



2020 Student Art Contest

Featured Festival Bird: Yellow-Headed Blackbird

Who: All Utah students in grades Pre-K-12 are invited to participate

What: An original artwork of an adult **Yellow-Headed Blackbird** on 8½x11 white paper or artboard

When: Submissions must be received by May 1, 2020 at 4:30 pm

Where: Please mail or deliver entries to:
Great Salt Lake Bird Festival
Attn: Student Art Contest
P.O. Box 618
61 South Main St., Room 304
Farmington, UT 84025



Photo: Scott Baxter

Rules and Guidelines

Utah students in grades Pre-K-12 are invited to create a picture of an adult **Yellow-Headed Blackbird**. Make it **LARGE** and **COLORFUL**! Realistic or stylized images are welcome. The drawing should be submitted on a **flat piece of 8½x11 white paper or thin canvas**.

Important: In order to properly hang submissions for viewing at the festival, we need all artwork to meet these sizing requirements. Artwork on paper larger than 8½x11 should be trimmed by the student or teacher before submission to the contest.

Students may use bird field guides, the internet, or the provided teaching guide to learn about the bird's unique characteristics. The drawing must be the student's original creation and should not be copied or traced from any published source. Only one entry per student is allowed.

Artwork will be judged in five grade categories: Pre-school, K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. First, second, and third place awards will be given in each grade category. A Best of Show image will also be chosen by the judges. The prize for first place entries is \$50.00; second place is \$25.00; and third place is \$15.00.

Winning artwork from any category may be featured in the **2021** Great Salt Lake Bird Festival's promotional documents, news releases, and clothing. The students' names will be included with any art that is used for these purposes. The students will retain all rights to the artwork but give permission to the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival for use of the image for promotional and contest purposes. Selections and decisions by the judges are final. Any entries with unsuitable content will not be considered.

All entries must be accompanied by a completed entry form. All submissions must be received by May 1, 2020 at 4:30 pm. Submissions will be returned to the artist if a return address is provided on the entry form.

Questions? Contact Cheyenne Twitchell at ctwitchell@daviscountyutah.gov

Teaching Guide: Yellow-Headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus*)

Info: Audubon.org; allaboutbirds.org

Identification

The male Yellow-headed Blackbird is impressive to see, but not to hear: it may have the worst song of any North American bird, a hoarse, harsh scraping. Yellow-heads nest in noisy colonies in big cattail marshes of the west and midwest; when not nesting, they gather in flocks in open fields, often with other blackbirds. At some favored points in the southwest in winter, they may be seen in flocks of thousands.

Habitat

Yellow-heads can be found in fresh marshes, open country, and foraging in fields. They will breed in freshwater sloughs, marshy lake borders, and tall cattails growing in water up to 3-4' deep. They can be seen foraging around marshes and also commonly in open pastures, plowed fields, cattle pens, and feedlots.



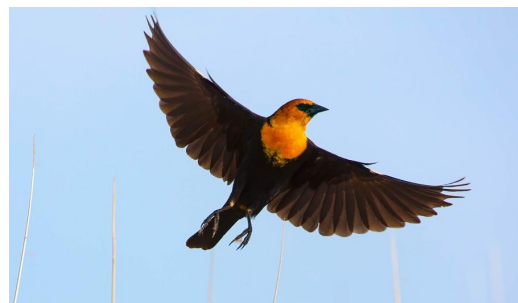
Photo: Scott Baxter

Food

These birds eat mostly insects and seeds, feeding heavily on insects in summer. Favorite insects include beetles, caterpillars, grasshoppers, ants, and wasps, plus a few spiders and snails. Young Yellow-heads are fed mostly insects. Approximately two-thirds of their diet consists of seeds, including grass and weed seeds plus waste grain.

Interesting Facts

The male Yellow-headed Blackbird defends a small territory of prime nesting reeds. He may attract up to eight females to nest within his area. The male helps feed nestlings, but usually only in the first nest established in his territory. The other females have to feed their young all by themselves.



Photos: Scott Baxter

**2020 Great Salt Lake Bird Festival
Art Contest Entry Form**

**Completed form must be submitted with each entry!
Artwork will not be returned without a completed, legible form.**

Name of artist: _____

Teacher (if applicable): _____

School (if applicable): _____

Address*: _____

City: _____ State: Utah ZIP _____

Phone: _____ **EMAIL** _____

Grade category (circle one): Pre-school K-3 4-6 7-9 10-12

ART must be RECEIVED by 4:30 PM on Friday, May 1, 2020

Send to: Great Salt Lake Bird Festival
 Attn: Student Art Contest
 P.O. Box 618 (61 South Main Street, #304)
 Farmington, UT 84025

*Students who independently submit artwork should list their home address in order to receive returned artwork. All other students should list their school address.
Correspondence will be done by EMAIL.

The students will retain all rights to the artwork but give permission with this form to the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival for use of the image for promotional and contest purposes.