Results of 18th Annual Student Bird Art Contest

By Sue Leskiw, Contest Coordinator

In this second spring of the coronavirus pandemic, nearly 300 school kids pulled out paints, pencils, pastels, or paste to enter the 18th Annual Student Bird Art Contest. Cosponsors were Friends of the Arcata Marsh and Redwood Region Audubon Society.

The contest usually is held in association with mid-April’s Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival in Arcata. When the festival decided to go virtual in 2021, the art contest followed suit, with entry and judging done online.

Winners from 2020 and 2021 will be hung for a two-month art show, once the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center reopens. A downloadable booklet containing the artwork will be posted by early May at [www.godwitdays.org](http://www.godwitdays.org), [www.rras.org](http://www.rras.org), and [www.arcatamarshfriends.org](http://www.arcatamarshfriends.org).

Some $450 was awarded: 27 monetary prizes plus 19 honorable mentions. Depending on the number of entries per grade, some levels were combined and others received more than one set of awards, to even out the chances of winning.

The winners are:

***Kindergarten & Grade 1***

First Place: Olivia Osorio, Redwood Montessori, Marbled Godwit

Second Place: Kaydee Carper, Dow’s Prairie Elementary, Hummingbird

Third Place: Avery Skehen, Mattole Elementary, Red-shouldered Hawk

Honorable Mentions: Felix Davidson, Redwood Montessori, Bald Eagle; Owen Rogers, Jacoby Creek Elementary, Belted Kingfisher

***Grades 2&3***

First Place: Brighton Winfield, Union Street Charter, Spotted Towhee

First Place: Liam Ward, Northern United Charter, Red-tailed Hawk

Second Place: Ender Guthrie, Fuenta Nueva Charter, Cedar Waxwing

Second Place: Berna Queener, Mattole Elementary, Western Bluebird

Third Place: Sylas Kauffmann, Redwood Montessori, White-tailed Kite

Third Place: Kate Kurylo, Six Rivers Montessori, California Quail

Honorable Mentions: Adeline Pierce, Jacoby Creek Elementary, American Robin; Vivian Miller, Northern United Charter, Wood Duck

***Grade 4***

First Place: Bony McKnight, Coastal Grove Charter, Ruby-crowned Kinglet

First Place: Logan Hunter, Arcata Christian, Bald Eagle

Second Place: Lola Distefano, Cutten Elementary, American Avocet

Second Place: Ricardo Freitas, Northern United Charter, Great Blue Heron

Third Place: Elliot Banducci, Cutten Elementary, Chestnut-backed Chickadee

Third Place: Oliver Bullwinkle, Garfield Elementary, Steller’s Jay

Honorable Mentions: Everett Gruetzmacher, Arcata Christian, Osprey; Miriam Harper, Blue Lake Elementary; Wood Duck; Luna Madrone, Six Rivers Montessori, Wood Ducks

***Grades 5&6***

First Place: Francisco Tovar, Northern United Charter, Ferruginous Hawk

Second Place: Trillium Pitts, Alder Grove Charter, Great Blue Heron

Third Place: Luke Prieditis, Jacoby Creek Elementary, Peregrine Falcon

Honorable Mentions: Emileigh Schmidt, Stanford Murphy Elementary (Scotia), Osprey; Ruby Sheppard, Northcoast Preparatory Academy, Anna’s Hummingbird

***Grades 7&8***

First Place: Klara Sundeen, Jacoby Creek Elementary, Great Blue Heron

Second Place: October Mintey, Freshwater Elementary, Northern Flicker

Third Place: Lila Woodworth, Redwood Coast Montessori, Wood Duck

Honorable Mentions: Kaia Caldwell, Alder Grove Charter, Black-crowned Night-Heron; Zinnia Clifford, Redwood Coast Montessori, Marsh Wren; Trinity McNeese, Zane Middle, Blue Jay

***Grade 9***

First Place: Keirstyn Semas, Eureka High, White-tailed Kite

Second Place: Avalon Winfield, Six Rivers Charter High, Purple Finch

Third Place: Bella Tarlton, Six Rivers Charter High, Cedar Waxwing

Honorable Mentions: Abby Cassidy, Eureka High, Purple Finch; Laylah Rios, Eureka High, Bald Eagle; Bryanna Lopez-Tejeda, Academy of the Redwoods, Steller’s Jay

***Grades 10-12***

First Place: Tyler Petrusha, Eureka High, Wood Duck

Second Place: Annabelle Pastori, Academy of the Redwoods, Blue Jay

Third Place: Eilene Childs, Alder Grove Charter, California Quail

Honorable Mentions: Cheyenne Wilson, Arcata High, Bald Eagle; Jana Hernandez, Eureka High, Cinnamon Teal; Xatimniim Drake, Hoopa Valley High, Pileated Woodpecker; Gabriel Fugate, Eureka High, Western Meadowlark