

# 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.



November/December 2018  
Volume 47, Issue 4

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

## THE ARCTIC AND CLIMATE CHANGE

*Photos by Mace Hack*



Join us on Thursday, November 8 for a presentation by Mace Hack, the Nebraska State Director of The Nature Conservancy, as he de-

tails his recent trip to Svalbard. Located in the Arctic Ocean, halfway between Norway and the North Pole, Svalbard contains some of the most northern lands on the planet. While circumnavigating the



Svalbard archipelago, Dr. Hack, along with 68 other adventurers from around the world, observed iconic arctic wildlife, including polar bears, walruses, arctic foxes, Svalbard reindeer, and a number of birds,

such as various alcids and the true gull of the far North, the ivory gull. He also had the opportunity to witness climate change at a pace more than twice that experienced further south. Dr. Hack will discuss The Nature Conservancy's "natural climate solutions" approach to address climate change.

The meeting will be held at the UNO Dodge Campus in the Weitz Community Engagement Center, room 127 at 7pm. Parking is just off the frontage road next to Dodge St. Drive to the booth at the entrance of Parking Lot E and announce the Audubon meeting as your destination. More complete parking instructions can be found online. This is a free public event, so feel free to invite friends.



### REMINDER – NO PROGRAM IN DECEMBER

True to our tradition, we will not have a program in December. Enjoy the Holidays and we look forward to seeing you in January.

# Kristal Stoner Named Executive Director of Audubon Nebraska

*Following article originally appeared on the Audubon Nebraska website*

LINCOLN, Neb.—Today, the National Audubon Society and Audubon Nebraska announced the appointment of Kristal Stoner as Executive Director of Audubon Nebraska and Vice President of National Audubon Society. Kristal joins Audubon after a successful tenure at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, where she most recently served as wildlife diversity program manager.

"Birds are a captivating link to the natural world and an incredible lens through which to view our greatest conservation challenges. They provide hope and beauty to our daily lives. Protecting birds and the places they need to thrive in Nebraska is critical to the conservation of the greater Central Flyway and the people who live in it," said Stoner. "Audubon Nebraska has a strong foundation of support and is primed for growth. The timing is perfect to expand our partnerships and evolve our strategic plan for even greater impact."

As head of Audubon Nebraska, Kristal will oversee conservation strategies spanning across the



*Photo by Eric Fowler  
NEBRASKALand and Nebraska  
Game and Parks Commission*

state's prairies, rivers, working lands, and bird-friendly communities. In the coming months, Kristal will meet with partners, donors, funders and chapter members to strengthen community connections and lay the groundwork for Audubon Nebraska to address new conservation challenges including drought, habitat loss and climate change.

"Nebraska provides key habitat for Sandhill Cranes, which complete one of the world's most impressive wildlife migrations,

stopping along the Platte River," said Brian Trusty, vice president of the Central Flyway for National Audubon Society. "Kristal's expertise is a great fit for our work in the state and we look forward to her leadership."

At the Game and Parks Commission, Kristal implemented Nebraska's State Wildlife Action Plan to conserve at-risk species by developing and coordinating initiatives across multiple divisions within the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC). She also managed the Nebraska Natural Legacy Partnership Team, which provides guidance for Nebraska's Wildlife Action Plan implementation. Team included members from state and federal agencies and non-profit organizations representing wildlife conservation, agriculture, and education.

Kristal holds a Masters of Science in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior from the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and a B.S. in Biology from Nebraska Wesleyan University.



## AmazonSmile

Would you like to benefit Audubon Society of Omaha while shopping on Amazon? AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you, using your existing Amazon account. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Audubon Omaha.

To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. Before you begin shopping on your first visit to AmazonSmile, you can select Audubon Society of Omaha as your designated charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every subsequent purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. Donations are made by the AmazonSmile Foundation and are not tax deductible by you.

## VOTING SCORECARDS WEBSITES

The midterm election coming up on November 6 is very important to those of us who care about our environment for those living now and for future generations. In the last two years, there have been unprecedented attacks on laws that have protected our environment for decades, such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Endangered Species Act, regulations for clean water and clean air, allowing mining and energy extraction in national monuments and near national parks, and the list goes on and on.

Audubon Society of Omaha, being a charitable organization, does not endorse any candidates for political office. However, we can tell our members where to look to find voting records of incumbent office holders in Nebraska, Iowa, and other states you might be interested in. Organizations that do not take donations that are tax deductible can endorse candidates, and some do. Some just publish voting records. Here are some websites that show compilations of environment-related votes:

The League of Conservation Voters. This organization tracks votes in Congress with regard to a variety of environmental issues. Their website is <https://www.lcv.org>. The scorecard direct link is [scorecard.lcv.org](https://www.lcv.org/scorecard). You can find

the 2017 National Environmental Scorecard there.

The Nebraska League of Conservation Voters tracks votes by Nebraska state senators on environmental issues. If your senator is running for re-election, you might wish to see his or her voting record. The main website, where you can also find out who your state senator is, is at <https://nlcv.org>. The scorecard itself is at <https://nlcv.org/scorecard/>

The Environmental Working Group, which publishes the Clean Fifteen and the Dirty Dozen lists of fruits and vegetables that relatively low and high pesticide residues, using data from the United States Department of Agriculture, also publishes voting records for members of the House of Representatives with

regard to toxic substances and chemical safety. You can find this at <https://www.ewgaction.org/protectyourhealth/>.

The organization Clean Water Action, <https://cleanwaterscorecard.org/> tracks votes primarily related to clean water legislation.

Climate Hawks Vote, an organization promoting legislation and candidates supporting action to slow down climate change, has a list of candidates they have endorsed. You can find them at <http://climatehawksvote.com/endorsements/>. Scroll down the list to find a candidate from Nebraska.

Please vote on or before November 6 and vote for wildlife!

*Robert Fuchs  
Conservation Chair*

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***"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."***

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*Jane Goodall*

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### DeSoto Christmas Bird Count

The DeSoto Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for Saturday, December 22nd. If you wish to participate contact Jerry Toll at [geritol48@cox.net](mailto:geritol48@cox.net) or 402-312-1635.

*Photos by Rick Schmid*



*Tundra Swan and Trumpeter Swans on the 2016 Omaha CBC*



*Ring-necked Duck (female) on the 2017 Omaha CBC*

# BIRD SEED SALE — THANKS!!

by Betty Fullerton

Thanks to all the **customers** who made our 38th Fall Bird Seed Sale on October 13 & 14 a success. Your orders of the high-quality seed that we offer support our education and conservation programs. We sold \$4,000 more bird seed than last year. We had an interesting weekend with a Nebraska football team loss to Northwestern on Saturday and this fall's first snow on Sunday. Thanks to all for picking up your bird seed in challenging times.

We would really like to recognize our great **volunteer** staff (our apologies, if we missed anyone).

**Unloading** the seed from our distributor were Mark Cave, Matt Miller, Jerry Toll, Loren Padelford, Duane Schwery.

**Loading** customer orders were



From left: Dick and Carole Rasmussen, Clem Klaphake, Babs and Loren Padelford  
Photo by Kathleen Crawford-Rose

Dennis Anderson, Jo Bartikowski, Elliott Bedows, Mark Cave, Tim Kautzman, Clem Klaphake, Loren & Babs Padelford, Andy Miller,

Matt Miller, Chis Olson, John Pollock, Al Reyer, Bob Rose, Duane Schwery, Melissa Sitze, Jerry Toll, Bob Wells, Don Westling.

**Mailing** crew were Helen Bartee, Dot Bowman, Earl Collins, Stacey Coury, Kathleen Crawford-Rose, Nelli Falzgraff, Janie Fuller, John & Betty Fullerton, Dick & Carole Rasmussen, Rick Schmid.

Duane Schwery: provided management of our mailing lists. Stacey Coury provided website management.

Record-keeping was handled by Betty & John Fullerton, who also provided a pick-up site for northwest Omaha.

**Special thanks** to the "engines" who have driven our Bird Seed Sales for many, many years:

Neal Ratzlaff, who has participated in every sale for the last 38 years and whose garage distributes the most bird seed;

Jerry Toll, Delivery, Distribution and Volunteer Coordinator;

Kathleen Crawford-Rose, who has been the chief record-keeper for decades and who hosts the Bellevue-area pick-up site with her husband, Bob.

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## ASO Field Trips 2018-2019

Article and photo by Rick Schmid

### Saturday, November 17, 2018 (all day)

Loess Bluffs NWR, Mound City MO. Field trip will be mostly driving with very little walking. Focus will be on waterfowl and raptors.



Bufflehead Duck (male), which is a bird we will be hoping to find on the field trip to Loess Bluffs NWR in November

We will meet at the ASO office (42nd & Center Streets) at 6:45am and depart promptly at 7:00am. We will carpool, have lunch in Mound City and return to Omaha by 6:00pm.

### December 19, 2018 (flexible timing)

Omaha Christmas Bird Count. There will be no field trip in December; ASO members are encouraged to participate in one or more Christmas Bird Counts. To register for the Omaha count on Wednesday, December 19, contact Rick Schmid at: schmid\_r@msn.com

### Saturday, January 19, 2019

Branched Oak Lake, Malcolm NE. Field trip will be mostly driving with some walking, depending on weather. Focus will be on gulls and winter migrants. Details to follow in the next newsletter.

## 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](http://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 Virginia Stauffer – 214-676-6289

Corresponding and Recording Secretary

Shannon Engberg – 402-598-2127

Treasurer Betty Fullerton – 402-493-4362

Elected Directors:

Alex Wiles – 559-349-7359

Galyn Langar – 402-595-8543

Jackie Scholar – 402-551-5045

Mike Benkis – 402-305-9210

Ruth Bentzinger – 402-630-3756

Mark Cave – 402-290-7832

Standing Committee Chairpersons:

Conservation Bob Fuchs – 402-769-9695

Education Clem Klaphake – 402-292-2276

Field Trip Rick Schmid – 402-319-1828

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 – 402-493-4362

Art Contest Chair

Virginia Stauffer – 214-676-6289

Historian – Eric Scholar – 402-551-5045

Youth Birding Field Trips Tisha Johnson – 402-885-0990

Exec. Director Audubon NE – Kristal Stoner – 402-797-2301

ASO Administrator – Stacey Coury – 402-445-4138

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

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Ridgeway Road, Plattsmouth NE 68048, or

email: djschw@windstream.net.