

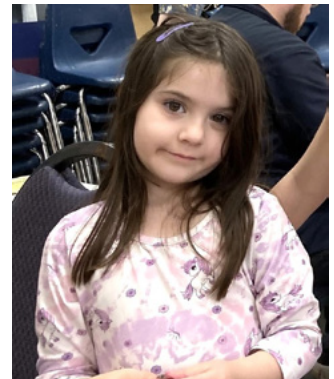


# 22nd Annual Student Bird Art Contest Results (2025)



This year, 818 pieces of art were submitted from Humboldt County students in grades K through 12. Some 47 cash prizes totaling \$750, plus 39 honorable mentions, were awarded in a ceremony at the Arcata Community Center in mid-April. All entries were displayed during the Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival.— *Sue Leskiw, Contest Organizer*

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*Kindergarten & Grade 1 cash award winners. Main photo by Paul Johnson; right photo by Sue Leskiw.*

## ***Kindergarten & Grade 1***

1st Place: Lily Varzgah, Homeschooled, Red-breasted Nuthatch; Nova Connelly, Union Street Charter, Northern Harrier

2nd Place: Thomas Willson III, Orleans Elementary, Scrub Jay; Asher Stein, Northern United Charters, Turkey Vulture

3rd Place: Olea Vance, Alder Grove Charter, Anna's Hummingbird; Onyx Austrus, Northern United Charters, Common Yellowthroat

**Honorable Mentions:** Ember Freedlund, Mattole Elementary, Purple Finch; Nicholas Flemming, Mattole Elementary, American Crow; Seraphina Fosnaugh, Northern United Charters, White-tailed Kite; Rose King, Union Street Charter, Anna's Hummingbird; Oliver Caldwell-Russo, Union Street Charter, Spotted Owl



*Fiona Varzgah.*



*Nova Connelly.*





(Left, from top) Asher Stein; Olea Vance; Onyx Austrus; Ember Freedlund. (Right, from top) Thomas Wilson III; Nicholas Flemming; Seraphina Fosnaugh.





*Rose King.*



*Oliver Caldwell-Russo.*



*Grade 2 cash award winners. Main photo by Paul Johnson; right photo by Sue Leskiw.*



*Grade 2 Honorable Mention winners. Photo by Paul Johnson.*



## Grade 2

1st Place: Fiona Varzgh, Homeschooled, Spotted Owl; Wren Rushby, Coastal Grove Charter, Cedar Waxwing

2nd Place: Sawyer Mathieson, Ridgewood Elementary, Northern Flicker; Harper Rybeck, Northern United Charters, Ruby-throated Hummingbird

3rd Place: Emilia Wright, Ridgewood Elementary, Anna's Hummingbird; Brynlee Steele, Fieldbrook Elementary, Mallard

**Honorable Mentions:** Della Zdrazil, Garfield Elementary, Tufted Puffin; Sylvie Davis, Garfield Elementary, American Goldfinch; Owen Lowe, Seaforth Montessori, Scrub Jay; Niamh Horcasitas, Fuente Nueva Charter, Spotted Owl

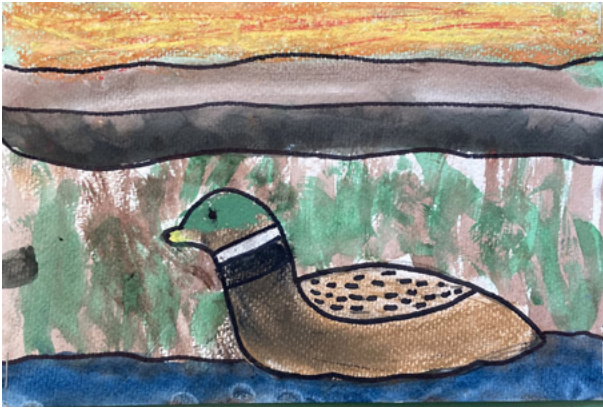


(From top) Fiona Varzgh; Emilia Wright.



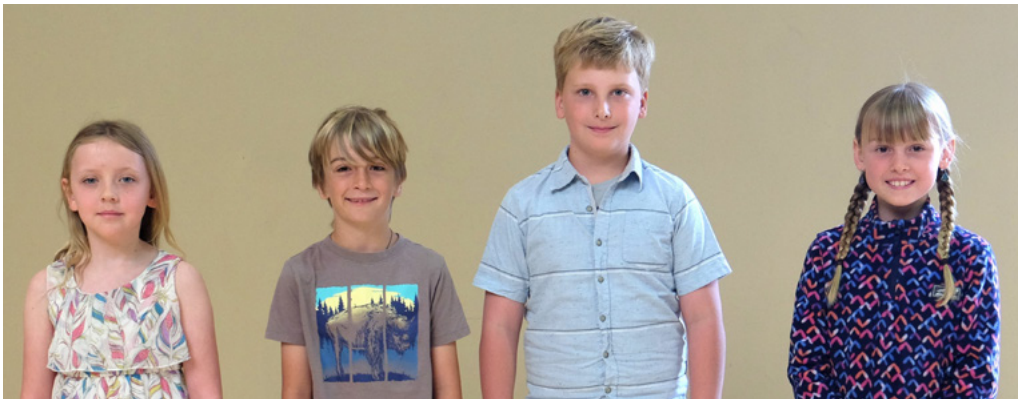
(From top) Wren Rushby; Harper Rybeck; Sawyer Mathieson.





(Left, from top) Brynlee Steele; Della Zdrazil;  
Sylvie Davis. (Right, from top) Owen Lowe; Niamh  
Horcasitas.





*Grade 3 cash award winners. Main photo by Paul Johnson; right photo by Sue Leskiw.*



*Grade 3 Honorable Mention winners. Main photo by Paul Johnson; right photo by Sue Leskiw.*

### **Grade 3**

1st Place: Sylvia Tout, Garfield Elementary, Cinnamon Teal; Iona Ennis, Mattole Elementary, American Kestrel

2nd Place: Cody Herman, Morris Elementary, Steller's Jay; Emory Thoreson-Veeh, Garfield Elementary, American Kestrel

3rd Place: Autumn McTague, Northern United Charters, Snowy Plover; Henry Schmidt, Cutten Elementary, Bald Eagle

**Honorable Mentions;** Camille Kerhoulas, Garfield Elementary, California Quail; Lucia Herndon, Cutten Elementary, Northern Flicker; Vasili Tokarev, Homeschooled, Anna's Hummingbird; Antonio Fuentes Rodriguez, Northern United Charters, Northern Flicker; Iko Shipley, Agnes J Johnson Charter, Hummingbird



*Sylvia Tout.*



*Iona Ennis.*





(Left, from top) Emory Thoreson-Veeh; Autumn McTague; Camille Kerhoulas; Lucia Herndon.  
(Right, from top) Cody Herman; Henry Schmidt; Vasili Tokarev.





*Iko Shipley.*



*Antonio Fuentes Rodriguez.*



*(Top) Grade 4 cash award winners. (Bottom) Grade 4 Honorable Mention winners. Photos by Paul Johnson.*

#### **Grade 4**

1st Place: Ona Kypta, Garfield Elementary, Spotted Sandpiper; Esa McGowan, Alder Grove Charter, Snowy Plovers; Cameron Riley, Union Street Charter, Osprey

2nd Place: Wilder Brosemer-Brown, Northern United Charters, Common Raven; Avery Skehen, Mattole Elementary, Great-horned Owl; Skylar Kaskinen, Northern United Charters, Wood Duck

3rd Place: Stella Brents, Union Street Charter, Pileated Woodpecker; Iver Vu, Fuente Nueva Charter, Purple Finch; Aubree Harrison, Redwood Preparatory Academy, Bald Eagle

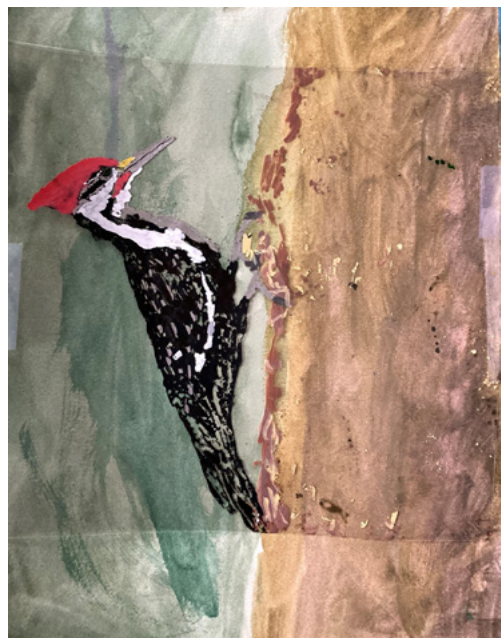
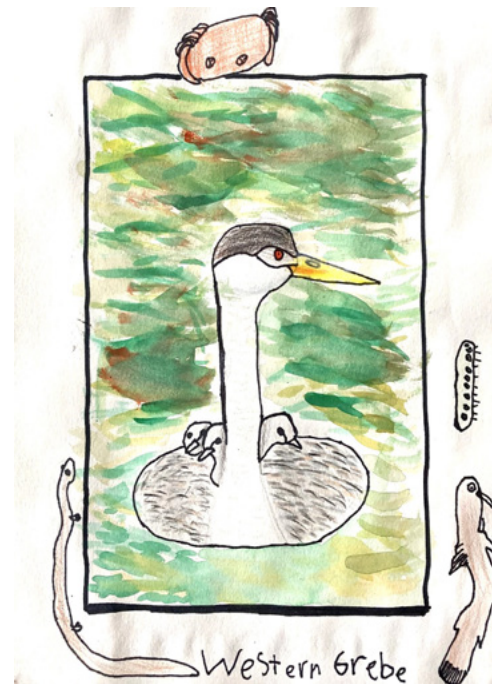
**Honorable Mentions:** Brynn Thrash, Garfield Elementary, Cinnamon Teal; Asher Troyer, Northern United Charters, Pileated Woodpecker; Banyan Villagomez, Union Street Charter, Western Grebes; Aurora Martin, Morris Elementary, Spotted Owls; Kenzie Christianson, Cutten Elementary, Peregrine Falcon; Nadia Dervin, Whitethorn Elementary, Sharp-shinned Hawk





(Left, from top) Ona Kypta; Cameron Riley; Wilder Brosemer Brown; Stella Brents. (Right, from top) Esa McGowan; Skylar Kaskinen; Avery Skehen.





(Left, from top) Iver Vu; Brynn Thrash; Kenzie Christianson. (Right, from top) Aubree Harrison; Banyan Villagomez; Asher Troyer.





*Aurora Martin.*



*Nadia Dervin.*



*(Top) Grade 5 cash prize winners. (Bottom) Grade 5 Honorable Mention winners. Photos by Paul Johnson.*

## **Grade 5**

1st Place: Emma Varzgah, Homeschooled, Pileated Woodpecker; Margot Nims, Garfield Elementary, Chestnut-backed Chickadee

2nd Place: Bella Kanaga, Jacoby Creek School, Snowy Plover; Ivan Tokarev, Homeschooled, Peregrine Falcon

3rd Place: Elena Cudahy, Jacoby Creek School, Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Madden McCall, Northern United Charters, Mallards

**Honorable Mentions:** Emma Studebaker, Northern United Charters, Varied Thrush; Heidi Tout, Garfield Elementary, Brown Pelican; Harper Elliott, Blue Lake Elementary, Bald Eagle; Veda Vance, Alder Grove Charter, California Quail; Saebra Ester, Garfield Elementary, Mallard; Isolde Thayer-Randall, Trinidad Elementary, Red-shouldered Hawk





(Left, from top) Fiona Varzgah; Margot Nims.  
(Right, from top) Bella Kanaga; Ivan Tokarev;  
Heidi Tout; Elena Cudahy.





(Left, from top) Madden McCall; Harper Elliott;  
Veda Vance. (Right, from top) Isolde Thayer-  
Randall; Emma Studebaker; Saebrá Ester.





*(Top) Grades 6&7 cash award winners. (Bottom) Grades 6&7 Honorable Mentions. Photos by Paul Johnson.*

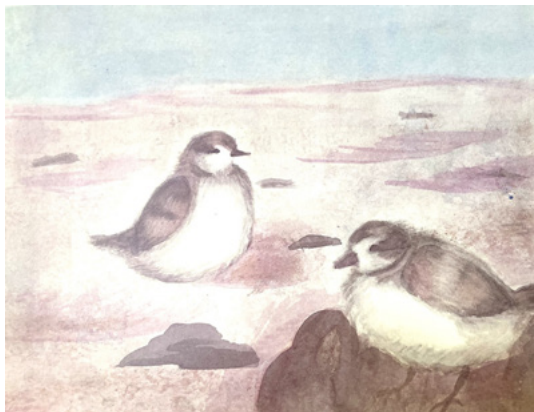
### ***Grades 6&7***

1st Place: Clover Zinsmann, Winship Middle School, Snowy Plovers; Daisy Eldridge, Agnes J Johnson Charter, Varied Thrush

2nd Place: David Griener, Pacific View Charter, Steller's Jay; Isaac Sisouphanh, Winship Middle School, White-tailed Kite

3rd Place: Leonardo Freitas, Northern United Charters, Belted Kingfisher; Mackenzie Powell, Cutten Elementary, Peregrine Falcon

**Honorable Mentions:** Kenzie Payne, Northern United Charters, Rufous Hummingbird; Zoey Moore, Sunny Brae Middle School, Spotted Owl; Natalia Dimmick, Zane Middle School, White-tailed Kite; Mikalah Jackson, Cutten Elementary, Common Loon; Sasha Woods, Sunny Brae Middle School, California Quail; Ayla Dunn, Northcoast Preparatory Academy, Chestnut-backed Chickadee

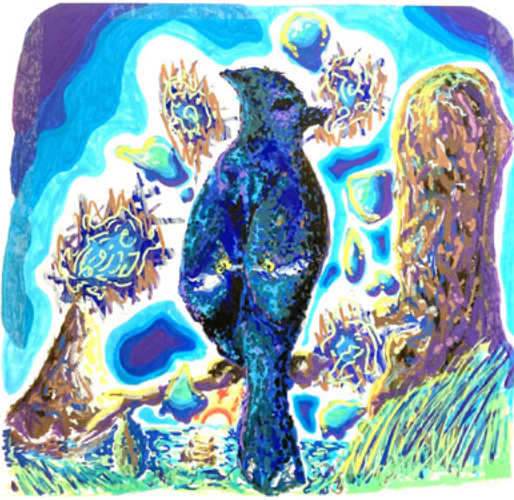


*Clover Zinsmann.*



*Daisy Eldridge.*





(Left, from top) David Griener; Leonardo Freitas;  
Kenzie Payne; Zoey Moore. (Right, from top) Isaac  
Sisouphanh; Mackenzie Powell; Ayla Dunn.





(Left, from top) Sasha Woods; Mikalah Jackson.  
(Right) Natalia Dimmick.



Grades 8-12 winners. Photo by Paul Johnson.

## Grades 8-12

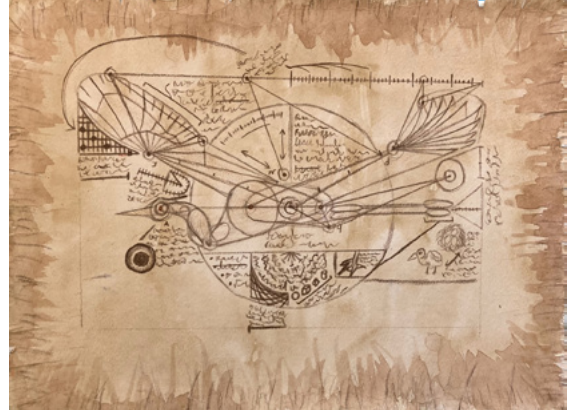
1st Place: Sequoia Manchester, Eureka High, Snowy Plover

2nd Place: Evie Dowd, (Garberville) Leggett High, Cinnamon Teal Family

3rd Place: Timuulin Page, Zane Middle School, Great Blue Heron

**Honorable Mentions:** Ricardo Freitas, Northern United Charters, Red-shouldered Hawk; Amanda Malle, Winship Middle School, Great Egret; Bailey Vue, Zane Middle School, Barred Owl; Lily Baldwin, Zane Middle School, Western Screech Owl; Fleda Burton, Far West Christian Academy, American Crows; October Mintey, Redwood Coast Montessori, Morning Mourning Doves; Ram Virnave, Academy of the Redwoods, Red-necked Phalarope





(Left, from top) Sequoia Manchester; October Mintey; Ricardo Freitas. (Right, from top) Evie Dowd; Timuulin Page; Amanda Malle; Lily Baldwin.





*Habitat award winner. Photo by Paul Johnson.*



*(Left) Fleda Burton. (Right, from top) Ram Virnave;  
Bailey Vue.*

### ***Best Bird in Habitat Awards***

Niamh Gaffney, Grade 2, Seaforth Montessori, Nuthatches; Daphne Stork, Grade 3, Pacific View Charter, Snowy Plover; Kaylee Bramlett, Grade 4, Redwood Preparatory Academy, Snowy Plovers; Cicada Pierce, Grade 5, Orleans Elementary, Great Blue Heron; Kai Ault, Grade 6, Cutten Elementary, Mallards





(Left, from top) Niamh Gaffney; Cicada Pierce.  
(Right, from top) Daphne Stork; Kaylee Bramlett;  
Kai Ault.