

**Audubon Society of Omaha Board Meeting  
December 3, 2024**

**Present:**

Betty Fullerton  
Kyle Finley  
Steve Geddes  
Melissa Sitze  
Virginia Stauffer  
Anne Maguire  
Conor Gearin  
Roger Carroll

Glenn Pollock  
**By phone:**  
Amy Campagna  
Trevor Pellerite

**Not attending**  
Bennett Amdor  
Katy Simmons

**Meeting called to order at 7pm**

**OLD BUSINESS**

November meeting minutes approved

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2025 Student Art Contest and Show**

Conor wrote and applied for a grant from National Audubon for this event. Audubon reviewed grant and approved it, therefore ASO will receive \$5000.00 for the 2025 Student Art Contest and Show to supplement our existing budget of \$4000. These additional funds will be used to invite more students from other youth organizations throughout Omaha area, pay for background checks required by Creighton University for our volunteers during the event AND upgrade prizes awarded to students.

Virginia is getting flyers printed and mailed to schools and emailed to all who have entered before. Entries are due March 6, 7 and 8. Art Show and Awards will be held on April 26, 2025 at Creighton University's Harper Center. ASO website will contain all information for participating in this FREE event for students grades K-12

**UNO Conservation Society (formerly Audubon)**

Kyle says UNO chapter UNO Conservation Society needs funds for bat houses and animal watching camera – he is waiting on list for what they need/want from UNO with a budget number for their request.

**Upcoming Members' Program**

Anne Maguire reviewed our upcoming programs:

January 9 - Conor will present "Thinking Differently About Urban Habitats"

February 13 - Bird Tracking with Motus presented by Glenn Pollock and Jerry Toll

March - Mike Benkis will give talk on bird photography (2nd Thursday in March?)

**Upcoming Field Trips**

Amy Campagna reported on upcoming field trips:

December 15 - Annual Christmas Bird Count Bob Wells is coordinating

January 25 - Desoto for snow geese

February 15 – EZ birding at Toll Park w/ Virginia

March 1 - Forest Lawn cemetery

March or April - Cottonwood Preserve

April program – (possible) Glacier Creek walk

Proposed - Heron Haven hike: rookery in urban space

### **Legislative Update – Bills to watch for**

Trevor is waiting to get more info about upcoming bills in the Unicameral, Melissa will send contact info to Trevor for lobbyist that Wachiska also uses.

### **Natural Area Stewardship**

Glenn gave us a report on what work has been completed and planned for our prairie properties

#### **POLLOCK PRAIRIE -**

- Burned the Pollock prairie and Fire department friend helped with neighbors concern about smoke
- Has extra seeds to still plan where to plant

#### **CUMING CITY PRAIRIE –**

- NRCS wants a letter from ASO that says Anne can sign contracts
- Need to mow down sumac with heavy-duty tractor – agricultural type work. Glenn is looking for farmer and mower in the area. Betty let Glenn know that we can pay for mowing after board approves estimate, we have funds in his budget plan.

#### **HAGIE AWARD –**

Glenn Pollock was honored by Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and was presented with their Hagie Heritage Award for extraordinary personal service and commitment to improving the quality of Iowa's natural environment

### **Marketing/Outreach**

Conor requested Meadowlark newsletter article ideas or news items to report on from the board. Please send ideas for March/April to Conor

Conor is also working with Astronomical Society of Omaha to plan a JOINT field trip with them. Trying to determine best date and place, etc....

Glen moved to adjourn and Conor seconded

**Meeting adjourned at 7:50**