

# 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.

Summer 2019  
Volume 48, Issue 4



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

## Passage of New Constitution and Bylaws Will Help Facilitate ASO's Growing Needs

During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, ASO bought two properties, launched an environmental education program in schools, had a highly successful student art contest and show, conducted two bird seed sales and approved production of a documentary on the impact of lead in our environment. What a year!

During that time, it became evident to the ASO Board of Directors that our existing Constitution and Bylaws, last updated 17

years ago, were no longer adequate to support our growing business endeavors. As such, in February 2019, the President appointed a Task Force to rewrite ASO's Constitution and Bylaws to allow for an organizational infrastructure that better supports current and future business needs.

The Task Force completed this work, and the Board approved the resulting rewrite. Additionally, the membership base voted to

approve the new Constitution and Bylaws, putting them into effect on July 1, 2019. The new version of these documents, along with the old version, can be found at [audubon-omaha.org/governingdocs.html](http://audubon-omaha.org/governingdocs.html). For your convenience, there is a two-page document that summarizes the most significant changes that have been made in the newly approved documents.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible!

## Shape the Future of ASO: NOMINATE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

*by Virginia Stauffer*

Per our new Constitution and Bylaws, it is time to start looking for Board Members for the July 2020/June 2021 term, and we need your help! All members of Audubon Society of Omaha are welcomed and encouraged to submit nominations for leadership positions.

If you know someone who has leadership qualities and supports ASO's mission and vision, let us know. Please make sure you have permission from your nominee before submitting his/her name and information.

Not sure what's involved? Visit the ASO website under "Who We Are: Board Members." Scroll to "Interested in Becoming a Board Member?" Click the link to learn more.

Each Officer serves one year and can opt for reelection as long as a term limit has not been reached. Officer positions include President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Each Director serves two years. ASO will have two Directors up for reelection this year. ASO may have Director positions open if any current Directors opt to run for an Officer position or opt not to run for reelection.

**Nominations are due by September 30, 2019.** Please send your nomination's name, phone number and email to Virginia Stauffer, 2nd Vice President at [vstauffer1@yahoo.com](mailto:vstauffer1@yahoo.com).

# CREATIVE BIRDERS: 2019 STUDENT ART CONTEST & SHOW

by Virginia Stauffer

About 500 students, parents and teachers attended the 2019 Audubon Society of Omaha Student Art Contest & Show at Creighton University's Harper Center on Saturday, April 27. There were 420 entries from students in Kindergarten through 12th grade, and 30 schools in the greater Omaha area were represented. All students who entered the contest had their artwork displayed for viewing and were acknowledged for their participation with a hand-made origami crane compliments of Jackie Scholar.

Cardinals, Sandhill cranes, meadowlarks, owls, bluebirds and blue jays were popular subjects along with endangered birds such as the Wood Stork. The categories were Realism, Graphic Design, Cartooning and Recycled. Entries included watercolors, acrylic paintings, cut-paper collage, oil pastels, crayon drawings and multi-media; some were even 3-dimensional.



ASO volunteers Ruth Bentzinger, Grace Gaard and Michaela Johnson greeted students and their families. Rick Schmid was on hand with avian artifacts and to share his vast knowledge with students and their families.

Prior to the awards ceremony, attendees were able to see award-winning artwork from this year's students projected on the Hixon-Lied Auditorium's big screen, as well as two Pixar cartoons, "Piper" and "For the Birds." During the awards ceremony, many students accepted



awards of Merit and Excellence and received prizes specially selected for each age group. Anne Maguire and Virginia Stauffer announced the winners, while Jackie Scholar and Ruth Bentzinger presented prizes and ribbons to the winners. Applause and kudos were supplied by all who attended.

Best of Show awards and prizes were presented to the following:

*Grades K-4:*

- Niall Hernandez**  
St. Margaret Mary Elementary
- Rowan HighHorse**  
St. Albert Catholic School
- Penny Himberger**  
Aspen Creek Elementary
- Scarlet Martin**  
St. Pius/St Leo Elementary
- Josie Quattrocchi**  
St. Vincent De Paul Elementary
- Adele Tompsett**  
St. Vincent De Paul Elementary
- Cali Wallen**  
Gethsemane Elementary School

**Shelby Steinkemper**  
St. Wenceslaus

*Grades 5-8:*

- Luke Laddusaw**  
Rohwer Elementary
- Sierra Stednitz**  
Bellevue Elementary
- Lizzie Hill**  
St. Wenceslaus
- McKaylee Houng**  
Art It
- Sophia Sullivan**  
Art It
- Quenby Smith**  
Queen of Heaven Academy
- William Cunningham**  
St. Theresa
- Madison Eisert**  
Liberty Middle School

**Larissa Koch**

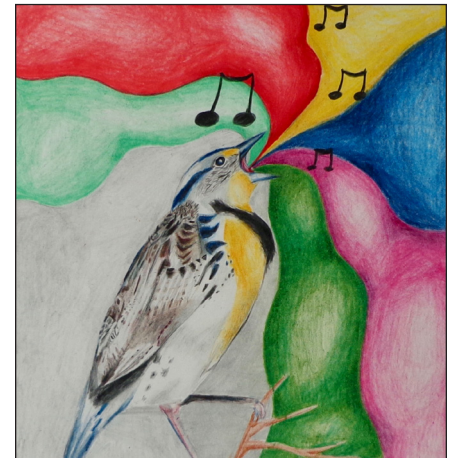
Cornerstone Christian School  
**Natalie McNamara**  
Lewis & Clark Middle School

*Grades 9-12:*

- Kaden Hughes**  
North High Magnet
- Yohanna Juan-Francisco**  
Omaha South Magnet
- Berenice Nicolas-Lopez**  
North High Magnet
- Bridgette Abernathy**  
Bellevue East High School
- Ella Bashara**  
Millard West High School
- Kennedy Bradburn**  
Fort Calhoun Community Schools
- Bailey Donovan**  
Fort Calhoun Community Schools
- Skyler Wortman**  
Bellevue East High School
- Margaret Smith**  
Queen of Heaven Academy

*Meadowlark Award Winner for 2019:*

**Callie Vaske**  
North High Magnet



*Callie Vaske - Grade 9,  
Meadowlark Award*

The annual Student Art Contest and Show is essential in fulfilling ASO's vision, and this event would not be possible without volunteers. ASO is grateful to the wonderful volunteers and establishments for their time, support, enthusiasm and talents in making this show a great success. Thank you, all.



*Collection and Hanging of Artwork:* Messangan Agbozo, Ruth Bentzinger, Rosseta Buick, Dawn Coury, Jesse Coury, Samuel Coury, Kathleen Crawford-Rose, Mary Curran, Nelli Falzgraf, Janie Fuller, Michaela Johnson, Dennis Kingery, Karlene Kingery, Anne Maguire, Nick Pfederer, Jackie Scholar, Virginia Stauffer, Stacey Steele

*Greeting the Public & Awards Ceremony:* Ruth Bentzinger, Grace Gaard, Michaela Johnson, Anne Maguire, Jackie Scholar, Virginia Stauffer

*Certificates of Appreciation:* Nelli Falzgraf

*Avian Artifact Presentation:* Rick Schmid

Creighton University Staff, Maintenance

*Judges:* Marlene McCann, Kit Murrin, Anne Maguire, Jackie Scholar

Participating Art Teachers and Classroom Teachers

Parents of the Participating Students



Kennedy Bradburn, Grade 11



McKaylee Houg, Grade 6



Margaret Smith, Grade 12



Lizzie Hill, Grade 6



Sophia Sullivan, Grade 6



Luke Luddusaw, Grade 5



Kaden Hughes, Grade 9



Shelby Steinkemper, Kindergarten

## Field Notes from the President: By Bob Wells

I would like to introduce myself to those of you in the Audubon Society who I haven't had the pleasure to meet. I am the new president for the 2019-20 year. My involvement with ASO has spanned the last four years as a Board of Director and the 1st Vice President. Many of you may have met me through your experiences with ASO and wondered about my background. I am not a lifelong birder nor am I a restoration biologist like my friend and our past president Matt Miller. My strong suit is that as a retired Nurse Anesthetist, I am able and willing to volunteer. Trained as a microbiologist, I do have a fairly intense science background. My exposure to birding began some 45 years ago during my last year in college. All Biology students were required to take a graduate level course in an area that was not within their area of specialization. My choice? Ornithology. The ornithology course was a series of 6 birding field trips. The real reason I chose this course was that before each field trip the professor's wife would cook a full breakfast for the students. Nothing more was needed to spur my interest in birding.

A thirty-five year career in anesthesia ensued after that initial exposure to birding. When I contemplated my retirement, I turned back to birding and was rewarded with new friends and volunteer opportunities. I was lucky enough to run into several people in the Omaha area who were not only very good birders but very good people who got me back into the world of birding and spending time outdoors. So thanks, Clem, Neal and Deb, Laurine, Rick and many others. The point of all of this is to show you that being a volunteer has

more to do with the ability to seek out involvement rather than being an expert in what you are volunteering for. The ASO, like many nonprofits, relies on volunteers for its very existence. This year's ASO Board of Directors and officers are committed to volunteerism. If you would like to volunteer, know that there are a myriad of volunteer opportunity with ASO. This year's Art Show had over 400 entries from local children. Each of those entries had to be collected by a volunteer, hung in a gallery setting by a volunteer and judged by a volunteer. An awards ceremony was judged by several volunteers, and the art work had to be taken down. You get the idea. Volunteers are also needed for regular bulk mailings, our fall and spring bird seed fundraisers, community outreach events such as Earth Day, and speaking on behalf of the ASO at general meetings. An important area of ongoing and increasing need is help with land stewardship at the ASO Prairie

and the new Cuming Cemetery property north of Blair. To volunteer for these or other opportunities, please visit the ASO website at [audubon-omaha.org](http://audubon-omaha.org) and fill out a volunteer form under the volunteer heading. A list of this year's committees is included in this newsletter. Serving on a standing committee is an excellent way to participate on a regular basis.

My priorities for the year include continuing the ongoing ASO education program via scheduled after school programs, increasing the participation of the ASO membership by reaching out to a variety of groups and providing a variety of opportunities for committee membership. I intend to reach out to the area universities to explore a new program from National Audubon promoting campus chapters. I will be attending the National Audubon Convention in Milwaukee the third week of July of this year. Please feel free to contact me at [rcwells@cox.net](mailto:rcwells@cox.net).



### 2019-2020 Audubon Committees

Committee.....	Chair
Art Contest.....	Virginia Stauffer
Education.....	Elizabeth Chalen
Finance.....	Betty Fullerton
Fundraising.....	Anne Maguire
Grant Review.....	Shannon Engberg
Legislative Affairs.....	Bob Fuchs
Marketing and Outreach.....	Anne Maguire
Membership.....	Duane and Kathy Schwery
Natural Areas Management .....	Glenn Pollock
Nominating .....	Virginia Stauffer
Program.....	Bob Wells



# Earth Day 2019

by Jackie Scholar



Earth Day Omaha – 2019 was celebrated on Saturday, April 13, at Elmwood Park. The Audubon Society of Omaha was proud to be a sponsor of this celebration and also had a booth for answering questions that the community might have about birds, conservation and the Audubon Society. A large number of visitors stopped at the booth where children could do rubbings of birds or insects and gardeners could pick up a pollinator plant for their garden, patio, etc. Pamphlets describing the Audubon Society of Omaha were given to those who requested one.

A great time was had by all. The success of the booth was due to the volunteers who greeted the public. ASO thanks the following individuals who spent the day staffing the booth: Nelli Falzgraf, Michaela Johnson, Haley Tolbert, Virginia Stauffer, Andrew Callison, Jackie Scholar.

## Volunteer Needed to Monitor Bluebird Boxes

### Bluebird Monitoring Trail Volunteer Needed for Lake Manawa Park

Audubon Society of Omaha is looking for a volunteer to help monitor about 34 bluebird boxes at Lake Manawa. Tasks include cleaning the boxes in March and then spending a couple of hours each week (April through August) to check boxes and record observations. Data results are then sent to Bluebirds Across Nebraska and Iowa Bluebird Conservationists, and are also compiled with the 33 years of data already collected at this location. If you are interested in helping with this important conservation project, please contact Audubon Society of Omaha at (402) 445-4138.



Eastern Bluebird  
by Mike Benkis

## 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*.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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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 - Bob Wells  
1st Vice President - Jackie Scholar  
2nd Vice President - Virginia Stauffer  
Past President - Matt Miller  
Treasurer - Betty Fullerton  
Secretary - Shannon Engberg

Elected Directors:

Ruth Bentzinger  
Mark L. Cave  
Elizabeth Chalen  
Grace Gaard  
Anne Maguire

Committee Chairpersons:

Art Contest - Virginia Stauffer  
Education - Elizabeth Chalen  
Finance - Betty Fullerton  
Fundraising - Anne Maguire  
Grant Review - Shannon Engberg  
Legislative Affairs - Bob Fuchs  
Marketing and Outreach - Anne Maguire  
Membership - Duane and Kathy Schwery

Natural Areas Management - Glenn Pollock  
Nominating - Virginia Stauffer  
Program - Bob Wells

Other Activities:

Bird Seed Chairs - Betty and John Fullerton  
Exec. Director Audubon NE – Kristal Stoner  
ASO Administrator – Stacey Coury  
NAS Board Member – Michele Crist  
Pan-Flyway Director – Karim al-Khafaj

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.