

# 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.

January/February 2019  
Volume 48, Issue 1



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

## January Meeting: Whooping Cranes, Interior Least Terns, and Piping Plovers: Nebraska's Three Most Imperiled Birds

Thursday, January 10 at 7pm

Weitz Community Engagement Center (Rooms 230/231) on the UNO Dodge Campus

Photos by Nebraska Game and Parks



Terns on nest with fish

Join Mary Bomb-berger Brown of the Tern and Plover Conservation Partnership for a conversation about three bird species found in Nebraska that are protected

by the Endangered Act: Whooping Cranes, Interior Least Terns, and Piping Plovers. For nearly 20 years, the Tern and Plover Conservation Partnership has worked to protect these birds (and the people who share their habitat) in Nebraska in a collaborative, non-confrontational style.

Birds are altering the timing of critical life history events in response to global climate change. Whooping Cranes are one of the most critically endangered birds in the world, with remnant population numbers between 300–400 individuals. Their

migration is now occurring earlier in spring by approximately 22 days and later in fall by approximately 21 days. These observations have conservation implications, as the timing of migration and availability of resources are critical to the cranes' survival.

Interior Least Terns and Piping Plovers nest in Nebraska, historically on river sandbars, but increasingly on industrial and residential habitats like sand and gravel mines, lakeshore housing developments, and dredging operations. Learn how the Tern and Plover Conservation Partnership approaches the protection of these imperiled species nesting in such perilous habitats and how well these species are moving toward recovery.

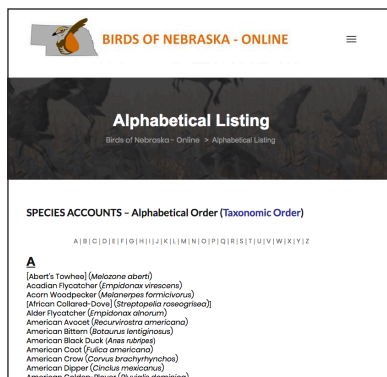
This is a free public event, so feel free to invite friends.



Plover standing over nest

## February Meeting: Birds of Nebraska - Online Thursday, February 7 at 7pm • Fontenelle Forest Nature Center

ASO is proud to partner with Fontenelle Forest Bird Club to bring in Joel Jorgensen for a talk about a new website, Birds of Nebraska – Online, that he co-created with Ross Silcock. Nebraska has a rich history of bird study that extends over two centuries. Birds of Nebraska - Online is a combination of all existing and available information about Nebraska's birds, their distribution and temporal occurrence, in a format that can be



updated. It is a traditional state bird reference in an open-access online format with stand-alone species accounts. Please join us as we learn more about how to use this amazing tool!

Please note that this meeting is at Fontenelle Forest and is the first Thursday of the month, instead of the 2nd Thursday when Audubon Society of Omaha usually meets.

# ASO FIELD TRIPS 2019

by Rick Schmid / photos by Phil Swanson

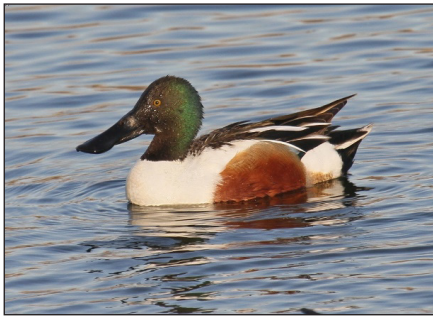
## Saturday, January 19, 2019 (all day)

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.

We will meet at Chalco Hills Recreation Area at 6:45am and de-



Dark-eyed Junco



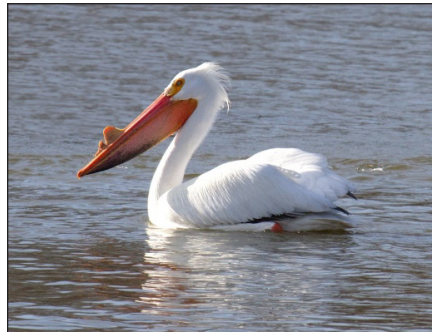
Northern Shoveler

part promptly at 7:00am. We will carpool, have lunch in Malcolm and return by 5:00pm.

## Saturday, February 23, 2019 (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. This is a rescheduling of the November field trip that was canceled due to bad weather.

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.



American White Pelican

## SAVE RESOURCES. GO PAPERLESS.

Thank you to the many people who have already committed to going paperless. We have over 100 current members signed up and would love to get 100 more!

Why make the switch? A large part of ASO's mission is conservation, but over the course of a year, we use more than 12,500 sheets of standard printing paper to mail the newsletter. Not to mention, mailing the newsletter takes money (printing and postage costs) and time (each mailing takes a group of 10 volunteers an hour to prepare).

Signing up is easy.

Simply email

[audubonomaha@gmail.com](mailto:audubonomaha@gmail.com)

with the subject:

"I want to go paperless."

Want program reminders?

Follow us on Facebook!

## SAVE THE DATE Friday, April 26th

by Clem Klaphake

On Friday April 26th at 7:00 p.m. the Audubon Society of Omaha and Fontenelle Forest will be joining together to bring in speaker, Noah Strycker, an American birder and writer. In 2015, he set a record for a worldwide Big year of birding, seeing 6,042 of the world's estimated 10,400 bird species in a continuous journey spanning all seven continents. Watch for more information in the March/April issue of the Meadowlark.

## Great Backyard Bird Count February 15-18, 2019

The Great Backyard Bird Count for 2019 is scheduled for Friday, February 15th through Monday, February 18th. This is a four day event that engages birders of all ages in counting birds to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds. Anyone can participate, from beginning birders to experts.

For further information visit  
[gbbc.birdcount.org/](http://gbbc.birdcount.org/)

Photo by Mike Benkis





# CALLING ALL STUDENT ARTISTS (and teachers)

## 2019 Audubon Student Art Contest and Show Dates and NEW LOCATION

The dates are set for the annual Audubon Society of Omaha Student Art Show. Starting January 2, rules, entry forms and more can be found at [audubon-omaha.org](http://audubon-omaha.org) under Special Events. Entries are due Friday and Saturday, March 1-2, at the Audubon Society of Omaha office.

The Art Show will take place on Saturday, April 27 at a NEW location: Creighton University, Harper Center, 602 N. 20th Street in Omaha. Artwork of all students entering the contest (grades K through 12) will be on display from noon until 3:00 pm that day. The awards ceremony this year will start at 1:30 pm for grades K-8 and 2:30 pm for grades 9-12.



Elizabeth Gibson, 4th grade

Please check with any student artists you know to see if they are interested in entering this year. Even if their class or school is not participating, we welcome their entries and encourage our members to support their creative efforts as they relate to birds of the Midwest or endangered bird species.

The artwork is judged for Excellence or Merit in these categories: Realism, Graphic Design, Cartooning and Recycled. Many prizes are awarded for each grade.

Want to get involved? This event draws a large number of entries and we need volunteers to help. If you would like to help, it would be greatly appreciated; plus, it's fun to see the artwork of our lo-



2018 Award of Excellence Winner  
Anika Roddy, 5th grade

cal talented students. Here's a list of tasks and dates we could use your help:

### Collection and organizing of artwork at Audubon of Omaha office:

Friday, March 1  
3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Saturday, March 2  
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

### Hanging of artwork at Creighton University Harper Center:

Saturday, April 27  
9:00 am till noon



Jenna Arbuckle, 10th grade

### Help with hosting the show OR take down and take away:

Saturday, April 27  
12:00 pm until 4:00 pm

Please contact Virginia Stauffer at [vstauffer1@yahoo.com](mailto:vstauffer1@yahoo.com) or 214-676-6289 if you would like to be a part of this popular event.



Reagan Herrick, Kindergarten

## WINTER EMAIL BIRD SEED SALE

by Betty Fullerton

Running low on bird seed? You can stock up at Audubon Society of Omaha's Winter Email Bird Seed Sale. The pickup date will be Saturday, February 23, 2019. The pickup site will be Neal Ratzlaff's garage at 536 Brentwood Rd.

We will email an order form by January 24 to all previous customers who have given us their email address.

If we don't have your email address already, you can send us a request at [fullertonj@cox.net](mailto:fullertonj@cox.net). Or, you can download the order form at <http://audubon-omaha.org/> after January 24. If you have questions, please call John or Betty Fullerton at 402-493-4362.

## Help Track the Effects of Climate Change – and Help the Birds You Love



Photo by Mike Benkis

Audubon's Birds and Climate Change Report predicts that more than 300 US bird species will lose more than half of their climatic range due to climate change by 2080. Join Audubon Society of Omaha and Audubon Nebraska as we participate in Audubon's new community science program, Climate Watch.

If you can identify bluebirds and nuthatches by sight and sound, or are eager to learn, put your bird knowledge to use and help us conduct surveys to see how

these species are already responding to climate change in our area.

2019 will have two opportunities for conducting Climate Watch surveys, January 15 to February 15 and again between May 15 and June 15. And watch for more information in your March/April newsletter on details, but rumor has it Jason "the Birdnerd" St. Sauver will be presenting all about the Climate Watch project for our March meeting.

**For more details or to sign up to participate, contact Jason at [scp@audubon.org](mailto:scp@audubon.org) or read up on Climate Watch online at [audubon.org/conservation/climate-watch](http://audubon.org/conservation/climate-watch)**

### *Remembering Dot Bowman*

The Audubon Society remembers with fondness and mourns the passing of member Dot Bowman, who died recently.

An accountant, she held the office of treasurer from 1990-1992, shared her knowledge with co-workers and assisted in other capacities as well. She is missed by her friends in Audubon.

We extend our sincere sympathy to her husband, Dave.

## Where to Recycle Styrofoam and Keep It Out of the Landfill

An Omaha business, Plastilite, has a place for you to drop off those styrofoam products used for packing and for some containers. They don't accept those small boxes restaurants use for your take-home food, nor do they accept plastic peanuts. Images on the drop box will inform you about the items they do and do not accept.

One of their sites is located just north of McKinley St (Highway 36). To access it, turn north on 48th street, (not the 48th St 680 exit – just the street). Off 48th Street, take the first left. Plastilite is the second business ahead of you (easy to identify). Go past a couple of buildings until you see the blue and white recycling container on your right.

**Get rid of the styrofoam and help protect our environment!**

## *BIRD WATCHING*

We put out every kind of seed  
to watch small birds come flutter-feed.

Blue Jays  
Robins  
Chickadees  
flutter in from nearby trees.

They swiftly snatch a morning snack.  
One flies away.

One flies back.

We sit a while.  
We guess bird names.  
We look them up.  
We watch bird games.

They dip.  
They soar.  
They dart right by.

We wonder how it feels to fly.

©Amy Ludwig VanDerwater



## 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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
**Omaha, Nebraska**  
**PERMIT NO. 79**

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  
Send address changes to: Kathy Schwery, 19612  
Ridgeway Road, Plattsmouth NE 68048, or  
email: djschw@windstream.net.