

# 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.

March/April 2019  
Volume 48, Issue 2



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

## CLIMATE WATCH IN NEBRASKA: What We're Doing and What You Can Do to Help

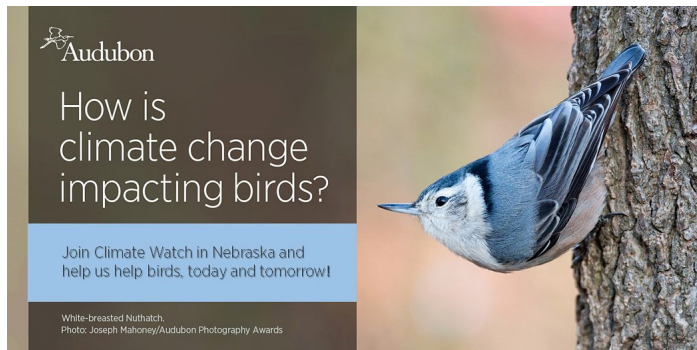
Thursday, March 14 at 7 pm

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

Our changing climate is affecting our birds in many ways, even right here in Nebraska. From more extreme weather to changing phenology, birds face even more challenges than ever before. Climate Watch was designed to help Audubon learn more about these changes while providing a fun and easy community science project for Audubon Chapters, members, and all bird lovers to be able to participate in and help our birds during a changing climate.



Photo by Mike Fernandez, National Audubon Society



Join Jason "the Birdnerd" St. Sauver, Director of Education & Outreach for Audubon Nebraska, to learn more about the Climate Watch, the birds it will study, and how you can help each summer and winter. This program is free and open to the public.

## NOAH STRYKER TO SPEAK AT FONTENELLE FOREST

by Clem Klaphake

Noah Strycker will be this year's ASO/Fontenelle Forest special speaker. His presentation is scheduled for Friday, April 26th at Fontenelle Forest at 7:00p.m. Everyone is welcome. The title of his talk is:

### **BIRDING WITHOUT BORDERS: An Epic World Big Year**

In 2015, bird nerd Noah Strycker of Oregon became the first human to see more than half of the planet's bird species in a single, year-long, round-the-world birding trip. Anything could have happened, and a lot did. He was scourged by blood-sucking leeches, suffered fevers and sleep deprivation, survived airline snafus and car breakdowns and mud-



slides and torrential floods, skirted war zones, and had the time of his life. Birding on seven continents and carrying only a pack on his back, Strycker enlisted the enthusiastic support of local birders to tick more than 6,000 species, including Adelle Penguins in Antarctica, a Harpy Eagle in Brazil, a Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Thailand, and a Green-breasted Pitta in Uganda. He shared the adventure in real time on his daily blog ([audubon.org/noah](http://audubon.org/noah)), and now he reveals the inside story. This humorous and inspiring presentation about Strycker's epic World Big Year will leave you with a new appreciation for the birds and birders of the world.

# Upcoming Election of Officers and Board Members: Here are the Nominees for 2019/2020

by Virginia Stauffer

Audubon Society of Omaha will hold its annual election of officers and board members at our April general member meeting. There were many excellent candidates this year, and the Nominating Committee is working to get them all involved with our organization in some capacity.

## OFFICERS

President **Bob Wells**  
*Current 1st Vice President*

1st Vice President **Jackie Scholar**  
*Long-time Board Member and  
Committee Chair*

2nd Vice President  
**Virginia Stauffer**  
*Current 2nd Vice President*

Treasurer **Betty Fullerton**  
*Current Treasurer*

Secretary **Shannon Engberg**  
*Current Secretary*

## DIRECTORS

The Nominating Committee selected these candidates based on fulfilling ASO's mission and vision. Since you may not know these nominees, here are a few facts about each of them:

## Elizabeth Chalen

Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology, Southwestern College  
Other: Certified Interpretive Guide, National Association of Interpretation, Nebraska Master Naturalist  
Current Position: Keep Omaha Beautiful, Volunteer and Programs Coordinator  
Previous Positions:  
- Education Director with Fontenelle Forest  
- Naturalist with Fontenelle Forest  
- Environmental Educator for Audubon Society of Portland (Oregon)  
- Onsite Programs Coordinator with Audubon Society of Portland (Oregon)

## Grace Gaard

Bachelor of Science Degree in Fisheries and Wildlife  
Minor in Animal Science from University of Nebraska  
Current Position: Naturalist at Fontenelle Forest  
Previous Positions:  
- Pioneers Park Teacher Naturalist  
- Naturalist at Ponca State Park  
- After School Coordinator with Henry Doorly Zoo

## Anne Maguire

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Design  
Minor in Anthropology, Kansas University  
Retired, Member of Audubon Society of Omaha, Member of ASO Art Contest Committee  
Previous Positions:  
- Director of Marketing and Sales at Omaha Equestrian Foundation  
- Director of Creative Planning and Design at Mutual of Omaha (20+ years)

Additional nominations can be presented at the April meeting provided permission has been obtained from the nominees. Thanks to all involved for their time and attention on this effort.

## ASO FIELD TRIPS 2019

story and photos by Rick Schmid

### Saturday, March 23, 2019 (all day)

Crane trip to the Platte River valley in central Nebraska. Field trip will be mostly driving with some walking, depending on weather. Focus will be on waterfowl and cranes.

We will meet in the (Chalco Hills Recreation Area) public parking lot south of Highway 370 just west of I-80 at 6:20am and depart promptly at 6:30am. We will carpool, have lunch in Grand Island or Kearney and return by 8:00pm.



Whooping Crane with Sandhill Cranes



Greater Scaup

# Audubon Student Art Contest and Show 2019 – Volunteers Needed

## Join the Fun, Come to the Show at Our NEW Location: Creighton University

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.



Trevor Potter, Grade 4

Lucky volunteers get a preview of the artwork when they help with hanging the artwork for display in the morning on Saturday, April 27. It's a great way to see the creativity of local student artists before the crowd shows up. We are in need of many volunteers for this task as we cannot hang artwork the day before as we have done in past years.

The Student Art Show and Awards Ceremony draws a large number of attendees, so we also need volunteers to help with greeting students, their families



Grace Sheldon, Grade 2

and friends on the day of the show. If you are available and would like to help, it would be greatly appreciated. This is a



RaeAnne Borsh, Grade 11

great opportunity to get energized about our club's mission and meet fledgling birders. Here are the details:



Kennedy Bradburn, Grade 10

**SATURDAY, April 27:**  
**Creighton University, Harper Center**  
**602 N. 20th Street in Omaha**

8:30 am – 11 am:

Hanging of artwork

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm:

Help with hosting the show

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm:

Help with take down

and take away

Please contact Stacey Coury at [audubonomaha@gmail.com](mailto:audubonomaha@gmail.com) or Virginia Stauffer at [vstauffer1@yahoo.com](mailto:vstauffer1@yahoo.com) if you would like to help with this annual event.



America Johnson, Grade 10

### IN OUR WOODS, SOMETIMES A RARE MUSIC

Every spring  
 I hear the thrush singing  
 in the glowing woods  
 he is only passing through.  
 His voice is deep,  
 then he lifts it until it seems  
 to fall from the sky.  
 I am thrilled.  
 I am grateful.

Then, by the end of morning,  
 he's gone, nothing but silence  
 out of the tree  
 where he rested for a night.  
 And this I find acceptable.  
 Not enough is a poor life.  
 But too much is, well, too much.  
 Imagine Verdi or Mahler  
 every day, all day.  
 It would exhaust anyone.

– MARY OLIVER, *A Thousand Mornings*

# Laura Stastny, Executive Director of Nebraska Wildlife Rehab, Inc. to speak at Annual Banquet – Thursday, May 16th

photos by Alex Wiles

Did you know that this past summer, Audubon Society of Omaha helped fund the relocation of 233 prairie dogs? After their long-time prairie dog town site was sold and quickly turned into a soybean field, local conservation groups scrambled to save the lives of

the remaining prairie dogs and ultimately relocate them to the Hutton Niobrara Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary. Hear about this amazing story from Laura Stastny, Executive Director of Nebraska Wildlife Rehab, Inc. and an invaluable leader of the prairie dog rescue team!



This year's banquet will be held at Anthony's Steakhouse. Reservations can be made online or through the mail. A reservation form is provided for you below. Reservations are due by Friday, May 10th.

Patron tickets are available for the May banquet for \$50 per person. Tax deductible amount is \$50 minus the cost of the dinner. Conservation and education projects that your donations helped support this past year included Audubon Society of Omaha's annual Student Art Fair and banding saw-whet owls.

## BANQUET RESERVATION

Anthony's Steakhouse • 7220 F Street • Omaha, NE 68127  
Thursday, May 16, 2019 Cash Bar 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address and zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please choose from the following entrees:

\_\_\_ \$30 Top Sirloin    \_\_\_ \$25 Chicken Piccata    \_\_\_ \$22 Pasta Primavera

Patron ticket(s) \_\_\_ \$50 (Tax Deductible amount is \$50 minus price of dinner)

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s).

*Make check payable to Audubon Society of Omaha.*  
Mail to: Helen Bartee, 521 Beverly Drive, Omaha, NE 68114

Online reservations can be made at [omahaaudubon.org](http://omahaaudubon.org)

**Reservations must be received by Friday, May 10th.**

## 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:

Galyn Langer – 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

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.