

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.

May/June 2019
Volume 48, Issue 3



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

ANNUAL BANQUET Thursday, May 16th at Anthony's Restaurant

Audubon will hold its annual banquet at Anthony's Restaurant, 7220 F Street, on Thursday, May 16th. Come celebrate a year of activities with a reception at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. All members are invited; families and friends are welcome.

Laura Stastny, Executive Director of Nebraska Wildlife Rehab, Inc, will be our featured speaker.

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. Laura will share this amazing story with us at our banquet.

We look forward to seeing you on May 16th. Please see enclosed reservation form for further information. Reservations can be made either through the mail or online at omahaaudubon.org

Reservations are due by Friday, May 10th.



photo by Alex Wiles

The Annual Sarpy County Spring Bird Count

by Clem Klaphake

The Annual Sarpy County Spring Bird Count will be held on Saturday, May 11th. The county is divided into four (4) sections from Fontenelle Forest on the Missouri River in the east to the Platte River in the west in the Linoma Beach area. In between are two sections including Schramm Park SRA, Walnut Creek Lake

Recreation Area, and Prairie Queen Recreation Area. Counters will be needed and any help is appreciated. If you are interested in helping out all day or part of the day contact Clem Klaphake at 402-292-2276 or ckavian@cox.net

**DESOTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SPRING BIRD COUNT
DUE TO THE RECENT FLOODING THE SPRING BIRD COUNT AT DESOTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGE HAS BEEN CANCELED. THE REFUGE IS CURRENTLY CLOSED TO VISITORS.**

WINTER BIRD SEED SALE

Betty and John Fullerton, ASO Bird Seed Co-Chairs

What a WINTER Bird Seed Sale Audubon Society of Omaha (ASO) had this February! Grateful thanks to Deb and Neal Ratzlaff (pictured) who again generously volunteered their garage and their time for ASO's Winter Bird Seed Sale – not easy keeping a garage clean and dry with the ice and snow on that weekend. Much of the distribution was done in challenging weather conditions. Loaders included Melissa Sitze, Andy Miller, Elliott Bedows, Chris Olson, Mark Cave, Mace Hack, and Tim Kautzman.



back from our customers. One loyal customer said in an email "I just wanted to thank everyone who helped with the Audubon bird seed sale. They really went above and beyond this time." Many thanks to our bird seed customers for their support.

We received lots of good feed-

The Fall and Winter ASO Bird Seed Sales are our major fund-raisers of the year. Proceeds enable ASO to continue to sponsor education and conservation programs, including the student art contest and special speakers.



ASO Field Trips 2019

by Rick Schmid

Saturday, May 4, 2019 (8:00-11:30am) – Warbler Watch to local Omaha migration hot-spots. Field trip will be mostly walking. Focus will be on spring migrants, especially warblers and vireos.

We will meet at 8:00am at Walnut Grove Park on 150th & Q Streets in the first (southernmost) parking area on the east side of the pond. The park itself is on the north side of Q Street.

After Walnut Grove Park, we will visit Towl Park (time permitting) near 94th and Center Streets.

This will be ASO's final field trip of the fiscal year. Field trips will resume again in the fall of 2019.



Kentucky Warbler by Rick Schmid



Ovenbird by Phil Swanson



Palm Warbler by Phil Swanson

EARTH DAY OMAHA

Audubon Society of Omaha hosted a booth at Earth Day Omaha. The event was the 30th annual celebration and was held on April 13 at Elmwood Park. Visitors to the booth could create crayon rubbings of birds as well as learn about ASO's mission, vision, and programs. The weather was a little chilly, but there was still a great crowd.



2019 Audubon Convention: Audubon For Everyone July 26-28, 2019 | Milwaukee, Wisconsin Registration: \$475

Join us in Milwaukee for Audubon's biennial convention designed to bring together Audubon's vast network of dedicated chapter, state, center, national, and international leaders from across all four flyways. This can't-miss event will feature an array of inspiring speakers, in-depth workshops and discussions, exciting field trips, and the camaraderie and networking opportunities that only the Audubon Convention can provide. For more information and to register, visit audubon.org/conservation/2019-convention.

ANNUAL BANQUET REGISTRATION INFORMATION



Photos by Ron Klataske

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

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

AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK PRESENTS

OMAHA GIVES!

powered by the Omaha Community Foundation

On Wednesday, May 22, 2019, the Omaha Community Foundation will sponsor Omaha Gives!, a 24-hour, online fundraising effort. Donate a minimum of \$10 by credit card on-line at Omaha Community Foundation's secure website: <https://www.omahagives24.org> on May 22. Or, you can schedule advance donations starting May 1st, to be processed on May 22.

Memberships

For membership in the National Audubon Society (which automatically includes membership in the Audubon Society of Omaha), go to 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.