
The Meadowlark



April 2011

Volume 40 Issue 4

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

May 12th Annual Spring Banquet Craig Hensley to Present "Five Years in Texas: Photographic Reflections of a Wandering Naturalist"

Our annual spring banquet will be held at Anthony's Steakhouse, 7220 F Street, on Thursday, May 12. All members, spouses, friends, and visitors are welcome. The cocktail and social hour begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Our program will be "Five Years in Texas: Photographic Reflections of a Wandering Naturalist," presented by Craig Hensley. From the prairie potholes of North Dakota where he cut his teeth on birds, to the Chihuahuan Desert of West Texas, Naturalist and Educator, he has spent countless hours exploring the natural world.

Formerly the Director of Education with Fontenelle Nature Association, Craig most recently spent five years in Texas, and while he is convinced he was never meant to be a Texan, he did learn a great deal about the Lone Star state's natural history.

Through his photography, Craig will share stories and images of cacti, wildflowers, butterflies, dragonflies and bats during his wide-ranging presentation, including images of birds he encountered through banding.

Craig's love of the natural world, whether it is the Platte River and Sandhills Cranes of central Nebraska, the spring wildflowers of the Missouri River Valley or the natural history of Texas, is contagious. (P.S. For those of you who have known him from the past, he'll even share a little bit about Noah and Jennifer, his two children—sorry, he says he can't help it!)

In addition to the program, the beautiful photo contest entries will be displayed, with prizes awarded and winners announced. A separate prize, Most Popular, will be voted by those attending. Please join us at this once-a-year event. A reservation form is included on page 5 of this issue.

We must receive your reservation by Thursday, May 5.

Call 391-3386 or 451-3647 for more information.

Spring Bird Counts The DeSoto Spring Bird Count

The DeSoto Spring Bird Count will be held Sunday, May 1. We will meet at 8 am in front of the Refuge Administration Building near the north entrance off highway 30. Bring your lunch. The refuge has been busy flooding basins in anticipation of waterfowl and shorebird migrations. There has been an ongoing program to expand the available wetlands on the refuge and in recent years the program has been paying dividends. This is an opportunity to explore the refuge. Contact information:
Steve Van Riper 712 642 5411
Steve_VanRiper@fws.gov
Jer Toll 402 453 9239

Annual Sarpy County Spring Bird Count

The Annual Sarpy County Spring Bird Count will be held on Saturday, May 14th. This is a count we have been doing for over 10 years. The county is divided into sectors - 1. Fontenelle Forest and adjacent areas, 2. The center part of the county west of Fontenelle to Hwy. 50 3. Schramm SRA and surrounding area and 4. West of I-80 to the Platte River. One person is responsible for each of these areas. If you are interested in participating, contact Clem Klaphake (403-292-2276) and he will assign you to one of these 4 areas.

Make Your Voice Heard

Bob Fuchs

As a member of the National Audubon Society and the Audubon Society of Omaha, you have an interest in birds and other wildlife, and, we hope, their conservation. Environmental protections are coming under unprecedented attack in this Congress, under the guise of budget cutting, when it is really all about anti-science and pro-energy industry ideology. Here are some proposed changes to current protections for humans and wildlife alike:

- Prohibit the EPA from regulating greenhouse gases; the Supreme Court has ruled that EPA does have this authority under the Clean Air Act.
- Prohibit the regulation of toxic discharges, such as mercury, from the cement manufacturing process.
- Prohibit the contribution of funds to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- Prohibit the President from appointing advisors to oversee energy policy.
- Block the EPA from updating the health standard for coarse particulate matter pollution, which can consist of smoke, soot, salts, acids, metals and dust, and which cause and aggravate respiratory diseases.

- Prohibit the government from collecting royalties from offshore oil drilling.
- Prohibit efforts to stop stream pollution from coal mining.
- Prohibit funding for efforts to reduce pollution entering the Chesapeake Bay.
- Prevent the EPA from continuing to use its authority under the Clean Water Act to prohibit or restrict permits that would have an "unacceptable adverse effect" on water, fish and wildlife.
- Cut funding by 90% for the Land and Water Conservation Fund which helps maintain wildlife habitat.
- Remove all wolves in the United States from protection from the Endangered Species Act, without regard to the scientific input on their ecological necessity from the Fish and Wildlife Service.

There are many more like these. You can find information about these at www.lcv.org, the website of the League of Conservation Voters, under the 2011 Special Edition Scorecard menu tab. For the 2010 Scorecard, both of our Nebraska senators received a score of 0 for their voting record. Lee Terry received a score of 11.

Do your representatives know how you feel about these issues? If no one speaks out, they will think that there will be no opposition at election time. Please write or email your representatives (contact information is always included in the Meadowlark) and send letters to the editor of your local newspaper. Log on to the website of the National Audubon Society or other organizations to be aware of what is happening. Finally, please consider sending me your email address so I can notify you when there are local and state issues that need to be addressed, such as the potential loss of funding to the Nebraska Environmental Trust. I promise not to send frequent requests, and only those action requests that are of highest priority.

You can email me at rfuchs@cox.net.

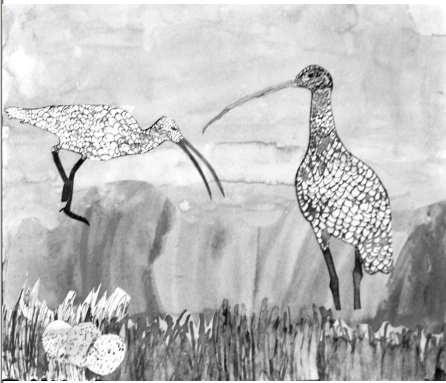
Bob Fuchs, Conservation
Committee Chair

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

Audubon Society of Omaha Student Art Contest

A crowd of over 400 people attended the 2011 Audubon Greater Omaha Student Art Contest - Show at Bellevue University on April 2. This year there were 231 entries (from Kindergarten through 12th grade) representing 37 different public and private schools in the greater Omaha area. All students who entered the contest had their artwork displayed for viewing. It was a very festive and rewarding day for all those involved.

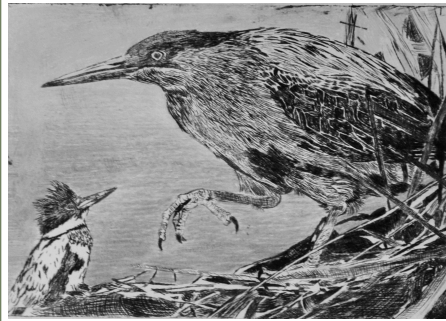
Children were awed and very interested in seeing a live screech owl (courtesy of Fontenelle Forest) that had been injured and could not be returned to the wild.



The drawings were of very high quality and included watercolors, oil paintings, collages, chalk, and crayon drawings. The categories for judging included Realism, Graphic Design, or Cartooning. The eagle was a popular bird this year along with some unique endangered birds. Students and their families were greeted by ASO members and

awards of Excellence and Merit were presented to students in each grade level at the Awards ceremony.

Best of Show for High School went to:



Garrett Behrends of Omaha North High Magnet School-grade 12 (Teacher – Gay O’Neill)

Hector Enrique of Boystown High School –grade 10 (Teacher – Mrs. Kolterman)

Austin Griffith of Omaha North High Magnet School – grade 10 (Teacher-Gay O’Neill)

Best of Show for Middle School (7-8th) went to:

Joshua Sorensen of Sorensen Home School – grade 8 (Teacher-Pamela Sorensen)

Best of Show for Elementary School (4-6th) went to:

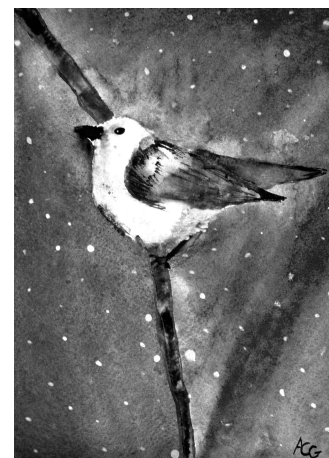
Ian Kuhn of the Kuhn Home school – grade 4 (Teacher – Kim Reid Kuhn)

Best of Show for Elementary School (K-3) went to: **Ava**

Mumgaard of Amy’s Art Lessons-grade 3 (Teacher- Amy Blanchard)



Audubon Society is grateful to the following individuals and establishments for making this show a great success: Collection and hanging of artwork: Laurine Blankenau, Nelli Falzgraf, Nancy Williams, Helen Bartee, Kathleen Rose, Babs Paddleford, Kathy Schwery, Jackie Scholar Greeting the Public-Awards Ceremony: Laurine Blankenau, Jerry Toll, Jackie Scholar, Screech Owl Education: Jamie Vann, Photography: Eric Scholar, Fontenelle Nature Association, Bellevue University Staff, Maintenance, Jim McLochlin: ASO Art Contest website, Judges: Shelly Bartek, Jo Bartikoski, Paula Wallace, Don Westling, participating art and classroom teachers and parents of the students.



A Watchful Eye Key for Identifying Emerald Ash Borer Infestations

Jeffrey Marker

Have you ever wondered exactly what that Red-bellied woodpecker is hammering away on that ash tree for? Hopefully it's not because it found a tree full of emerald ash borer larvae. The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a small, metallic green beetle native to China. In the summer of 2002 EAB was first discovered in Michigan as being responsible for the deaths of hundreds of ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) trees. Since then it has been found in 15 states and two Canadian provinces and is responsible for killing off millions of ash trees and threatening billions more. Currently EAB has not been found in Nebraska but poses a major risk to the estimated 13 million ash trees found in our cities, towns, parks, and countryside. A priority of the EAB mission here in Nebraska is to provide concerned citizens, homeowners, landowners, local environmental groups and outdoor groups with the training and tools to help us detect possible EAB infestations as early as possible. We would like to enlist your help in keeping out a watchful eye for signs of EAB

damage and infestation and spreading the word about EABs. EAB is known to infest only ash trees in North America. Some signs of possible EAB infestations include crown die back, bark splits that may expose S-shaped tunnels, D-shaped holes in the bark (about 1/8 inch) and extensive woodpecker activity or damage on a tree. If you would like more information or want to report a possible EAB infestation, please call the EAB National Hotline at **(866)322-4512**, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at **(402)471-2394**, the USDA emerald ash borer office at **(402)896-8256**, or visit www.emeraldashborer.info.

Also help us spread the word during National EAB Awareness Week on May 22-28 and keep those binoculars pointed at all the ash trees you can find and just maybe that Red-bellied woodpecker will lead us in the right direction.

Arctic Refuge Spring Migration Birding Challenge

Birds that breed in the Arctic Refuge have ranges that reach all 50 states and 6 continents. How many can you find in your state?

The Challenge - Try to beat the reigning record of 87 species.

Recruit a team of up to six people. Record your birds - by sight or sound, and mark it on the checklist. Pick one up from ASO at our general meeting. Or go to AudubonAlaska.org. Submit your checklist before midnight (Alaska time) May 31, 2011. We still have an entire month to scour the countryside, so spend some time outside and enjoy the spring.

Each member of 1st, 2nd & 3rd place teams will receive a prize. See the web site for details. Winners will be announced on June 15.

Questions? Call 451-3647.

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 68103-0542.

Bequests

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

Addresses to Remember

President Barack Obama

The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington D.C. 20500-0001

Comments: 202-456-1111

Senator Ben Nelson

U.S. Senate, Washington DC 20510; 202-224-6551
fax 202-228-0012; Lincoln phone: 402-437-5246;

Omaha phone: 402-391-3411;

Omaha address: 7602 Pacific St, #205, 68114

Senator Michael Johanns

U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 202-224-4224

Lincoln: 402 476-1400

100 Centennial Mall N Rm 294, Lincoln NE 68508-3803

Representative Lee Terry

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

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

Omaha Address: 11717 Burt St, Omaha 68154

Omaha phone: 402-397-9944

Representative Jeff Fortenberry

House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515

Phone: -202-225-4806

Lincoln phone: 402-438-1598

Lincoln Address:

Governor Dave Heineman

Capitol Bldg, Box 94848 Lincoln, NE 68509

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

Mayor Jim Suttle

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

We offer two choices of membership: one includes membership in National Audubon as well as in our local chapter, receiving the *Audubon Magazine* and our newsletter, *The Meadowlark*. A portion of the dues is returned to our local chapter.

The other choice is local membership only: this includes receiving *The Meadowlark* and participation in all of our local activities. Dues all go to our chapter.

Membership in the National Audubon Society

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

**Introductory Membership (1st & 2nd Year) \$20
Make check payable to National Audubon Society**

Mail to Audubon Society of Omaha

19612 Ridgeway Road

Membership in The Audubon Society of Omaha only

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

**Make check for \$20 payable to Audubon Society of
Omaha**

Mail to Audubon Society of Omaha

19612 Ridgeway Road

Plattsmouth, NE 68048 COZCP030Z

Please send all changes of address to djschw@windstream.com

Banquet Reservation

Anthony's Steakhouse
7220 F Street, Omaha, NE

Thursday, May 12. Cash Bar 6:00 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Name _____

Address _____

Number & Street _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please choose: _____ \$23 Top Sirloin 8 oz. _____ \$19 Trout Almondine _____ \$19 Chicken Breast Rosemary

Enclosed is _____ for _____ persons

Make check payable to Audubon Society of Omaha and mail to: Helen Bartee, 521 Beverly Drive, Omaha Ne 68114.

Please call Helen Bartee at 402-391-3386 for a vegetarian option.

Reservations must be received by **May 5**.

Audubon Society of Omaha Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3542, Omaha 68103 - 0542

Phone: 402-451-3647 - <http://audubon-omaha.org>

Office: 1941 So. 42nd Street, Omaha, NE 68105

Elected Officers:

President	Jerry Toll	453-9239
1st Vice President	Jackie Scholar	551-5045
2nd Vice President	Linda Dennis	733-6548
Past President	Clem Klaphake	292-2276
Treasurer	Vacant	
Recording Sec'y	Laurine Blankenau	451-3647
Corres. Sec'y	Kathleen Rose	292-8912

Elected Directors:

Jamie Vann	733-1891
Elliott Bedows	292-5017
Phil Swanson	339-7928
Nancy Williams	291-8580
Helen Bartec	391-3386
Jason McMeen	445-8279

Standing Committee Chairpersons:

Conservation	Bob Fuchs	553-8242
Education	Clem Klaphake	292-2276
Field Trip	Justin Rink	904-415-8279
Finance	Nelli Falzgraf	292-9687
Fund Raising	Vacant	
Membership	Kathy Schwery	296-4788
Program	Linda Dennis	733-6548
	Nancy Williams	291-8580
Natural Areas Mgt	Eric Scholar	551-5045
Publication	Laurine Blankenau	451-3647
Publicity	Jackie Scholar	551-5045

Other Activities:

Bird Seed Sale Chairs	Kathleen Rose	292-8912
	Carol Rasmussen	731-3939
Speakers Bureau	Eunice Levisay	393-0545
NAS Board Member	Peter Cannon	608-251-1276

The Meadowlark is published monthly
September through May, plus a summer issue. The
newsletter may be accessed on our website, [http://
audubon-omaha.org](http://audubon-omaha.org)

Send address changes to Kathy Schwery,
19612 Ridgeway Road, Plattsmouth NE 68948.

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