

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

ASO Celebrates at Annual Banquet

Walk Among the Flowers at ASO Garden Walk

Audubon held its annual banquet at Johnny's Cafe on Tuesday,

May 10. Nelli Falzgraf, President, hosted the ceremonies.

Michael Forsberg, noted nature photographer and writer, and Patty Forsberg, Michael's wife, producer of their multimedia presentation, delivered a memorable program. The talk and slides took us on a journey from the Arctic to Cuba and Mexico, following the migration route of Sandhill Cranes. We were inspired by magnificent photos and intriguing details of the cranes'



to Jerry Toll, former officer on the ASO board, and activist in many projects. Jerry has contributed countless hours in service to Audubon and other organizations. He helped to initiate and

Michael Forsberg

Peregrine Project in downtown

Michael Forsberg

lives and behaviors. Cranes against Omaha. sunrises, sunsets, on the river, in the skies and fields soared and danced to piano and flute selections..

An Award for Outstanding Service was presented by Clem Klaphake

Jerry is a major ASO's garden "eye on the walks are sky" at the unique with all the gardens Hitchcok personally HawkWatch. He has doneplanned and research at cared for by the DeSoto Refuge,owners, with Boyer Chute,their creativity and researchedand joy most bird evident. This populations andyear we are

By Jackie Scholar

Sunday, July 10, is the day for this year's Audubon Society of Omaha Garden Walk. The event, which will be held rain or shine, will begin at 12:30 and end promptly at 5:00 p.m. Some unique garden experiences await those attending.

habitat in the especially
Central Platte to
area, at sites include ASO's
North Dakota, own Audubon
Hawaii, and on Prairie Preserve.
Saipan.

Presently he is Douglas County
censusing bird Master
populations at Gardeners will
Rumsey be on hand at
Station, Omaha, one of the
for the Papio-gardens to
Missouri answer
Natural questions about
Resources plants, insects,
Division. We etc. and will
are pleased to have pamphlets
present him this for distribution.
well-deserved ASO volunteers
award. will be present
at each garden
Eric Scholar, to welcome you.
organizer of the A donation of
Photo Contest, \$5.00 for all six
announced the gardens is
winners, whose recommended.
names and the The Vintage Car
categories Club of
appear on Page Papillion plans
3. to spend the day
touring the
gardens.

The location
and description
of gardens
follow.



Clem Klaphake and Jerry Toll

**Continued on
page 2**

ASO Picnic at Gifford Farm Saturday, August 20

Bring a dish of your
choice.

To reach Gifford Farm,
from Bellevue
Boulevard take Childs
Road east which turns
into Gifford Rd.
Continue east past the
railroad tracks and the
Fontenelle Wetlands
Learning Center. Con

tinue on the
winding road until
you come to a
picnic area and the
Retreat House
parking. Be
prepared for
outdoor or indoor
dining (bring
repellent and dress
comfortably). We
hope to see you

All members are invited to
join us in a late summer
picnic at Gifford Farm in
Bellevue, Saturday, August
20. This will be a pot luck
dinner for all members of
ASO. Starting time is 6:00
p.m. Service and drinks will
be provided.

Continued from page 1

Garden Walk, Audubon Prairie Preserve

This 14-acre site located north of the city, just east of 72nd & State Hwy 36, is half virgin prairie and half reconstructed prairie, using seed from the virgin part. The land was purchased by ASO in 1997, after which considerable restoration has occurred. Today the preserve has over 50 species of grasses and prairie wildflowers, and a good population of grassland birds and insects, including the regal fritillary. To reach the site, take 72nd street north past Hwy 36 (McKinley Road), take a quick right turn at the gas station onto Bennington Rd. Go straight onto the gravel road and then to the orange metal gate on the left.

Carol Ann and Claude Smith, 11128 No. 62nd St

The yard of Carol Ann and Claude Smith defies all principles of gardening. Their philosophy, if any, is plant and see what happens. Forty-five years of collecting rocks, driftwood, wagon wheels, unique pieces of garden art, and just about anything else has produced some intriguing effects. A stream and several water gardens, a vegetable garden, alpine trough and dish gardens, plus a large selection of cactus and succulents from all over the world make this one of the most unusual yards you will ever visit.

Take 72nd street north to Highway 36 (McKinley), go right to 60th St. Turn left onto 60th and proceed to Lamplighter Drive (Country Squire Estates). Go left onto Lamplighter Drive, then left onto 61st St. Continue around the circle to 11128, left side of street opposite Melissa Lane.

Dick and Carolyn Sieling, 2540 North 55th St

The Sieling garden is an interesting collection of many domestic and wild perennials, self-seeding plants, and berries (raspberries, several types of currants & grapes) arranged in a compact space. Trellises provide room for growth where horizontal growth is limited. A few sculptures also grace the yard. Cacti find their summer home on a screened-in porch. From Blondo go north on 55th Street.

Mary Clark, 1240 So. 109th St

When Mary started to garden 14 years ago, the 3/4 acre lot was overgrown with strawberries and 7 mature trees. As the years have passed, she has created pathways and beds containing many varieties of hosta, coral bells, irises, roses, clematis, daylilies, liliun and other perennials. Mary's garden includes some 70 containers lovingly filled with the help of a friend. (Mary says that when you see the kiddie pool and playset, just close your eyes and dream you are poolside at Club Med looking at modern sculptures.)

From Pacific St. go south on 108th St. to Poppleton. Go right (west) onto Poppleton to the white house on the corner of Poppleton & 109th.

The Garden Walk is one of ASO's few fundraisers. We would appreciate your support! Please call Jackie Scholar, 551-5045, if you have any questions.

Photo Contest Winners

Congratulations to the ASO members whose photos graced the banquet and

NorOaks Garden Walk, 10205 No. 29th Court

This large garden in the Ponca Hills was created through the efforts of Don Smith. It is a lovely shade garden inviting one to come and walk through it. It features 1100 hostas and 30 pounds of wildflower seeds, a raspberry patch, butterfly bushes, bleeding hearts, and pink phlox, to mention a few. The five-ton rock in the southernmost area honors Don's friend, Harris Carnaby. The pink and white trees honor Don's parents. Intermingled with the plantings are picnic and lookout areas. What you see will depend on what the deer have left for you to view.

Take 30th street north. After the Interstate, 30th becomes 31st Street. Continue north on 31st and turn right onto Rainwood Road, which then curves left on 29th Ave. Turn right into 29th Court and find the garden across the street from Don's home.

Art and Mary Nelson, 10105 North 29th Court

Art and Mary's garden is truly a work of art on a hillside that overlooks the Missouri River. This colorful garden demonstrates where there is a will, there is a way. A stone path leads you down through a three-year-old nature garden set in the forest along a steep hillside. This garden sits across the street from the NorOaks garden.

who won in the several categories.

Best of Show: Allen Kurth - Prothonotary Warbler

People's Choice: Jim Hughes - Frog

Flowers: First Place - George Allen

Second Place - Ruth Green

Birds: First Place - Allen Kurth

Second Place - Phil Swanson

People in Nature/Humor in Nature:

First Place - Allen Kurth

Second Place - Ruth Green

Scenics: First Place: Ruth Green

Second Place - Allen Kurth

Audubon's First Important Bird Areas in Nebraska

Audubon Nebraska, a state office of the National Audubon Society, is pleased to release its first list of Important Bird Areas (IBA) in Nebraska. The 16 sites are Boyer Chute NWR, Calamus Reservoir State Recreation Area, Cedar Point Biological Station, Crescent Lake NWR, Fontenelle Forest Nature Center, Indian Cave State Park, Kiowa Wildlife Management Area, Lake McConaughy

status, the information gathered about each site can serve as the basis for conservation measures, such as developing management strategies for specific species. Other opportunities may include producing educational materials and programs designed to increase public awareness about birds and their habitats.

SRA, Lake Ogallala SRA, Missouri National Recreational River, Neale Woods Nature Center, Niobrara State Park, Ponca State Park, Rowe Sanctuary, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, and Valentine NWR.

The sites encompass more than 210,000 acres in 13 counties statewide and were chosen from submissions sent in from the public during the initial nomination phase last year.

IBA's are sites that provide essential habitat for large numbers or a high diversity of birds or for particular bird species whose population declines are of concern to biologists. Sites must meet strict standardized scientific criteria established by Nebraska's IBA technical review team, which includes many of the state's leading birders and biologists.

"While these sites vary greatly in terms of land ownership, habitat type, and bird usage, they all are critical for the survival of birds in Nebraska," declares Kevin Poague, IBA coordinator for Audubon Nebraska. "The IBA Program teaches us that places right in our backyard can be important to birds on a national, continental, or even global scale."

The 16 IBA's contain a variety of habitats, including wetlands and riparian systems, prairie, lake, and forest areas. Each type of habitat serves different bird species. For example, Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary hosts tens of thousands of Sandhill Cranes nightly on the Platte River during spring migration, one of the world's largest concentrations of cranes. Lake McConaughy is home to large numbers of nesting Piping Plovers, a federally threatened species, and Least Terns, a federally endangered species.

In the panhandle, surveys at Kiowa Wildlife Management Area south of Morrill have counted over 50 pairs of breeding American Avocets and hundreds of migrating Wilson's Phalaropes and Franklin's Gulls. In the east, Indian Cave State Park, Fontenelle Forest, and Neale Woods were all singled out for their high diversity of migrating songbirds, including several species of concern dependent on large tracts of mature forest, like the Wood Thrush, Cerulean Warbler, and Scarlet

Audubon Nebraska's program is part of a global effort to identify the areas most important to birds in all seasons and to focus conservation efforts on those areas where they will have the greatest effect for protecting birds. It is connected to other IBA's throughout the United States through the National Audubon Society, and the world through BirdLife International. Additional information can be found on National Audubon Society's website, <www.audubon.org/bird/iba>.

Poague states, "Working to identify, monitor, and conserve critical habitat for birds across the state is a tremendous opportunity and challenge. We look forward to recognizing additional IBA's in Nebraska in the future."

The Nebraska Game and Parks partially funded the IBA effort through its State Wildlife Grants Program.

ASO, Raptor Team Leave Heron Haven

The Audubon Society of Omaha decided to leave Heron Haven wetland and building, contacted the Papio-Missouri Natural Resources Division to decline management, and moved out in early June. The Friends of Heron Haven will manage the NRD properties. They are outside of the ASO, have separate funds, and have no legal connection with ASO.

ASO appreciated our long association with the NRD at their Heron Haven and are grateful that the NRD saved the wetland from development by placing a greenspace easement on it years ago. They helped the Chapter with cleanup, parking lot, pipes, and other large projects. In May 2005, the NRD indicated a change in priorities to further improve the building and open it for the public; further, whichever group manages would allow free access to the other.

In the past year, the ASO Board has met frequently to reassess its mission and direction as a local Audubon chapter. The Board agreed to focus its attention on promoting environmental awareness through education, with an emphasis on introductory bird classes, bird field trips,

Tanager. Spring Creek Audubon Center bird conservation and habitat protection, encompasses one of the largest tracts of and various partnerships in the native tallgrass prairie remaining in community. Nebraska, attracting such birds as Upland Sandpipers, Bobolinks, and Sprague's Pipits. The Omaha Raptor Team, a separate organization, has a new location for its aviaries with the NRD at Chalco Hills. The IBA program is designed to be and will continue to partner with the proactive, voluntary, and based on sound ASO for education. science. While it confers no regulatory

Sarpy County Bird Count Results

By Clem Klaphake

I want to thank everyone for helping out in the Sarpy County Spring Count on May 8. I appreciate everyone's efforts despite it being Mother's Day.

Totals: 2003 - 133 2004 - 134 2005 - 129
Notable overall misses for 2005

.. Common Nighthawk

.. Gray-cheeked Thrush

.. Northern Parula Warbler

.. Yellow-throated Warbler

.. Kentucky Warbler

.. Eurasian-collared Dove (missed every year)

.. Scarlet Tanager (Last year it got the prize for Best most often-seen bird)

.. Shorebirds (This hurt us the most - only 2 species)

Where we did well

.. Woodpeckers (6 species, all possible species except Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker)

.. Thrushes (6 species)

.. Vireos (6 species)

.. Sparrows (14 species)

.. Warblers (14 species- could be better,

Jim Kovanda and crew (Fontenelle Forest and surroundings - 84 species)

.. Prothonotary Warbler

.. Palm Warbler

.. Northern Waterthrush

.. Veery

.. Summer Tanager

.. White Pelican

.. Red-shouldered Hawk

.. Swamp Sparrow

.. White-crowned Sparrow

.. Pileated Woodpecker

.. Barred Owl

Don and Janis Paseka (Schramm SRA and area between I-80 and Hwy 50 - 83 species)

.. Northern Mockingbird

.. Bald Eagle

.. Sharp-shinned Hawk

.. Osprey

.. Loggerhead Shrike

.. Ring-billed Gull

but not bad)

.. Vesper Sparrow

Birds Sighted by only one group

Kathleen Crawford-Rose

Clem Klaphake, Jerry Toll, Betty Grenon and Rick Schmid (west of Kennedy Freeway to Hwy 50 - 93 species

.. Pine Siskin (Backyard feeder on Bellevue Blvd)

.. Great Horned Owl

Allen Ryer (Backyard feeder near Child's Road - Betty Grenon's neighborhood)

.. Wood Thrush

.. Ruby-throated Hummingbird

.. Blackpoll Warbler

Best most often seen Bird

.. Western Sandpiper (1)

.. White-throated Sparrow

.. Ovenbird

Best Birds for Sarpy County (Fastest growing county in the state, shrinking habitat and smallest and size)

.. Black-crowned Night Heron

.. Bobolink

.. Bobolink

.. Pectoral Sandpiper

.. Western Sandpiper

.. Least Sandpiper

.. Black-crowned Night Heron

.. Great-tailed Grackle

.. Osprey

Loren and Babs Padelford (Everything west of I-80 including Wehrspann Lake - 74 species

.. N. Mockingbird

.. Ring-necked Duck

.. Loggerhead Shrike

.. Northern Shoveler

.. Pileated Wood pecker

.. Green-winged Teal

.. Red-shouldered Hawk

.. Gadwall

.. Bell's Vireo

.. Bell's Vireo

Addresses to Remember

Audubon Society

President George W. Bush

Membership Application

The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW

The *Audubon Magazine**(see below, chapter-only membership) and your membership card will be sent to this address:

Washington D.C. 20500-0001

Name_____

Comments: 202-456-1111; fax: 202-456-2993

Street_____

City_____State_____

Senator Ben Nelson

U.S. Senate, Washington DC
20510; 202-224-6551; fax 202-228-
0012; Lincoln: 402-437-5246;
Omaha 391-3411; Omaha address:
7602 Pacific St, #205, 68114

Senator Chuck Hagel

U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.
20510-2705

Phone: (202) 224-4224; Fax: (202)
224-5213

Omaha phone: (402) 758-8981

Representative Lee Terry

U.S. House of
Representatives, Washington, DC
20515

Phone: (202) 225-4155 ; Fax: (202)
226-5452

Omaha phone: (402) 397-9944

Representative Jeff Fortenberry

U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC 20515

Phone: (202) 225-4806

Lincoln phone: (402) 438-1598

Governor Dave Heineman

Capitol Bldg, Box 94848 Lincoln,
NE 68509

Phone: (402) 471-2244; Fax: 471-
6031

Mayor Mike Fahey

Omaha/Douglas Civic Center

1819 Farnam St, Omaha NE 68183

Phone: 444-5000 Hot Line: 444-
5555

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



Zip Code _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Introductory Membership

National Audubon & Local Chapter

(1st & 2nd Year \$20)

Chapter-only Membership: \$15

(No National Audubon Magazine)

Mail to Audubon Society of Omaha

19612 Ridgeway Road

Plattsmouth NE 68048

PO 3

7XCH

Memorials

The Audubon Society of Omaha greatly appreciates the memorials it receives. When sending your 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 68103-0342

ASO Colleagues:

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for following up on the Hanscom Park tree removal issue while I was working on the Rocky Boy Reservation in Montana.

I think that the conciliatory and respectful, yet assertive letter you crafted and sent to the City of Omaha officials delivered a clear message that green

Bequests

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

space and wildlife conservation is a priority for ASO.

I also think the letter signaled our desire to work with government entities in a constructive manner.

Tad Leeper

Conservation Chair

Audubon Society of Omaha, Mailing Address: P. O. Box 3542, Omaha 68103-05

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

Elected Officers:

President Elliott Bedows, 309 Greenbrier Ct, Bellevue 68005 292-5017

1st Vice President Jackie Scholar, 5012 Nicholas St, Omaha 68132 551-5045

2nd Vice President Laurine Blankenau, 3808 Grebe, Omaha 68112 451-3647

Treasurer Patty Albright, 1716 Avenue L, Council Bluffs 51501 323-1966

Past President Nelli Falzgraf, 414 Ridgewood Dr, Bellevue 68005 292-9687

Recording Secretary Linda Dennis, 1011 Homer St, Omaha 68107 733-6548

Elected Directors Jenny Henricksen, 4845 So. 167 Ave Omaha 68135 895-5487

Mace Hack, 1735 So. 87th St, Omaha 68124 934-5040

Mark Armstrong, 12741 Forestdale Dr, Omaha 68123 292-9770

Urban Lehner, 15526 Pierce Circle, Omaha 68144 330-3888

Sharon Draper, 6220 Kansas Ave, Omaha 68104 572-4026

Tad Leeper, 7750 Park Lane, Ralston 68127 593-8508

Standing Committee Chairpersons:

Conservation Tad Leeper, 7750 Park Lane, Ralston 68127 593-8508

Education Brian Jensen, 12430 Bel Drive, Omaha NE 68144 333-6375

Field Trip Clem Klaphake, 707 Garden Ave, Bellevue 68005 292-2276

Finance Nelli Falzgraf, 414 Ridgewood Dr, Bellevue 68005 292-9687

Fund Raising Pauline Dickey, 2534 Benson Gardens Blvd, Omaha 68134 932-8205

Hospitality DwanDean Leach, 3006 Poppleton, Omaha 68105 346-5769

Membership Kathy Schwery, 19612 Ridgeway Road, Plattsmouth 68048 296-4788

Natural Areas Mgt. Eric Scholar, 5012 Nicholas St, Omaha 68132 551-5045

Omaha Raptor Team Jenny Henricksen, 4845 So 167 Ave, Omaha 68135 895-5487

Program Nancy Leonard, 15526 Pierce Circle, Omaha 68144 330-3888

Publication Laurine Blankenau, 3808 Grebe, Omaha 68112 451-3647

Publicity Jackie Scholar, 5012 Nicholas St, Omaha 68132 551-5045

Other Activities:

Bird Seed Sale Co-Chairs Kathleen Rose, 123 Bellevue Blvd So, Bellevue 68005 292-8912

Carol Rasmussen, 4503 So. 16th St, Omaha 68107 731-3939

Speakers Bureau Eunice Levisay, 9903 Cady Ave Omaha 68134 393-0545

Historian Kathleen Rose, 123 Bellevue Blvd So, Bellevue 68005 292-8912

Birdathon Chair Bechara Embaid, 3218 No 120th Ct Apt 221 Omaha 68164..... 965-9598

ASO State Board Rep. Mace Hack, 1735 So. 87th St, Omaha 68124 934-5040

NAS Board Member Ione Werthman, 11649 Burt St, #011, Omaha 68154 493-0373

Audubon Society of Omaha

P. O. Box 3542

Omaha NE 68103--0542

**Non-Profit
Organization**

**U.S. Postage
Paid**

**OMAHA,
NEBRASKA**

PERMIT NO. 79
