Results of 19th Annual Student Bird Art Contest

By Sue Leskiw, Contest Coordinator

Over 650 school kids – more than twice the number that participated last year -- pulled out paints, pencils, pastels, or paste to enter the 19th Annual Student Bird Art Contest. Cosponsors were Friends of the Arcata Marsh and Redwood Region Audubon Society.

The contest is held in association with mid-April’s Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival in Arcata. This year, since a slimmed-down, hybrid festival did not have a presence at the Arcata Community Center, we were unable to post all the entries for public viewing. But, after two years of COVID cancellation, the contest did return to having an in-person awards ceremony, held at the Arcata Marsh outdoor amphitheater on April 16.

Copies of 2022’s cash prize and honorable mention winning artwork will be displayed at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center during May and June. Public viewing is possible Tuesdays through Sundays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. A downloadable booklet containing the artwork and photos from the awards ceremony will be posted in 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 $600 was awarded: 38 monetary prizes plus 35 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 were:

***Kindergarten & Grade 1***

First Place: John Campbell-Crawford, Jacoby Creek School, Red-breasted Nuthatch

Second Place: Sarafinn Clemans, Laurel Tree Charter, Purple Finches

Third Place: Ariya Tortoriello, Jacoby Creek School, Northern Flicker

Honorable Mentions:Hannah Naylor, Redwood Coast Montessori, Anna’s Hummingbird; Naomi Slauson, Jacoby Creek School, White-tailed Kite; Celiya Acevedo, Jacoby Creek School, Western Grebe

***Grade 2***

First Place: Penn Kerhoulas, Garfield School, Tufted Puffin

Second Place: Doc Henry Strong, Coastal Grove Charter, Common Yellowthroat

Third Place: Mary Kennedy, Jacoby Creek School, Sharp-shinned Hawk

Honorable Mentions:Olivia Osorio, Redwood Coast Montessori, Great Blue Heron; Madeline Kalson, Redwood Coast Montessori, Anna’s Hummingbird; Heidi Tout, Garfield School, Red-shouldered Hawk; Dorothy Hall, Mistwood Educational Center, Anna’s Hummingbird

***Grade 3***

First Place: Alex Sanzaro, Garfield School, Spotted Owl

First Place: Tamarin Merry, Coastal Grove Charter, American Robin

Second Place: Mia Hong-Novotney, Fuente Nueva Charter, American Avocet

Second Place: Teus Kypta, Garfield School, Peregrine Falcon

Third Place: Tayler LaPorte, Green Point Elementary, Osprey

Third Place: Maya Knight, Coastal Grove Charter, Hummingbird

Honorable Mentions:Olive Conley, Willow Creek Learning Center, Anna’s Hummingbird; Marayah Kaiser, Garfield School, Tufted Puffin; Jase Blackwell, Alder Grove Charter, Aleutian Cackling Goose; Jaxon Bryant, Redwood Coast Montessori, Great Blue Heron

***Grade 4***

First Place: Alisa Cecchin, Union Street Charter, Varied Thrush

First Place: Adeleine Kennedy, Jacoby Creek School, Cedar Waxwings

Second Place: Rosa Nofsinger, Union Street Charter, Cedar Waxwing

Second Place: Ollie Goldstein, Union Street Charter, Belted Kingfisher

Third Place: Tadeus Furaha, Coastal Grove Charter, Steller’s Jay

Third Place: Corabella Pagliuco, Union Street Charter, American Goldfinch

Honorable Mentions:Eliana Lindsay, Union Street Charter, Peregrine Falcon; Gracelynn Shepherd, Cutten School, Western Meadowlark; Esme Connell, Trillium Charter, Great Blue Heron; Grace Schmidt, Cutten School, Steller’s Jay; Owen Quinn, Fuente Nueva Charter, Black-crowned Night-Heron

***Grade 5***

First Place: Bony McKnight, Coastal Grove Charter, American Kestrel

Second Place: Sofia Baker, Fortuna Middle School, Great Blue Heron

Third Place: Ricardo Freitas, Northern United Charter, White-tailed Kite

Honorable Mentions: Elianna Emery, Agnes Johnson Charter, Anna’s Hummingbird; Kjersti Macdonald, Garfield School, Anna’s Hummingbird; Maya Klampt, Cutten School, Anna’s Hummingbird; Zayd Kirby, Willow Creek Learning Center, Allen’s Hummingbird

***Grade 6***

First Place: Tenley Weeks, Koinonia Academy, Anna’s Hummingbirds

Second Place: Kahlan Wilcox, Winship Middle School, Snowy Plovers

Third Place: Summer Kennard, Alder Grove Charter, Belted Kingfisher

Honorable Mentions:Sydney Boone, Zane Middle School, Anna’s Hummingbird; Kyle Cox, Jr, Stanwood Murphy Elementary, Mallard; Nyah Justice, Redwood Coast Montessori, Spotted Owl; Phoebe Paoli, St Bernard’s Academy, Snowy Plover

***Grade 7***

First Place: Kimberly Barreto, Stanwood Murphy Elementary, Blue Jay

Second Place: Emma Jewel Kelone, McKinleyville Middle School, Anna’s Hummingbird

Third Place: Teagan Sailors, Sunny Brae Middle School, Rufous Hummingbird

Honorable Mentions:Natalie Reeves, Zane Middle School, Short-eared Owl; Grace Wilkin, Zane Middle School, Purple Finch; Oni Orcutt, St Bernard’s Academy, Purple Finch

***Grades 8&9***

First Place: Ram Virnave, Academy of the Redwoods, Osprey

Second Place: Evie Dowd, Northern United Charter, Belted Kingfisher

Third Place: Carter Hernandez, Zane Middle School, Spotted Owl

Honorable Mentions:Levi Hansen, Zane Middle School, Great-horned Owl; Macie Hinton, Zane Middle School, California Quail; Jezlynn Stokes, Stanwood Murphy Elementary, Purple Finch; Julie Burke, Fortuna High, Bewick’s Wren

***Grades 10-12***

First Place: Arien Goode, Eureka Learning Center, Varied Thrush

Second Place: Matthew Contreras Velasco, Eureka Learning Center, Chestnut-backed Chickadee

Third Place: Eilene Childs, Alder Grove Charter, American Goldfinches

Honorable Mentions:Krystal Huerta, Eureka High, Cedar Waxwing; Laylah Rios, Eureka High, California Quail; Bridgette Dunn, Eureka High, Northern Harrier; Maggie Odell, Eureka High, Peregrine Falcon; Brooke Grazis, St Bernard’s Academy, Common Loon

***Best Bird in Habitat Awards***

Eleanor Vanlathanith, Kindergarten, Jacoby Creek School, Pileated Woodpeckers

Morgan Fresz, Grade 4, Cutten Elementary, Spotted Owl

Duke Ester, Grade 5, Garfield School, Wood Duck

Ella Swanson, Grade 7, Zane Middle School, Anna’s Hummingbird

Meguire Bartosz, Grade 10, St Bernard’s Academy, Wood Ducks