

2025-2026 Contest Information and Rules Packet

The Columbus Chapter of the National Audubon Society and Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center are co-sponsoring the 14th ANNUAL ART CONTEST. This event is open to the community to students in Georgia and Alabama grades K-12 in Muscogee, Chattahoochee, Harris, Russell, and Lee Counties. Entries must be submitted physically to Oxbow Meadows by hand delivery or by mail. Entries will be divided into the following grade groupings for judging: K-2nd, 3-5th, 6-8th, and 9-12th. Ribbons will be presented to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each age group. **One submission per student will be accepted.**

INFORMATION, RULES, and ENTRY FORM are included in this document; these documents are also available on Oxbow Meadows' website. All information on the Entry Form must be completed, including the Artist Statement (what the bird eats, where it can be found, and how the bird fits the contest theme, etc.) and can be handwritten neatly. **The bird chosen must live in or visit Georgia during migration.**

ARTIST STATEMENT: One of the principle purposes of this event is to encourage students to learn about Georgia birds, their beauty, and their role in the natural world. Elementary students (K-5th) will be required to write two facts about the animal and how their selection fits the contest theme. Middle school students (6-8th) will be required to complete one paragraph and High school students (9-12th) will be required to write two paragraphs of information, including two facts about the bird and how their selection applies to the contest theme. High school category must also answer how their bird has been affected by climate change (not required for middle or elementary students). Artist statement must fit on the page provided, but may be handwritten or typed.

2026 THEME: "NEAT FEET"

Birds have special adaptations to survive, including unique beaks, feathers, and feet. A bird's feet help them to perch, swim, walk, climb, carry food, and sometimes seize prey.

Suggested bird species include, but are not limited to:

1. Great Crested Flycatcher	2. Wood Duck
3. Osprey	4. Killdeer
5. Belted Kingfisher	6. Red-Cockaded Woodpecker
7. Brown-headed Nuthatch	8. Carolina Wren

DEADLINE for SUBMISSION OF ART: Art must reach Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center before 4pm on Friday, February 20th.

AWARD CEREMONY: Saturday, March 14th, 2026 at Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center.

- Elementary (K-5th) ceremony will be held from 10am until approx. 10:30am
- Middle and High School (6th-12th) ceremony will be held from 11am until approx. 11:30am

JUDGING: March 2-7th, 2026

ART and/or PRIZE PICK-UP: April 18-24th, 2026

Please note: Oxbow Meadows does not guarantee holding artwork after May 1st.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Artwork must be two dimensional and created on paper. Canvas board will not be accepted. Artwork must be truly flat and must not protrude past paper or will be omitted from exhibition.

SIZE: Art paper must be 8 ½" X 11" or 11" x 14"

MOUNTING: All artwork must be mounted on black or white background. A 1-2" border is recommended around artwork. Mounted artwork must not exceed 15" x 18". See last page for proper mounting example.

ART MEDIUMS

TRADITIONAL ART

- a) True to life as in the work of traditional wildlife artists. If possible, bird(s) should be easily identifiable with accurate color and markings.
- b) any 2-D medium (please notate specific medium(s) used on Artist Statement). Please seal chalk and pastel mediums.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Must be printed 8" x 10".

DIGITAL ART

Must be artist made and not reproduced from another source.

PHOTO RELEASE STATEMENT: By submitting artwork to the exhibition, you give CSU and the Board of Regents permission to use images of artwork in any materials deemed necessary for the sole purpose of marketing and promotion for participant recruitment, fundraising, enhancing community awareness, news releases, brochures, reports, etc.

Audubon Art Exhibition Student Entry Form

Student's Name:

Parent/Teacher's Name:

Parent/Teacher's Email:

School Name:

Parent/Teacher Phone Number:

Cut on the line above. The above information must be securely attached to the **BACK** of the student's artwork.

Before sending artwork to Oxbow Meadows:

- Read the contest rules and requirements!
- All information is written clearly and legibly
- The student's name or any identifying information is NOT present on the front of the artwork or artist statement page.
- Artwork and mounting meet size requirements
- The **Student Entry Form** is securely attached to the BACK of the artwork
- The **Bird Information and Artist Statement** is securely attached on the FRONT of the art for judging.
- If you have questions please reference the **Dimensions and Mounting Do's & Dont's**
- Improper mounting will result in omission from judging and exhibition.

Grade Category (circle): K-2nd 3-5th 6-8th 9-12th

Art Medium:

Bird Information

Bird Name (include scientific name for middle and high school entries) :

What does it eat?

In what type of habitat is the bird normally found?

This bird is found in Georgia (circle all that apply):

All year

Spring

Summer

Fall

Winter

Artist Statement

Elementary school entries: Write (at least) two facts about your bird and how your selection fits this year's theme.

Middle school entries: Write (at least) one paragraph with (at least) two facts and how it fits this year's theme.

High school entries: Write (at least) two paragraphs with (at least) two facts and how it fits this year's theme.

High school entries (9th-12th) must also answer: How has your bird's habitat or behavior been affected by climate change?

Audubon Art Contest
Judging Rubric

Identifier: _____

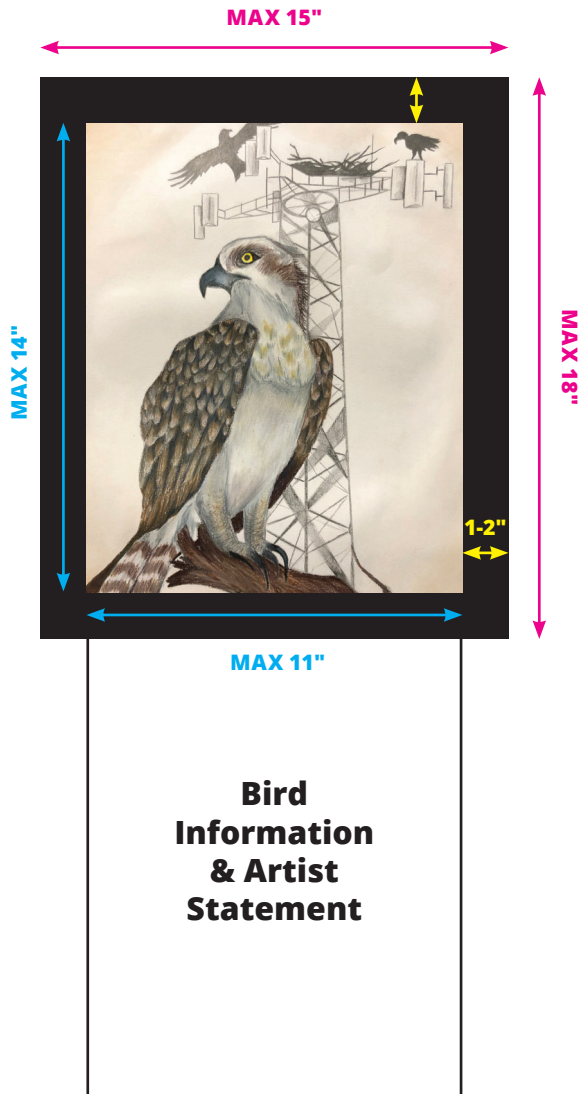
Grade category: K-2 3-5 6-8 9-12

	1	2	3	4
Artistic Statement	The student's artistic statement does not include any information.	The student's artistic statement includes only one fact.	The student's artistic statement includes two facts.	The student's artistic statement includes two or more facts as well as an explanation on how selection fits theme.
Writing presentation	None of the written portion of the was completed.	The written portion has a few details but is missing elements.	The written portion is completed and provided minimum responses to each item.	The written portion is completed and provides detailed responses to each item.
Artwork guidelines and presentation	The art and presentation are not in accordance with guidelines and theme of the contest.	The art and presentation are somewhat in accordance with guidelines and theme of the contest.	The art and presentation are only in accordance with the guidelines or the theme of the contest.	The art and presentation are both in accordance with the guidelines and theme of the contest.
Thematic adherence	The student's art does not fit the theme.	The student's art focus on somewhat on the theme.	The student's artwork and statement both focuses on the theme.	The student's artwork and statement focuses on more than one requirement of the theme.
Creativity	The art is not original or distinct.	The art is somewhat original and distinct.	The art is either original or distinct.	The art is both original and distinct.

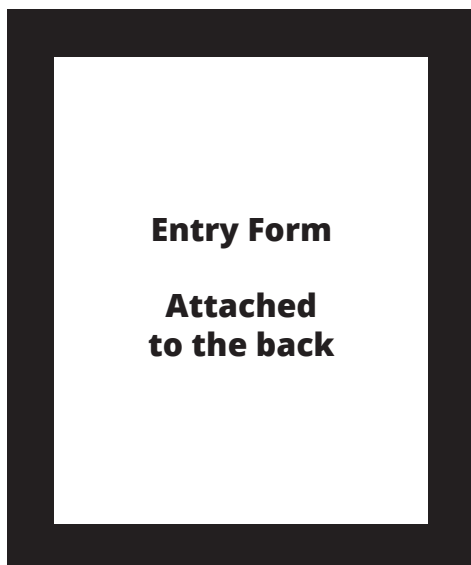
Note: Judges have the right to exclude any art from consideration in the contest.

Mounting Quick Tips!

FRONT



BACK



RULES AND REGULATIONS

Artwork Size:

Minimum Size 8"x10"
Maximum Size 11"x14"

Mounting Size:

Mounted border should be between 1"-2"
Maximum Size 15"x18"

Artwork must be two dimensional and created on paper.
Canvas or board can not be accepted.

All loose chalk, charcoal, or pastel mediums must be sealed.

NAMES SHOULD NOT BE VISIBLE ON THE FRONT OF THE ARTWORK.