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Contact Information: Lydia M Patrick

Phone: 308/635-7851

Email: [lydia\\_patrick@fws.gov](mailto:lydia_patrick@fws.gov)

## **Junior Duck Stamp Winners Announced**

By: Lydia M Patrick, NE Junior Duck Stamp Coordinator

Scottsbluff, NE – The 2015 Nebraska Junior Duck Stamp judging event was held on Friday, March 27, 2015. Best of Show this year was won by Hailee Schievelbein of Omaha. This year's entry depicts an Emperor goose. Hailee is a 17 year-old student at the Debie Plog Art Studio. Her art teacher is Debie Plog. Hailee's entry was selected from over 500 entries received from all across the state. Her colored pencil drawing will be entered in the National Junior Duck Stamp Competition to be held April 17, 2015 at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. The winner of the national competition will receive \$1,000, a trip to our nation's capital along with a parent and/or art teacher, and have his or her artwork used to make the 2015-2016 Junior Duck Stamp. Proceeds from the sale of the Junior Duck Stamps, which cost \$5.00, support conservation education.

Clara Hetherington, a 14 year old student at Debie Plog Art Studio, Omaha, NE, was voted as the student with the most meaningful conservation message, which was: *'Nature has given us an infinite number of benefits essential for life, and now its time to give back through conservation and preservation.'*

Junior Duck Stamp designs are judged in the K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12 grade groups, for which three first place, second place and third place and sixteen honorable mention winners are chosen. The Best of Show is then chosen from the first place winners from all age groups. The top 36 entries will be exhibited throughout the state at Nebraska Game & Parks Commission offices, Cabelas retail stores in LaVista, Kearney and Sidney, and other locations throughout the year.

Judges for this year's competition were Rod Wittenberg - Project Leader, Crescent Lake/North Platte NWR Complex, US Fish & Wildlife Service; Megan Patrick –artist; Alexandra Mayes-conservationists, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory; Stephanie Hlsinger - Scottsbluff Star Herald, and Justin Haag – photographer, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission. The Conservation Message winner was chosen by Rick Patrick a local sportsman. Awards for the Nebraska Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program are underwritten by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Scottsbluff Office, hosted this year's contest which was judged on March 27 at the Gering Civic Center. Information for next year's contest will be posted on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Internet homepage at <http://duckstamps.fws.gov>.

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Winners by group are:

Group 1 - 1<sup>st</sup> Grace Dean, Bridgeport  
Rylee Luce, Scottsbluff  
T.J. Loughran, Omaha  
2<sup>nd</sup> Emily Gieselman, Omaha  
Jadon Skavdahl, Harrison  
Zachariah Koech, Chappell  
3<sup>rd</sup> Lily Rogers, Scottsbluff  
Allison Parker, Gering  
Dayana Barajas, Scottsbluff

Group 2 - 1<sup>st</sup> Nathan Hoebet, Scottsbluff  
Molly Shaver, Scottsbluff  
Jack Shaver, Scottsbluff  
2<sup>nd</sup> Promise Raemaker, Omaha  
Joe Reefer, Omaha  
Benjamin Butcher, Scottsbluff  
3<sup>rd</sup> Samuel Parks, Lincoln  
Ashleigh Jay, Chappell  
Rhett Dykstra, Chappell

Group 3 - 1<sup>st</sup> Creighton Scott, Omaha  
Clara Hetherington, Omaha  
Abby Ostdiek, Aurora  
2<sup>nd</sup> Daniel Guhde-Egger, Johnson  
Arlene Haith, Johnson  
Wayde Lyons, Lincoln  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jeffrey Flohr, Scottsbluff  
Elizabeth Mostek, Johnson  
Trinadee McCoy, Johnson

Group 4 - 1<sup>st</sup> Sierra Thomas, Johnson  
Karina Johnson, Johnson  
Hailee Schievelbein, Omaha  
2<sup>nd</sup> Emily Moody, Johnson  
Ryan McMann, Johnson  
Jarrett Oestmann  
3<sup>rd</sup> Brittney Sims, Alliance  
Bailey Johnson, Johnson  
Brittany Stewart, Johnson

Honorable Mention Winners:

Group 1 Jhett Skavdahl, Harrison  
Jaime Turbiville, Harrison  
Britney Klein, Harrison  
Olivia Loomis, Bridgeport  
Jayden Sheldon, Bridgeport  
Holden Shultz, Bridgeport  
Eden Strawn, Bridgeport  
Rosalind Seay, Scottsbluff  
Lily Burbach, Scottsbluff  
Malissa Armstrong, Scottsbluff  
Zach Smith, Chappell  
Saige Thomas, Harrison  
Saven Roberts, Gering  
Alena Sanchez, Scottsbluff  
Julia Macias Galindo, Scottsbluff  
Emily Reyes Rodriguez, Scottsbluff

Group 2 Josiah Mobley, Scottsbluff  
Sarah Connot, Scottsbluff  
Lily Krakulik, Scottsbluff  
Jaycee Cervantes, Scottsbluff  
Rhonda Liddick, Chappell  
Tyler Christofferson, Chappell  
Morrigan McNabb, Chappell  
Dustinee Lohman, Chappell  
David Selves, Kimball  
Natalie McNamara, Papillion  
Olivia Villotta, Omaha  
Kristin Schwartz, Harrison  
Jordan Heckert, Harrison  
Bethany Krein, Harrison  
Zachary Wharton, Scottsbluff  
Jersie Misegadis, Chappell

Group 3 Thomas McCoppin, Johnson  
Brynn Westenburg, Johnson  
Aaron McRoberts, Johnson  
Jacob Krul, Scottsbluff  
Alessandra Elder, Scottsbluff  
Ryan Temple, Scottsbluff

Group 4 Mackenzie Allen, Alliance  
McKenna Sullivan, Alliance  
Sidney Thomas, Johnson  
Brianna Carroll, Johnson  
Terra Newman, Johnson  
Brandee Brown, Johnson

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Jonah Buck, Scottsbluff  
Brianna Cervantes, Scottsbluff  
Adrianna Casias, Scottsbluff  
Vanessa Martinez, Scottsbluff  
Sabastian Harsh, Scottsbluff  
John Spehar, Scottsbluff  
Gabrielle Worman, Scottsbluff  
Hailey Summers, Hay Springs  
Christopher Adams, Hay Springs  
Sam Edstrand, Omaha

Alissa Gerdes, Johnson  
Brian Jackson, Johnson  
Brianna Froisland, Johnson  
Jacob Holthus, Johnson  
Berneda Holthus, Johnson  
Tyna Holthus, Johnson  
Hayley Diesing, Johnson  
Kendra Alberts, Johnson  
Katrena Ryan, Hay Springs  
Shane Vifquain, Hay Springs

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**ARTWORK PHOTOS ARE AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT OF THE 1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD PLACE WINNERS UPON REQUEST.**