

Children's Bird Art Exhibition / Museum of American Bird Art

Project Report to the Nuttall Ornithological Club

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GOAL

The project successfully launched inaugural juried exhibition of bird art by children, to be installed at the Museum of American Bird Art (MABA) in the fall of 2016, and also displayed online at Mass Audubon's website. In total, 51 artworks were submitted, from children throughout Massachusetts towns as well as Indiana, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Ontario, Canada. With an established set of exhibition procedures we plan to offer the exhibition in 2017 and expand the reach of the project by making it an annual event at MABA.

WORK ACCOMPLISHED

The grant from the Nuttall Ornithological Club's Blake-Nuttall Fund has resulted in a robust, tested framework for what we expect to be an annual tradition at Mass Audubon: the juried exhibition of children's bird art. Because of this grant, we have successfully piloted the first year of this project, and are now making plans to build on that success for 2017.

1. **Advisory input.** Mass Audubon bird science staff and educators; school teachers; parents of children in Mass Audubon camps and programs; and recognized bird artists were consulted for feedback on project plans. We will continue to solicit input to improve future exhibitions.
2. **Exhibition rules, schedule, procedures.** These have all been established, and have proven effective to carry into the second year, with minor modifications.
- 3.
4. **Website.** Mass Audubon Information Technology staff set up the web pages for the exhibition. This infrastructure has enabled the submission process to operate flawlessly, and it is now in place for 2017.
5. **Marketing.** The exhibition was promoted through Mass Audubon e-newsletters, flyers, Mass Audubon staff, the Taking Flight blog, and Facebook ads throughout the US and in selected countries abroad. Examples of marketing materials are attached.
6. **Submission of artworks & jurying.** There were 51 artworks submitted, from children in 17 different Massachusetts towns as well as Indiana, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Ontario, Canada. The quality of the art is high, and we have selected 28 artworks for the exhibition. Examples of submitted artwork and quotes from the youth participants are attached.

7. **Exhibition installation.** The original artworks selected will be sent to MABA for framing and professional installation. Frames and mats have been purchased that can be re-used for years to come. To kick-off the exhibition, we are planning to hold a reception on Friday, Sept 23, 5:30-7:00 and would be honored if any members of the Nuttall Ornithological Club could attend. The artworks will be on display from September 23rd through December 11th. They will be available for viewing by the public during MABA's regularly scheduled weekday hours, as well as by school groups on field trip visits and by appointment. There will be an online version of the exhibition as well.

FUNDS EXPENDED

	Blake-Nuttall Award	Mass Audubon Match
Education Coordinator / Planning and publicity	\$ 2,850	\$ 2,450
Museum Director / Project management	\$ 1,000	
IT Staff / Website management	\$ 150	\$ 850
Facility Manager / Exhibition installation		\$ 1,400
Framing artworks		\$ 1,200
Shipping artworks		\$ 400
Sub-Totals	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,300
Total project cost		\$ 10,300

SOME ARTWORKS SUBMITTED

I enjoyed doing the detailed work on this sketch as I tried to capture the feather patterns as much as possible. Age 14, Ontario, Canada



Burrowing owls are one of my favorite birds because . . . instead of living in tree cavities, they live in burrows. . . . Something very interesting about them, is if they feel threatened in their burrow, a Burrowing Owl will make a rattlesnake buzz sound to scare off predators. Sadly, Burrowing Owls are losing habitat due to construction. . . . I hope to spread awareness about the plight of the Burrowing Owls by submitting my artwork. Age 11, NY

The wood duck is one of my favorite birds. I love the way the colors of the water seem to reflect into the colors of his feathers.

Age 14, MA



Pollination and patience. . . make Ruby Throated Hummingbirds one of my favorite birds. Unfortunately, we have seen such a decline in pollinators. . . . We've tried to do our part by planting native flowering plants. . . . But it takes patience to heal the Earth. It also takes patience to spot a Hummingbird! . . . It brings me such excitement to watch them feeding on the nectar of flowers--my heart seems to beat almost as fast as theirs--over a thousand times in a minute while they feed. Patiently I await the next Ruby Throated Hummingbird who comes to do his part in healing the Earth as he pollinates. Age 11, NY



Much like the pop of color red lipstick brings, the cardinal brightens up nature with their bright red coloring. . . . Cardinals brighten up mother nature's trees, and are sure to brighten the days of birdwatchers. Age 15, MA



Museum of American Bird Art at Mass Audubon

Please Note:

MABA will be closed on Wed, September 7 (trails still open)

Taking Flight: Youth Bird Art Exhibition

An International Juried Youth Bird Art Exhibition at Mass Audubon's Museum of American Bird Art

The goal of the *Taking Flight* exhibition is to create a greater awareness and appreciation for birds while fostering the development of young artists and sharing their work with the public.

Submission Deadline: August 17, 2016 (Now closed)

The contest is open to young artists **age 4 to 18** of all skill levels. Read the full **Legal Conditions** [</learn/museum-of-american-bird-art/youth-art-contest/legal-conditions/>] for the contest. The exhibition will take place from September 23-December 11, 2016.



How to Enter

We can't wait to see your artwork! You can **submit up to 3 photos of your work**; each photo must be a *jpeg* and ***no larger than 10 MB***. Submission period ended August 17, 2016.

Questions about what to enter? See **Details & Rules** [</learn/museum-of-american-bird-art/youth-art-contest/details-rules/>].