



# The Burrowing Owl

April  
2022

A Publication of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union

Dedicated to the study, appreciation, and protection of birds

## Join us in Gering for the NOU spring meeting

For the first time in two years, we will be enjoying an NOU meeting rather than a socially distanced Big Weekend. Join us at the Gering Civic Center on the weekend of 20-22 May for great birding opportunities and the chance to visit with old friends and make some new ones. The registration is available in this newsletter. You do not need to be a member of the NOU to attend the meeting. In addition, students hoping to attend may apply for a scholarship to cover meeting and travel costs. Interested students should contact NOU President Joel Jorgensen at [nebraska.ornithologists.union@gmail.com](mailto:nebraska.ornithologists.union@gmail.com) for more information.

The meeting will take place at the Gering Civic Center located at [1050 M St, Gering, NE 69341](#). A block of rooms is being held at the Monument Inn (308-436-1950), which is conveniently next door. Be sure to mention the NOU meeting when you make your reservations. The Cobblestone Inn (308-633-7660) is also nearby. Friday evening our scheduled speaker is Nathan Pieplow, who is a professor at the University of Colorado. Dr. Pieplow has gained renown for his work on bird songs. Saturday evening our speaker will be Eric Grunwald with the National Park Service. Field trips will venture to local haunts that should provide opportunities to view a variety of western specialties. With most western passerines still migrating in late May, there will also be opportunities for rarities and surprises. There will also be numerous opportunities for people to venture out on their own. Please join us in Gering for a great weekend of birding!

### NOU's Next Scheduled Meetings

Spring Meeting: Gering, 20-22 May 2022

Fall Meeting: Schramm Park State Recreation Area,  
28-30 Oct 2022 (tentative dates)

### New Members

Janice Wobbenhorst, Belden

Hillman Terzian and Amy Dyer, Omaha

Nancy Drilling, Fairbury

### Moving?

If you are changing addresses, **please** update it by logging into the NOU website or by sending a note to Jan Johnson at [janbirder@gmail.com](mailto:janbirder@gmail.com). Copies of the *Nebraska Bird Review* sent to defunct addresses are costing the NOU unnecessary postage. Being proactive will help us save dollars.

### Final reminder – renew your NOU Membership

A few individuals still need to renew their NOU membership for 2022. Now, renewing your NOU membership is easier than ever and can be completed online [HERE](#). If you are unable to renew online, a printable version of the membership form is available at the same link.



## Remembering Ara Jane Dunlap

Ara Jane Dunlap, age 97, of Norfolk passed away Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at the Hillcrest Country Estates Cottages in Papillion, Nebraska. Ara Jane was born August 20, 1924 to Ralph M. and Vesper V. (Schwerdtfeger) Hill on the family farm near Arapahoe, Nebraska. She attended country school and graduated from Arapahoe High School in 1942 as valedictorian of her class. The year following high school, she taught at District 28, a country school in Furnas County. Ara Jane then attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, graduating "With Distinction" in January 1947, with a double teaching major in music and English. From mid-year 1947 through 1950, she served as a traveling grade school music teacher in the Omaha Public Schools, teaching at Florence, Minne Lusa, Miller Park, Druid Hill, Webster, and Vinton Schools.

She and James H. Dunlap were united in marriage March 28, 1948, during his sophomore year in Medical School. The couple lived in Indianapolis, Indiana, Norfolk, Nebraska, Quantico, Virginia, and then Norfolk again where they resided until Dr. Dunlap's death in 2013. At that time, Mrs. Dunlap returned to the Omaha area. The Dunlaps started a choose and cut Christmas Tree Plantation in 1967. Starting in 1978, the summer shearing of the trees also became her job, which she continued until she again shared the task with her husband after he retired from the practice of medicine in 1990. The Dunlaps closed their tree field in 2001. Mrs. Dunlap had a lifelong interest in birds and in 1976 became a federally licensed bird bander, one of only two thousand such individuals in the United States at the time. She continued this hobby for thirty years, banding thousands of birds in her own yard, sharing her extensive knowledge of birds and the live birds themselves with hundreds of schoolchildren, garden clubs, and other civic organizations as well as people who attended bird identification classes at the Tech college. Mrs. Dunlap was a lifetime member of the NOU.

*Editor's note: This tribute to Ara Jane borrows heavily from an obituary posted online [HERE](#).*

## Remembering Mary Rosalind Morris

Mary Rosalind Morris, daughter of Celia (Evans) and Aneurin Morris, was born in her maternal grandparent's home, Ruthin, Wales, May 8, 1920. Her brother, William Penri, was born in 1922. Their father had a severe case of flu at the end of serving in World War I and was advised by his doctor to change his career from teaching to one involving an outdoor life. In 1925 the family moved to Canada and by 1930 were settled on a fruit farm near the town of Forest in western Ontario.

After attending a rural elementary school and Forest High School, Rosalind spent four years at the Ontario Agricultural College (now University of Guelph) where she earned a B.S. in Agriculture. She accepted a graduate assistantship in the Plant Breeding Department, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Her thesis research involved genetic studies on buckwheat, an important cover crop in the region. Her financial support was a teaching assistantship under Professor Robert Cushing, who had gone to Cornell from the University of Nebraska. After receiving a Ph.D. at Cornell University in 1946, Rosalind had a 43-year career at the University of Nebraska Agronomy Department. Rosalind was a trailblazer for women in agronomy when it was unusual to see women in such roles. In 1978, she was the first woman to receive the honorary title of Fellow from the American Society of Agronomy.

Rosalind was a lifetime member of the NOU and contributed to the organization in multiple capacities over decades. She served as Vice President in 1960, President in 1975, and Librarian in 1988 and 1989. She was also Editor of the *Nebraska Bird Review* from 1991-97.

*Editor's note: This tribute to Rosalind borrows heavily from an obituary posted online [HERE](#).*



## **NOTICE: Endowment Fund Draft Investment Policy Statement available for review**

The NOU maintains an Endowment Fund and basic conditions for how it is to be managed are outlined under Article VIII of the [NOU By-laws](#). Traditionally, the balance of the Endowment Fund was invested in certificates of deposits (CDs). However, this form of investment has been underperforming in recent years and rates of return have not kept up with inflation. Thus, the endowment fund has lost value. Last year, an ad hoc subcommittee of the Board met to discuss investment strategies and options. The committee developed a draft investment policy statement. The purpose of this document is to outline rules and guidance that the NOU Board will follow when investing the balance of the Endowment Fund. The document also outlines a philosophy for investing in a broader range of asset classes, which have generated larger returns over long time horizons, while concurrently managing risk. The investment policy statement will eventually need to be approved by the membership. In order to allow members adequate time to review the document and provide feedback, the document has been posted on the NOU website at this [LINK](#). Again, members are encouraged to review the document and provide comments to the Board. Please send comments to [nebraska.ornithologists.union@gmail.com](mailto:nebraska.ornithologists.union@gmail.com).



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### **Proposed change to the Bylaws**

The NOU Board of Directors is proposing to amend the bylaws. Specifically, the proposed change would alter the composition of the Nominating Committee. The proposed change is planned to come up for a vote of the membership at the Business Meeting during the 2022 spring meeting in Gering, Nebraska. This change was originally planned to come up for a vote at the 2020 Business Meeting, but those plans were derailed by the 2020 and 2021 meeting cancellations. The Bylaws also require that the membership be made aware of the proposed change more than thirty days in advance of the Business Meeting. The proposed change is from page 4 of the Bylaws, which are available on the NOU website at <https://noubirds.org/Documents/Bylaws.pdf>. The proposed changes to the Nominating Committee section are shown below. Changes are highlighted in yellow, with the language shown with the strikethrough as words proposed to be deleted. Language proposed to be added in shown in red.

**Nominating Committee** – It shall consist of three members ~~who are not members of the Board of Directors, and~~ who have been ~~members~~ **active participants** in the organization for at least five years. **No more than one committee member shall also be a member of the Board of Directors.** Only one member may have served on the previous year's committee, but may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Its purpose is to assure that at least one candidate for each office will be available at the annual meeting. Each nominee for each office must indicate a willingness to accept office if elected. The committee shall present nominee names at the annual business meeting of the Corporation.



# Kid's Page

It is spring and with it comes spring migration. To learn about birds, it is important to keep a record of what you see. Cut out the cover on the right and the double sighting pages. Make as many copies of this page as you want and staple them together. Now you are set to begin keeping track of all the birds you see. Make sure to look at their colors and since you will not have crayons or paints with you write where you see colors (field marks) so you can check on an identification when you get home. Write the bird's name and the date you saw it. Also, write down what the bird was doing when you saw it and what habitat in which you found.

## My Bird Record Book



Soon you will be an expert ornithologist!

Ornithologist: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Field Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Field Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Bird's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Bird's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My bird drawing:

My bird drawing:



# Registration Form: NOU Spring 2022 Meeting

Gering Civic Center, Gering, Nebraska

May 20-22, 2022

**Registration Deadline:** To reserve meals, registration must be received by **17 May 2022**. Refunds may be requested *prior* to 13 May. Refunds are not possible *after* 12 May. Please do not put registration off.

**Location:** Gering Civic Center, [1050 M St, Gering, NE 69341](http://www.geringnebraska.com/1050-M-St-Gering-NE-69341).

	Price/person	# of People	Total
<b>May 20 – Friday Supper – 6 PM</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>	_____	_____
Mexican Buffet (shredded beef, fresh tortillas, cheese enchilada, pork chili, Spanish rice, refried beans, sopapillas w/ honey)			
<b>May 21 – Sack Lunch, pick up – 7 AM PICKUP</b>	<b>\$13.00</b>	_____	_____
Hoagie sandwich, whole fruit, potato chips, cookie, bottled water			
<b>May 21 – Saturday Dinner – 6 PM</b>	<b>\$22.00</b>	_____	_____
Roast beef, lemon chicken, baked potato w/ butter & sour cream, green bean casserole, fresh green salad, rolls & butter			
<b>Registration</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	_____	_____

Would you like to become a member? Dues:

Active household	\$25.00	_____	_____
Sustaining household	\$40.00	_____	_____
Student	\$10.00	_____	_____

Fees include all taxes and gratuities.

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate any special dietary requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send registration forms and checks to: Jan Johnson  
86252 581 Ave.  
Wakefield, NE 68784

*This form must be received by 17 May if you are reserving meals! No refunds after 12 May. Thanks!*

**Non-members are welcome and encouraged to attend!**

**Students** may apply for scholarships to assist them in attending; please send a request to NOU President Joel Jorgensen at [nebraska.ornithologists.union@gmail.com](mailto:nebraska.ornithologists.union@gmail.com)



## The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Board

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