

ASO HISTORY

– Special thanks to long-time members and leaders of ASO, Laurine Blankenau and Nelli Falzgraff for their help in preparing this history.

1971 – The Omaha Birding Club votes to become the Audubon Society of Omaha, the first officially chartered chapter in the state.

1982 – Audubon Society of Omaha (ASO) begins its Birdseed Sale, which continues to be the most successful and popular fundraising effort of our chapter.

1988 – ASO teams up with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Raptor Recovery Center, and Fontenelle Forest, to release 22 peregrine falcons on the roof of the Woodmen Tower in Omaha. ASO coordinates with Woodmen Tower and builds boxes for the falcons.

Early 90's – ASO starts a bluebird nest box route by building the boxes and then monitoring them, and reporting the results to Bluebirds Across Nebraska.

1992 – ASO and Papio-Missouri Rivers Natural Resources District save an 11-acre wetland, Heron Haven. ASO turns over conservation to the NRD in 2005 with their conservation easement and oversight.

1995 – ASO starts a kestrel nest box route along the Kennedy Freeway and Highway I-680. With permission from the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission and the Nebraska Department of Transportation, ASO constructed the boxes, monitored them, and reported the results to the NGPC until 2002.

1998 – ASO purchases a 13-acre eastern tall grass prairie preserve that continues to be restored to its original state. It's now home to over 80 species of flowers and grasses as well as grassland birds, mammals such as badgers, foxes, rabbits, gophers, three species of mice, and reptiles.

1999 – The Omaha Raptor Team joins the ASO and provides educational programs with non-releasable birds of prey for schools, scouts, civic and other community groups until they disbanded in 2006.

1999 – ASO receives a conservation easement on 52 acres of greenspace that winds around the Allen Hills housing area in Washington County. This is the only conservation easement that ASO owns and our Natural Areas Management Chairperson monitors it annually.

1999 – The Audubon Society of Omaha receives the Omaha World-Herald's Conservationist of the Year Award for their efforts on behalf of Heron Haven.

2001 – ASO expands the Student Art Contest for K-12 and home-schooled students in the Greater Omaha area. Exhibition of all artwork and the awards ceremonies are held in venues accessible to the public and continues each year.

2003 – ASO hosts guided walks at backyards of members, reaching out to the community and raising funds. Discontinued in 2008 to focus on our prairie preserve.

2008 – ASO conducts annual, guided walk & talk about tall-grass prairies, herbaceous plants, wildflowers, birds, insects at our prairie preserve.

2014 – ASO initiates an open-to-the public free special speaker series annually with expert-led field trips featuring renowned birders/authors.

2018 – ASO acquires the only known Missouri Valley, Loess Hills-type prairie in Nebraska. Saved from the plow and other incursions, the 10-acre prairie, which houses the 1-acre Cuming City Cemetery near Blair remains as it was when Native Americans were its only human inhabitants. This site will be extremely valuable to botanists and others dedicated to preserving remaining native prairies and plants.

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