

The Meadowlark



March 2012

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

HAWKS, FALCONS AND OWLS: General Meeting March 8th

by Clem Klaphake

Hawks, falcons and owls, often known collectively as raptors, will be the topic of ASO's General Meeting on Thursday, March 8th. This is a program with live birds you won't want to miss. Of all the bird families, the various raptors always seem to draw the most attention for the general public, and of course our national symbol is one as well.

Denise Lewis of Bellevue has worked with Raptor Recovery Nebraska (RRN) as an Outreach Coordinator for 11 years. RRN has been around for 36 years and is the only licensed raptor rehabilitation center in the state of Nebraska. The center is located in Elmwood, Nebraska, where all injured raptors eventually end up going. RRN receives no money from the state or federal government; they rely totally on donations, memberships and income from educational programs. Denise alone did 178 educational programs last year, reaching over 10,000 people of all ages. Last year Denise received 130 birds just from the metro area and answered hundreds of calls regarding raptors.

In 2011 RRN received 471 birds and released just about fifty percent back to the wild. Why are the raptors brought in to RRN? The reasons vary from gunshot wounds to lead poisoning; sicknesses such as West Nile Virus; malnutrition/starvation, car collisions (especially owls at night or other raptors feeding on road kill); and broken wings from colliding with fences, windows, and numerous other objects. Then there always are the young who 'well-intentioned people' think have no parent looking after them, but have simply left the nest and are waiting for an adult to feed them. Finally, there are young that either fall out of the nest or the nest gets destroyed by humans or nature (e.g. rain storms).

Denise will discuss how the birds get to an Outreach Coordinator (there also is one located in Kearney and Lincoln) and eventually to RRN in Elmwood. How do they treat the birds once they arrive? How do they determine if a bird is releasable? What does RRN do with birds that are not releasable? What is the variety of raptor species that are brought in for rehabilitation? Does RRN know the origin of many of the migratory species brought in?

These are some of the questions Denise will be discussing along with any others you might have.

Denise will also address the topic of Snowy Owls in relation to RRN because this has been a huge irruption year for that species throughout the U.S.

So bring your cameras with you (including flashes) and join us Thursday, March 8th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Hanscom Park Methodist Church, 4444 Frances Street (1 block south of 45th & Center Streets) to see live hawks, owls and falcons and to hear Denise Lewis talk about raptors and their rehabilitation. The program will be followed by a brief business meeting and conclude with a social hour and cookies. Visitors are welcome.

March Field Trip

Join Justin Rink Saturday March 24th for a trip around some of the local Omaha lakes to search for various ducks and grebes. We will meet at 9:00am at the first parking lot after the turn into Levi Carter Park at Carter Lake. This area has been productive all winter, and we should be able to turn up some good waterfowl numbers.

Postcard From The President by Jer Toll

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Earth Taking One On The Chin

A Los Angeles Times article on February 5th entitled "SOLAR RUSH MEANS DESERT IS TAKING ONE FOR THE TEAM" caught my attention. The subtitle was "Environmental groups are accepting the damage because they view climate change as the greater enemy."

The article is about multiple solar energy projects in six western states, mostly on public lands, that are clearing large swaths of fragile desert landscapes to make way for solar energy development. According to the article, the extent of the area to be developed is perhaps equal to one-half the size of Nebraska.

The leadership of twelve major environmental organizations supports the action. Of these only two were named, The Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council. Sadly, this kind of decision is not unusual. The environmental community largely thinks altruistically, not out of an interest in preserving the natural world for our personal gain but realizing that, like nature that seeks to strike a balance between opposing forces, we must compromise with vested self-interests to preserve what we can.

We rely on our national leaders for their expertise and judgment in the political arena to take

action on our behalf. The leaderships of these twelve organizations believe that the benefits combating climate change outweigh the effects of habitat loss on the local level. While I tend to disagree with their decision, I know that climate change will only be slowed if solar energy replaces rather than supplements dirtier forms of energy. Energy policy is extremely complex, and realistically the decision the environmental organizations support may be the only option.



Oftentimes what serves the greater good is detrimental to the individual or the few. Self-preservation is a strong motivator. A motivator that seems to be strongest when individuals are confronted with a direct threat. The debate over climate change is an example. Disbelievers of climate change see the threat to livelihood, radical changes in their lifestyles and spending habits as threats to their freedom of choice, particularly because the effects are not clearly evident. And what is so bad about warmer winters?

On the other side, believers in climate change have looked at the overwhelming evidence that in 40,

50 or 100 years, our children's children will be living in a much more chaotic world because of the domino effects of violent weather and rising oceans, to name a few. Yet it is easy even for believers to be ambivalent because of the sacrifices that must be made to lessen the effects of climate change. In addition, we may not live long enough to experience the worst of it.

Perhaps the best way to effect the challenge of climate change in a positive way is to support our environmental leadership even when we don't agree with their methods.

The strength of the Audubon organization is having the strong presence of a national organization to deal with broad environmental issues on a large scale, while local chapters can be here to support on small-scale issues.



March Field Trip *continued...*

Be sure to bring weather-appropriate gear, optics, and a spotting scope if you have one.



Student Art Contest Reminder

The Student Art Contest is on Saturday, March 31 from 12:00 - 3:30 at the Bellevue University Gordon Lozier Center. Volunteers are still needed for the welcoming of children and their families at the awards ceremony on March 31. Please call Jackie Scholar at 402-551-5045 if you can help.



Introductory Bird Identification Class

Saturdays March 24th, April 21st, and May 5th

8:00 a.m. to Noon - At Fontenelle Forest/Neale Woods Nature Centers. Admission \$20.00 for all three sessions **MUST** be paid in advance.

Ages 12 and up - This class is limited to 15 participants.

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, both Board members of the Audubon Society of Omaha, this class includes local field trips designed to teach you how to identify the birds in your backyard or places you go on vacation.

No prior knowledge of bird identification is needed. To sign up, contact Clem Klaphake at

402-292-2276 or
ckavian@cox.net.



Election of Board Members at March 8 General Meeting

Election of officers and directors will be held at the March general meeting. The slate of candidates who will take office July 1, 2012, follows:

Justin Rink - President
Jerry Toll - Past President
Jackie Scholar - 1st Vice-President
Laurine Blankenau - 2nd Vice-President
Dennis Kingery - Treasurer
Nelli Falzgraf - Recording Secretary
Anne Boice - Corresponding Secretary
Eric Scholar - Director
Tad Leeper - Director
Bob Fuchs - Director

All members present are eligible to vote. Nominations from the floor are accepted, with written approval of the candidate.



Banquet May 10th

Mark your calendar for the 2012 Audubon Banquet on Thursday, May 10. Our speaker will be Larkin Powell of UNL - on the culture and conservation efforts in Namibia, Africa, where he and his

wife have worked. She will share the podium with him.



Photo Contest at May Banquet

We will be having a photography Contest at the May 10th Banquet. More details will be coming in next month's edition of *The Meadowlark*.



BIRD SEED SALE VOLUNTEERS THANKS!

Our second winter bird seed sale was a success despite a delivery day snowstorm that did its best to stop business. Thanks go out to all the volunteers and customers who made this sale a success. We apologize if we miss anyone, but we would really like to recognize the volunteers.

Neal Ratzlaff: Garage master and chief consultant.

Jer Toll: Delivery and distribution, Volunteer coordinator.

Carole and Dick Rasmussen, Kathleen Crawford-Rose: Chief paper pushers.

Jim McLochlin: Web Master

Jer Toll, Neal Ratzlaff, Justin Rink, and John Pollack: Distribution crew



How Do You Pronounce That Name?

by Clem Klaphake

As birders, we often hear discussions about how species names have changed over the years, due to scientific breakthroughs such as DNA testing, and the older we are the more changes we have seen. Now I want you to think about the pronunciation of bird names. Have you ever been with someone, or in a group that YOU think is mispronouncing the name of a species, and you aren't sure if you should correct them? And then you may start to think, "Am I pronouncing it correctly"? Here are some examples for you to think about, and I will put the accepted pronunciations in the April Newsletter. So check it out with your birding friends before April.

1. Start with Pyrrhuloxia ñ Is it Pie-roo-LOX-ee-ah OR Peer-oo-LO-sha OR something else?
2. Is Bewick's Wren pronounced Buick's or Bee-wick's?
3. How do you say Common Murre? Murie OR Murr OR Moo-ree OR Murray as a person's name?
4. How about something as simple as Egret? Is it EE-gret OR ee-GRET?
5. How about a Parasitic Jaeger? Is it jayger OR yajger?

6. How about the chicken footed bird called a Jacana? Do we say ja-CANE- ah OR ja-KAHN-ah OR JACK-a-nah, OR something else?

7. Woodpeckers? Is it PIE-lee-ated OR PILL-ee-ated?

8. How about the Arctic raptor the Gyrfalcon? Is it JEER-falcon OR JURR-falcon OR GIRE-falcon?

9. How about Ferruginous Hawk? Is it fur-ROOG-ah-nuss OR fur-ROOJ-ah-nuss?

10. How about the Parula Warbler? Is it pa-ROO-lah OR PAR-you-lah OR PAIR-you-lah?

11. Prononcez, siil vous plait, Le Conte's Sparrow? Is it Le-KAUNT's OR Le-KAUN-tay's OR Le-kaun-TAY's

12. How about Osprey? Is it AH-spray OR AH-spree?

13. What about a Lazuli Bunting?

14. Or Pigeon Guillemot (not really a pigeon)?

15. How about the South Texas specialty Pauraque?

16. What about Plover? Does it rhyme with lover or rover?



North American Bluebird Society Conference

Newport Beach, CA – October 4-6, 2012

The Southern California Bluebird Club is hosting this family-friendly event at the Radisson Hotel, Newport Beach, directly across from the John Wayne Airport. Members have planned an exciting and entertaining conservation-focused agenda for participants. Laura Erickson from Cornell University will be the keynote speaker. Her topic is "How Birds Learn." Her workshop is "101 Ways to Help Birds."

Other highlights include a hero of conservation, Steve Simmons, from Merced, CA. Steve will talk about his many years of banding experience and his 800 nest boxes for cavity nesting species. He will also show his menagerie of ingenious tools to outwit and safely trap birds. From Colorado Andrea Mackie, Executive Director of the Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas, will speak about the status of the Mountain Bluebird. Naturalist Steve Shunk of Oregon will enlighten guests about how woodpeckers are keystone species for cavity-nesting birds.

Additional information on workshops and field trips along with registration information is now available via Southern California Bluebird Club (www.socalbluebirds.org) and NABS

(www.nabluebirdsociety.org). Check out their promo video on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=CS2_jMQwqd0

Register before June 1 for a \$10 discount.

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 phone: 402-437-5246;

Omaha phone: 402-391-3411;

Omaha address: 7602 Pacific St, #205, 68114

Senator Michael Johanns

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

Lincoln: 402 476-1400

100 Centennial Mall N Rm 294, Lincoln NE 68508-3803

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

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: 402-471-6031

Mayor Jim Suttle

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

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 68103-0542

We offer two choices of membership: one includes membership in National Audubon as well as in our local chapter, receiving the *Audubon Magazine* and our newsletter, *The Meadowlark*. A portion of the dues is returned to our local chapter.

The other choice is local membership only: this includes receiving *The Meadowlark* and participation in all of our local activities. Dues all go to our chapter.

Membership in the National Audubon Society

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Introductory Membership (1st & 2nd Year) \$20 Make check payable to National Audubon Society

Mail to Audubon Society of Omaha

19612 Ridgeway Road

Plattsmouth, NE 68048 COZCP030Z

Send address changes to Kathy Schwery, 19612 Ridgeway Road, Plattsmouth NE 68948 or e-mail djschw@windstream.net.

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Make check for \$20 payable to Audubon Society of Omaha

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Plattsmouth, NE 68048 COZCP030Z

Bequests

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

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

Phone: 402-451-3647 - <http://audubon-omaha.org>

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

Elected Officers:

President	Jerry Toll	453-9239
1st Vice President	Jackie Scholar	551-5045
2nd Vice President	Linda Dennis	733-6548
Past President	Clem Klaphake	292-2276
Treasurer	Dennis Kingery	556-9082
Recording Sec'y	Laurine Blankenau	451-3647
Corres. Sec'y	Ann Boice	315-1884
<u>Elected Directors:</u>	Jonas Grundman	216-5413
	Jamie Vann	733-1891
	Justin Rink	904-415-3282
	Elliott Bedows	292-5017
	Kathleen Rose	292-8912
	Helen Bartee	391-3386

Standing Committee Chairpersons and Co-Chairs:

Conservation	Bob Fuchs	553-8242
Education	Clem Klaphake	292-2276
Field Trip	Justin Rink	904-415-8279
Finance	Nelli Falzgraf	292-9687
Fund Raising	Vacant	
Membership	Kathy Schwery	296-4788
Program	Clem Klaphake	292-2276
Natural Areas Mgt	Eric Scholar	551-5045
Publication Co-Chairs	Laurine Blankenau	451-3647
	Jamie Vann	733-1891
Publicity	Jackie Scholar	551-5045

Other Activities:

Bird Seed Sale Chair	Kathleen Rose	292-8912
	Carol Rasmussen	731-3939
Speakers Bureau	Eunice Levisay	393-0545
Historian	Eric Scholar	551-5045
NAS Board Member	Peter Cannon	608-251-1276

The Meadowlark is published monthly
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audubon-omaha.org](http://audubon-omaha.org)

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e-mail djschw@windstream.net.

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