offset the initial costs of our new educational bird programs. Rick Schmid is contracting with ASO to develop eight youth bird programs, all of which will support Nebraska's state science standards. Programs will explore topics such as differentiating birds from other animals, a bird's life (egg, incubation, growth, molt, migration),



physical adaptations of birds, etc. Revenue generated from these programs will help support other ASO activities as well as increase ASO's program revenue.

Please consider a donation

during Omaha Gives! on May 23 to help us buy the following resources: portable laptop computer, projector, portable screen, portable CD player, totes, binoculars, field guides, and other miscellaneous program materials. Please note that these resources will also be used for other ASO activities and programs.

Thank you for your continued support!

Field Notes from the President: By Matt Miller

As spring battles off winter and the Omaha metro gets its first glimpses of spring, I was excited to finally settle down and take my mind off previous prescribed fire season work and get out for birding. It was a cool day but the spring sun had no interruptions, which helped dry the ground and assist my hiking. With binoculars in hand, I was reassured that spring was here as a yellow-rumped warbler appeared bouncing across a bur oak branch in a savanna restoration area behind the north point of Fontenelle Forest's Camp Brewster. Moments such as this remind me why I joined the Audubon Society of Omaha.

Art show, youth and adult birding hikes, Earth Day booth, prairie



Camp Brewster Oak Savanna
Photo by Josh Preister

restoration, land acquisition, environmental education, multiple partnerships, and a variety of other volunteer opportunities help solidify the importance of organizations like ASO in a metropolitan area such as Omaha. The impact of our membership spreads statewide and shows there is power in numbers. Nature motivates me, and the signs of spring bring revival of the spirit

and reminder of the need and opportunity for volunteering.

In my short term as an ASO member, I have come to know an organized volunteer base that provides this opportunity.....from those who want to be involved for just one hour to those who would want to help organize an event. Therefore I want to encourage you, our member base and your friends, to get involved. Organizations such as ASO exist all over the Metro, and all it takes is a simple email or phone call to see how you can get started.

Hope to see you outside, whether its volunteering or birding for enjoyment.

*Yours in conservation,
Matt Miller*

EASTERN WOOD WARBLER MIGRATION

by Rick Schmid • photos by Phil Swanson

For the first three weeks in May, we (in eastern Nebraska) experience the fascinating phenomenon of warbler migration. Wood warblers are small, colorful perching birds that breed throughout North America and winter anywhere from the southern U.S. to the tropics, depending on the species. In all, about 48 different species of wood warblers are regularly found in the U.S., and 41 of them can possibly be found somewhere in Nebraska. The Missouri River valley adjacent to eastern Nebraska provides a primary migration route for many eastern wood warblers, and about 35 species can be found in this area alone.

In the spring, male warblers are in breeding plumage when they pass through Nebraska. If you get a reasonably good look at a male warbler in springtime, it is usually not difficult to identify. The colors and patterns are distinc-

five. Female warblers are generally less strikingly colored/patterned than males, but they are usually identifiable. The problem lies in the fact that it is often difficult to get a good look at a warbler because it may be hidden by foliage, moving continuously or foraging very high in the top of a tree. As such, it is important to use songs and calls to locate and help identify spring warblers.

In recent years, Fontenelle Forest (1111 Bellevue Blvd N in Bellevue) has become recognized as one of the premier warbler migration hotspots in the U.S. Other local sites that are good for warbler-viewing include: Walnut

Grove Park (150th & Q Streets in Millard), Towl Park (94th & Center Streets in Omaha), Chalco Hills Recreation Area (150th & Giles Road) and Platte River State Park. Indian Cave State Park in southeastern Nebraska is always worth the trip in early May.

Even if you can't get out to the birding hotspots, it's possible to see warblers in your local park, neighborhood or backyard. Species that are quite common during migration and can show up almost anywhere include:

So, keep your eyes and ears open this spring for these beautiful little birds.



Yellow Warbler



Nashville Warbler



Black-and-White Warbler

Desoto Spring Bird Count

By Jerry Toll

The DeSoto NWR Spring Bird Count will be held Saturday, May 5th, starting at 8 am. We will meet in the Visitor Center in the conference room to receive assignments, permits and keys. If you plan to stay the entire day please bring a lunch. If you are available for only a half day you will be accommodated. As always, dress accordingly for the weather.

Please contact me in advance if the plan to participate.

geritol48@cox.net

402-312-1635

Looking forward to seeing you on May 5th.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT!

Recycling is available here in our city for plastic foam items with the "6" on the bottom.

Plastilite (402-453-7501) offers a large bin accessible 24 hours a day.

To find it go to Hwy 36 (McKinley); turn north on actual 48th St (just west of the 48th St Exit from 680), take the first left, and you will find Plastilite a short distance ahead.

The street address is 4930 Battlefield Drive, but the above directions are more helpful.



The Annual Sarpy County Spring Bird Count

by Clem Klaphake

The Annual Sarpy County Spring Bird Count will be held on Saturday May 12th. The county is divided into four (4) sections from Fontenelle Forest on the Missouri River in the east to the Platte River in the west in the Linoma Beach area. In between are two sections including Schramm

Park SRA, Walnut Creek Lake Recreation Area, and Prairie Queen Recreation Area. Counters will be needed and any help is appreciated. If you are interested in helping out all day or part of the day contact Clem Klaphake at 402-292-2276 or ckavian@cox.net

Omaha Youth Birding Group

by Tisha Johnson

Hold onto your hats, we have opportunity after opportunity in this newsletter. Grab your Youth's calendar, right?? and your calendar, and be intentional in living your values. The outdoors teaches us so many things, and why not make it even more fun by hanging out alongside your birding friends? Can we really separate the two? What's the first thing you do when you see a new bird? You run inside and share the news with your spouse and/or kids, or your furry friends. So let's do this together, all we need is the most beautiful Spring! Well, the most beautiful, last half of Spring. Hopefully, a few of the spring migrators will hang out a bit longer this year. But we just don't know, so we have to get out there as much as possible. The length of our programs are usually 1.5 hours. Late Sunday afternoons are better for majority of folks in the month of May, but we do have one Saturday trip May 12th, and the one on June 2nd is also a Saturday.

2:00pm Sunday May 6th, Joslyn Castle property, a NEW location! First, bird with our group, then decide whether or not you'd like to take a guided tour of the Castle. Tour begins at 3pm, \$8-\$10/person. Park at the Davenport St. entrance parking lot.

10:00am Saturday May 12th; Heron Haven First a short presentation on Kestrels by our very talented Bob Wells, then the outdoor birding experience will take us throughout Heron Haven, one of Douglas County's best urban birding hotspots. Owls migrate too, so we'll celebrate spring migration by dissecting owl pellets. Gross, but so very fun. (This is a good location to look at a map first. When turning off 120th, just past the Maple intersection you'll make a very quick right, be ready.)

3:30pm Sunday May 20th Probably Elmwood or Walnut Grove Parks Will have to watch weather and bird migration. Closer to the date, please look at the Events Calendar on Audubon Omaha website to get the location.

9:00-12:00 Saturday morning June 2nd Fontenelle Forest Joint birding trip with Iowa Young Birders, hoping to catch the end of spring migration, through both upland forest and wetland habitats, our two birding groups are sure to have some fantastic sightings. Without a membership, entry is \$7.50-\$9.50/person. Park at main Nature Center entrance, 1111 Bellevue Blvd. (Possibility for group pricing if 12 non-members attend.)

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR OTHER BIRDING OPPORTUNITIES

2018 STUDENT ART CONTEST & SHOW

by Virginia Stauffer • photos by Eric Scholar



Despite the weather, almost 400 students, parents and teachers attended the 2018 Audubon Society of Omaha Student Art Contest & Show at Bellevue University on Saturday, April 14. This year there were 270 entries (Kindergarten through 12th grade) representing 30 different schools in the greater Omaha area. All students who entered the contest had their artwork displayed for viewing and were acknowledged for their participation. It was a very festive and rewarding day for all those involved.

Students and their families were excited to see their artwork exhibited and to receive the awards in the Muller Administration Building conference center. They also enjoyed learning about a live screech owl, Chinook, courtesy of Fontenelle Forest. Prior to the awards ceremony, attendees were able to see a slide show of excellence award-winning artwork from this year's students and two Pixar cartoons, "Piper" and "For the Birds".

The artwork was very good and included watercolors, acrylic paintings, cut-paper collage, oil pastels, crayon drawings and multi-media. The categories for judging included; Realism, Graphic Design, Cartooning and, new for 2018, Recycled. Cardinals, sandhill cranes, meadowlarks, owls, and eagles were popular subjects along with some unique endangered birds such as the California condor.

Students and their families were greeted by ASO members; Stacey Coury, Shannon Engberg, Nelli Falzgraf, Tisha Johnson, Jackie Scholar and Jaye Welch. Virginia Stauffer and Tisha Johnson hosted the awards while Jackie Scholar and Nelli Falzgraf presented prizes and ribbons during the ceremony. And Matt Miller, president of ASO, made a guest appearance. Awards of Excellence and Merit in the various categories were presented to students in each grade level at the ceremony.



Best of Show awards were also presented to the following:

Grades K-4:

Rowan High Horse, Graphic Design, St. Albert Catholic School

Shaylee Carnes, Cartooning, Aspen Creek Elementary

Adele Tompsett, Recycled, Art Lessons by Anne Tompsett

Henry Buck, Realism, Our Lady of Fatima Home School

Grades 5-8:

Anika Roddy, Realism, Golden Hills Elementary

Quenby Smith, Recycled, Smith Home School

Miranda Crutcher, Cartooning, Liberty Middle School

Brianna Wilson, Graphic Design, Liberty Middle School

Grades 9-12:

Bridgette Abernathy, Graphic Design, Bellevue East High School

Mazey Menze, Recycled, Boys Town High School

Stephanie Mlynarik, Realism, Fort Calhoun Community Schools

Megan Rupp, Graphic Design, Fort Calhoun Community Schools

The Audubon Society of Omaha is grateful to the wonderful volunteers and establishments for their time, support, enthusiasm and talents in making this show a great success. Thank you, all.

Collection and hanging of artwork:

Helen Bartee, Kathleen Crawford-Rose, Nelli Falzgraf, Dennis and Karlene Kingery, Anne Maguire, Loren and Babs Paddleford, Jackie Scholar, Virginia Stauffer, and Jaye Welch.

Greeting the Public & Awards Ceremony:

Andrew Callison, Charlie Callison, Stacey Coury, Shannon Engberg, Nelli Falzgraf, Tisha Johnson, Jackie Scholar, Max Stauffer, Virginia Stauffer and Jaye Welch.

Certificates of Appreciation:

Nelli Falzgraf

Raptor Presentation:

Patty Albright

Photography:

Eric Scholar



Fontenelle Forest

Bellevue University Staff, Maintenance

ASO Art Contest website:

Stacey Coury

Judges: Marlene McCann, Kit Murrin, Anne Maguire, Jaye Welch

Participating Art Teachers and Classroom Teachers

Parents of the Participating Students



Quenby Smith, Grade 6



Aruna Astleford, Grade 9



Promise Raumaker, Grade 8



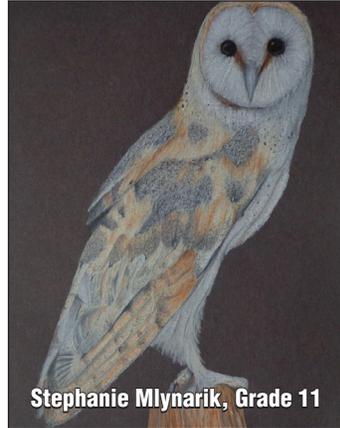
Julia McNamara, Kindergarten



Kennedy Bradburn, Grade 10



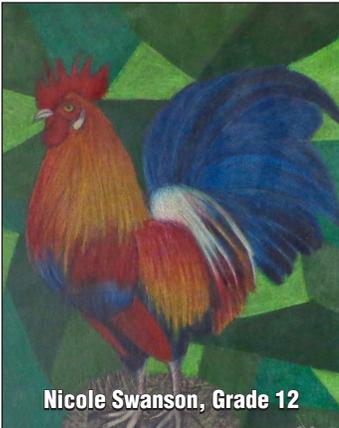
RaeAnne Borsh, Grade 11



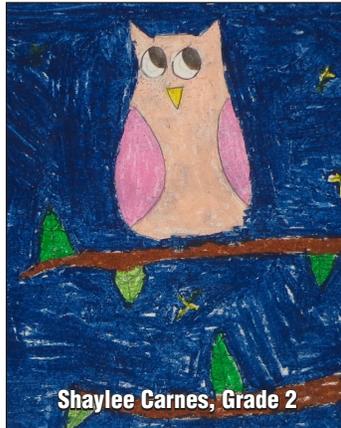
Stephanie Mlynarik, Grade 11



Clarice Ann Santos, Grade 12



Nicole Swanson, Grade 12



Shaylee Carnes, Grade 2



Grace Sheldon, Grade 2



Jazmin Arenas, Grade 4



Maggie Niles, Grade 4



Sophia Sullivan, Grade 5



Sophia Harding, Grade 7



Frances Hoover, Grade 7

Photos of children's art work by Virginia Stauffer

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 May 16th banquet. The slate of officers and directors is listed below.

OFFICERS:

President
Matt Miller

1st Vice President
Bob Wells

2nd Vice President
Virginia Stauffer

Treasurer
Betty Fullerton

Recording and Corresponding Secretary
Shannon Engberg

DIRECTORS:

Mark Cave
Ruth Benzinger
Mike Benkis

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

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!

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

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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.