Year of the Bird!
Jason "the Birdnerd" St. Sauver, Community Education Director

2018 may be the Year of the Dog on the Chinese calendar, but as far as the National Audubon Society and our partners National Geographic, BirdLife International, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are concerned, it is the YEAR OF THE BIRD! This year marks the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the most powerful and important bird-protection law ever passed.

Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts proclaimed 2018 Year of the Bird statewide. In honor of this milestone, nature lovers around Nebraska, and the world, are joining forces to celebrate the Year of the Bird and commit to protecting birds today and for the next hundred years.

To join in the fun, start off by visiting birdyourworld.org and taking the pledge to do at least one thing for birds each month of 2018, from participating in bird counts and bird celebrations, to planting native plants for birds, taking a child birding, or reducing the amount of plastic you use. Each month of the year has a call to action that is easy, fun, and an important way to help us help birds all year long.

So get ready, #BirdYourWorld, and enjoy 2018 as the YEAR OF THE BIRD!
Prairie Again Featured in Tourism Promotion

Spring Creek Prairie is once again proud to be named one of the stops on the 2018 Nebraska Passport tour, and we look forward to welcoming the passport travelers. Audubon’s Rowe Sanctuary is also a stop this year.

The purpose of the Nebraska Passport Program is to help travelers discover Nebraska’s hidden gems, offering a wide variety of travel adventure stops, including museums, parks, restaurants, wineries, retail stores, and more. The program runs from May 1 to September 30. There is no fee to participate, and no purchase necessary to receive Passport stamps at the Passport stops.

Discover more at http://nebraskapassport.com/!

Letter from the Director
Glynnis Collins

Each spring in The Prairie Sage, we list our past year’s donors as a way to recognize and publicly thank those of you who have provided essential financial support to Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center. We raise all of our operating funds locally, and therefore we couldn’t exist without the support of these donors who provide the majority of our revenue each year.

It takes so many generous people to keep the prairie healthy and thriving. Those who provide financial gifts are supporting the salaries of our professional staff, allowing us to pay property taxes, and helping us purchase equipment and supplies. All these pieces come together to protect this special place and our peerless educational programs that connect people with nature.

To those donors whose names are listed on pages 4-5, I thank you again!

If you haven’t made a financial contribution to Spring Creek Prairie, or haven’t in a while, I hope what you see in these pages may inspire you to do so in 2018. Audubon’s Year of the Bird (see cover page) is providing opportunities throughout the year for people to connect with birds and take concrete actions to help them each month. We partner with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission on the Regional Conservation Partnership Project to further conservation beyond our 850 acres. The program helps landowners throughout our region improve habitat on private lands (see page 6). Varied programs listed on page 8 and on our website provide opportunities for friends as well as new audiences to visit the prairie and connect or re-connect with nature.

Finally, I urge you to check out the inspiring ode on page 7 from Teagan D., written during last year’s Words for Birds poetry-writing workshop. Written about the younger program participants who broke off from the adult group to work with their own leader, to me Teagan’s poem captures so much of what is inspiring about our work here all year long.

With warm regards,

Glynnis Collins
Center Director
Free Third Tuesday Bird Walks

Spring bird migration is always one of the most exciting times of the year! Get in on the fun on one of our free guided bird walks, held every third Tuesday, April through October, from 8:00 to 10:00 am.

Join an experienced birder and lots of friends to find all sorts of species. Binoculars and field guides will be available.

One of the exciting birding discoveries this spring was the presence of several Soras in our upper pond. These wetland waders are common migrants, but some have stayed through mid-May, which means they may nest among the reeds and cattails.

(Photo by Roberta Blair)
TALLGRASS PRAIRIE SOCIETY

The Tallgrass Prairie Society is a group of individual contributors whose generous annual support of $500 or more honors our natural and cultural prairie history. We are grateful for their vision and their gifts. This generous support ensures the legacy of the tallgrass prairie will live on for future generations.

Robin and Rod Bates
Linda R. Brown
Kathryn Burden
Cecil Bykerk
Bob and Candy Campbell
Doug and Mary Campbell
John Campbell, Jr.
Judy and Jacque Carter
Glynis Collins and Nick Brozovic
Gerry and Kit Dimon
Christie and Pete Dionisopoulus
Sarah Distrow & Dave Wishart
Judy and Terry Dougherty
Don and Judy Dworak
Dave and Emilie Ellington
Lon Flagwent
Lorraine Ford and Sean Barnawell
Allen Freye
Thomas Gallagher
James Groeke and Karen Amen
Judith and Jeff Greenwald
Jeff and Ann Hagaman
Carr Heaney, Jr.
Linda Hillegass and James McKee
Nancy Hinannah
Mark and Deanna Hutchins
John and Karen Janovsky
Bruce and Barb Johnson
Stephen Jones
Hod and Wilfa Kosman
Mari Lane Gewecke
Jenni Lesoing-Lucs and Norb Lucs
C. R. McConnell
Curt and Carolyn McConnell
Arnold and Agnes Mendenhall
Dave Michael and Kevin Poague
Marilyn and Dave Moore
Cindy and Bill Morris
Jim and Patty Neid
Diana Nevis
Margery Nicolson
Judy and Ron Parks
Julie and Gale Polkorn
John Pollack
Katherine Putensen
Neal and Deb Ratzlaff
Ann Rawley
Linda Roos
Lynn and Dana Roper

Cindy and Dana Rose
Dan Semrad
Will Sheehan
John Solso
Jennifer and Randy Speers
Ruth Stearns and Mike Mattson
Scott and Nancy Stuckey
Tom and Sue Tallman
Art and Carol Thompson
Dave and Sue Van Horn
Art and Chris Zygielbaum

OUR SUPPORTERS

Jo Adams
Todd Adamson
Shireen Adenwalla and Daniel Clae
Brad Anderson
David Anderson
Mary and Fred Anderson
JILL ARCHER
Deborah Arends
Matt and Lori Ashmore
Jaye Austin
B.C. Babcock
Jaye Austin
Deanne and Tom Damkroger
Deb and Mohamed Dahab
Carole and Ward Curry
Robert and Micheline Creager
Andrew and Lt. Col. Carol拒不
Dave and Penny Cressey
Debra and Mohamed Dahab
Don and Karin Doak
Ernie and Mary Ellen Doak
George and Dorothy Holdren
Henry and Jane Harkness
Dan and Mary Howell
Edward Hubbs
John and Vicki Huff
Jean Hurlbut
Deborah Hunsberger
David and Pamela iaquinta
John and Catherine Ingram
Linda and Dana Iverson
Margaret Jacobs and Tom Lynch
Anne and Cliff James
Pat Janike and Lora Carpenter-Janike
Debra Japp
Esa Jarvi
Kathleen and Tom Jaudzemis
Kelly Jensen
The support and recognition of all our supporters is important to us. Please let us know of any missing names or corrections.
If You Want More Wildlife, Habitat Management is the Key!
By Eric Zach, Ag Program Manager, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

The opportunities to help improve or create new grasslands are nearly endless. The Grassland Bird Initiative is administered through an Environmental Quality Incentives Program contract through NRCS. This initiative uses a threshold ranking system, which means successful landowners can get approval quickly and begin work in a timely manner.

Landowners in the following counties are eligible: Franklin, Furnas, Gage, Harlan, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Nuckolls, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, Saline, Thayer, and Webster.

The initiative includes numerous practices to help landowners with their unique situations. Here are a few management practices:

**Prescribed Fire** - use prescribed fire to remove unwanted eastern red-cedar and increase diversity.

**Tree Removal** - mechanical removal of trees is a great way to renovate a grassland especially when followed up by prescribed fire.

**Cropland Conversion** - converting areas that are hard to farm adds habitat to the landscape.

**Grazing Infrastructure** - well-thought-out fencing and watering systems can improve both your bottom line and wildlife habitat.

**Pollinator Plantings** - high-diverse grassland plantings that include species flowering throughout the growing season are essential pollinator habitat.

Let us help you clear those unwanted trees, plant pollinator habitat, and in general attract more wildlife to your property. Those interested should contact a local NRCS office or Ed Hubbs at Spring Creek Prairie, (402) 797-2301. Don’t delay, funding is limited!

The Grassland Bird Initiative is a partnership between Audubon Nebraska, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Pheasants Forever providing cost share of up to 75 percent for habitat improvements. Through this initiative, project partners provide financial and technical assistance to landowners to improve habitat for grassland birds such as Northern Bobwhite and Greater Prairie-Chicken. Eligible lands include cropland, rangeland, pastureland, and odd areas.

Grasslands require regular management in order to maintain a diversity of plant and animal species. Bill Glenn, a landowner in Jefferson County, is utilizing the program to install fence for a rotational grazing system and to implement prescribed burning. Bill says, “This program was good for helping me get fire on the ground and a good program to help promote habitat.”

**Jason's Birdnerd Big Day**

As part of the Year of the Bird (see page 1), Jason spent all of May 5 searching for every bird species he could find in the Lincoln area. He finished with a spectacular 130 species! Some of the more uncommon birds found were a Common Loon, Summer Tanager, Henslow’s Sparrow, and a White-faced Ibis.

Jason raised over $600 from friends and colleagues who donated money for each species seen to his education supply fund. Thanks to all! And it’s not too late to add to his total. Go on-line at our website and donate, or send us a check, signifying Jason’s Big Day in the memo line. Thanks for your help in providing quality education materials.
An Open-Letter-Ode to the Children on the Hill Writing Poems

Dear Children,  
Dear Hill,  
Dear Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center  
Dear Poets of the Prairie,  

I am writing to tell you how important you are.  

Dear children poets, fresh eyes, spring green hearts penning words on spring green grass,  
Once the pioneers cultivated tallgrass prairie into rowcrop corn  
now your generation’s pioneers cultivate tallgrass prairie into sweetcrop verse.  

Dear Hill, Prairie Bird, Pond Duck, Winter Grass,  
Please come alive for the poet children.  
Sing to them, lend them words for the plucking draw them in, tell them secrets, lend your muse.  

Dear Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center,  
Thank you for lending to me childpoet eyes for an afternoon, for hosting the prairie setting a stage for her verse.  

Wind blowing hair, shirt, grass past my vision: verse one.  
Wind coming down the hill from the direction of the young poets: verse two.  
Wind pushing through cracked car windows sailing me home over a sea of Nebraska prairie: verse three.  
Wind gusting birdsong into my dreams tonight: verse four.  

Dear Fellow Poets (who were also once children and for today at least are again with the prairiehost as mother),  
Carry with you back to New York, to Alabama to stormy Beatrice the knowledge that you once served as audience to the quiet noise of the prairie.  
Let her visit you again and hold her like a child on a hill.  

Teagan D, written during 2017 Words for Birds

Plants for Birds

National Audubon Society’s Plants for Birds initiative continues as a priority in 2018, and here at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center we are lucky to collaborate with Nebraska Wesleyan and Sarah Young, a communications studies student at NWU.  

Sarah is finishing her final credits for her major by helping us with an outreach project about Audubon’s Plants for Birds database. She is working with local garden centers and nurseries, as well as contacting area schools about programming in their gardens and schoolyard habitats.  

The project is providing the schools and nurseries with outreach materials for their staff and customers to learn more about planting native trees, shrubs, and other plants that benefit birds and pollinators. Also, Audubon staff are able to provide presentations and consultations on keeping southeast Nebraska filled with bird-friendly communities.  

There is lots more information at the National Audubon society website:  

http://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds.
### Upcoming Events at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, June 18</td>
<td>POLLINATOR WEEK: Starting Your Native Garden, 7 pm *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, June 19</td>
<td>Third Tuesday Bird Walk, 8 – 10 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, June 20</td>
<td>POLLINATOR WEEK: Bugs &amp; Brews, 6:30 pm *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, June 23</td>
<td>Firefly Family Picnic, 7:30 – 9:30 pm *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, June 30</td>
<td>Firefly Family Picnic, 7:30 – 9:30 pm *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, July 17</td>
<td>Third Tuesday Bird Walk, 8 – 10 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, July 28</td>
<td>Paws on the Prairie, 10 am – 12 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, August 21</td>
<td>Third Tuesday Bird Walk, 8 – 10 am</td>
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</table>

For additional information and events, visit [springcreekprairie.audubon.org](http://springcreekprairie.audubon.org) * Program fee

### Trails - Open daily sunrise to sunset

### Visitor Center

*Open Monday – Friday 9 – 5*

*Saturday – Sunday 1 – 5*

*All year (except major holidays)*

### Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Staff

- Glynnis Collins - Director
- Jason "the Birdnerd" St. Sauver - Community Education Director
- Kevin Poague - Operations Manager
- Ed Hubbs - Habitat Program Manager
- Brad Anderson - Development Coordinator
- Andrea Bornemeier - Educator
- Amy Plettner - Caretaker

### Stewardship Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brianne Bayer</td>
<td>Bruce Johnson</td>
<td>Cindy Morris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judy Carter</td>
<td>Sue Kirkpatrick</td>
<td>Adrian Olivera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deb Dahab</td>
<td>Mari Lane Gewecke</td>
<td>Scott Stuckey</td>
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<td>Judy Dougherty</td>
<td>Liz Lange</td>
<td>Tom Tallman</td>
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<td>Jeff Hagaman</td>
<td>Jenni Lesoing-Lucs</td>
<td>Larry Williams</td>
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<td>Jeff Jewell</td>
<td>Marilyn Moore</td>
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### Audubon Nebraska Staff

- Bill Taddicken - Interim Director

### Admission

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCPAC Supporters ($50+)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>$4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seniors (60+)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>$3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ages 6 – 17</td>
<td>$3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ages 5 &amp; Under</td>
<td>FREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>FREE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Members of National Audubon Society and Wachiska Audubon Society receive $1 off admission.

### Wish List

*In the giving spirit? Review the list below of items to make your favorite prairie even better.*

- Youth binoculars - 10x25
- 19-inch Panama-style drip torch
- Hardhat with hearing protection
- Hedge clippers (2 or more)
- Pick and tweezer set
- Circular saw
- Tow rope (2)
- Water tank for cattle
- Boot cleaner station (please call for requested model)
- Buckets of various sizes

### CONTACT US:

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center
11700 SW 100th St.
P.O. Box 117
Denton, NE 68339

To receive The Prairie Sage electronically, let us know at scp@audubon.org; (402) 797-2301.

### PHONE: (402) 797-2301  EMAIL: scp@audubon.org

### WEBSITE: springcreekprairie.audubon.org

### FIND US ON:  

Looking for a place to host an event? Remember Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center when planning business meetings, wedding and anniversary receptions, and other get-togethers.