

Wachiska Audubon Society's vision: To share the experience and love of nature—that life may flourish in all its natural diversity.

The Babbling Brook

Our 43rd Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2016

AUGUST 2016

Volume 25 - Issue 8

General Meeting — Thursday, August 11, 7:00 p.m., Union College Dick Auditorium, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln

Watchable Wildlife and Connecting with Citizen Science in Nebraska

by Adam Jones, Watchable Wildlife Biologist, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Adam Jones wears several hats in his professional and personal life. Having received a bachelor's degree from Iowa State University in animal ecology with a focus in terrestrial ecology and ornithology and an MS degree in education, he taught biology and environmental science for six years. Currently Adam is the watchable wildlife biologist for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, based in Lincoln but serving the entire state of Nebraska. The purpose of this position is to work with the public and organizations with citizen science projects in the hopes of taking the messages learned from these experiences home and becoming stewards of nature that are needed to sustain our natural and wild resources.



Adam Jones

Adam is also a master naturalist and a falconer, specializing in raptors. He has been flying a red-tailed hawk for the past three years. One of his passions is to teach people, family, friends, and "strangers" about nature and the importance of what they are looking at as they hike and travel. He claims he is first and foremost an educator striving to help people understand wildlife and the resources on which they depend.

recruiting people for these projects, how and where to report findings, and the uses of the data found. In addition, as an enthusiastic gardener, he will touch on the master naturalist program and current projects through the Watchable Wildlife Program including grant monies available to organizations and individuals.

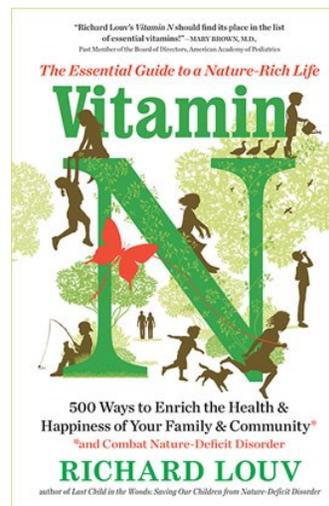


Adam and his hawk, "Henry"

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, August 11, at 7:00 p.m.** for this free public presentation in the Union College Dick Auditorium, 3800 South 48th Street, in Lincoln. Free parking is available on 48th Street and in the Seventh-day Adventist Church parking lots. Look for Audubon signs on the doors. There is a ramp at the east entrance and an elevator inside. Refreshments will be served after the program.

In this presentation, Adam will explain his position with the NGPC and what it entails including citizen science projects,

Last Chance for Vitamin N Purchase



There are two copies remaining of Richard Louv's latest book, *Vitamin N* (for "nature"), which has been highlighted in the last two newsletters. Wachiska's population and environment committee will have sold 30 copies when these last two are claimed. The cost is \$18 which includes freight and sales tax.

Call Arlys in the Wachiska office to get one. We will not be ordering any more at this time. This would make an excellent gift for kids or adults.

Calendar

August

- 1 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 6:00 p.m.
- 2 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 General Meeting, "Watchable Wildlife," by Adam Jones, Union College, 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 15 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 25 Legislation Committee, DaVinci's, 11th & G, 6:00 p.m.
- 28 Field Trip to Missouri River Valley & Omaha (page 2)

Wachiska Audubon Office: 402-486-4846

Email: Office@WachiskaAudubon.org



Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Blue and Purple Birds

Blue grosbeaks can often be found on summer days in open country by roadside ditches and next to cornfields. During this trip, we'll spend part of the afternoon driving the Missouri River Valley gravel roads in search of these blue jewels singing their burry songs. If you need a second color to brighten your day, continue on to Omaha for a dusk viewing of the annual purple martin spectacle as they congregate at their pre-migratory roost site. Numbers peak this time of year, and tens of thousands of martins will be filling the sky as they come into their roost trees. The show starts about a half hour before sunset, lasts about an hour, and can be viewed next to the Nebraska Medical Center on 44th Street immediately south of Farnam Street. The parking lot next to Clarkson Doctor's Building South is open to birders.

We'll meet at **3:30 p.m.** on **Sunday, August 28**, on the south side of the Capitol in Lincoln, at 15th and H streets across the street from the governor's mansion. Recommended items include water bottle, insect repellent, and binoculars and scope if you have them. Martin watchers may want a hat or shirt that can be "martinized" by an offering from the sky. There is no fee and the public is welcome. If you have questions call John at 402-475-7275.

New Friends to the Flock this Month

by Joyce Vannier and Jami Nelson
Membership Committee

Newest Friends of Wachiska since last month are Gary Bell, Linnea Fredrickson, Steve & Fran Hall, and Neva Pruess.

To join Wachiska as a local member, use the membership form on page 7 of the newsletter or refer to Wachiska's website to choose which category you prefer. Then mail your application to the Wachiska office. If you don't use the application form, please write "Friend Membership" on the memo line of your check. Also indicate if you would like to receive your monthly newsletter either electronically or in the mail. Thank you for your support of your local Audubon chapter.

Birdseed Sale Combined with Garage Sale

by Arlys Reitan, Office Administrator

Watch *The Babbling Brook* for the Fall Birdseed Sale order form and an announcement of a garage sale at the same time. Begin gathering your no-longer-used items, put a price on each, and save them in a corner for further instructions and a date. If you can help with the birdseed distribution or garage sale, please email or call me at the Wachiska office, 402-486-4846.

Dr. Johnsgard to Speak at Senior Center

"Urban and Suburban Birds of the Lincoln Area" will be presented by Dr. Paul Johnsgard at the Lincoln Senior Center, 1005 "O" Street in downtown Lincoln, on August 12. Dr. Johnsgard will give a slide show and talk on common birds of Eastern Nebraska. Call the Senior Center at 402-441-6135 for tickets and luncheon reservations by August 9.



Dr. Paul Johnsgard

Dr. Johnsgard has been a dear friend and member of Wachiska for many years. He's written over 80 biological books including nine world monographs, over 250 peer-reviewed articles, and is the world's most prolific author of ornithological literature. Paul is also a photographer, author, and artist. He has illustrated his writings with more than 1,000 of his photos and drawings.

Birdathon Count Correction

by Ken Reitan, Birdathon Species Compiler

The July newsletter contained the list of bird species seen during the Birdathon in May. At that time, the total was shown as 163 species. Unfortunately, two species, the marbled godwit and the semipalmated plover, were omitted from the list. So the actual count was 165 species. These two species (pictured below) were seen by Larry Einemann, one of Wachiska's most productive birders. Larry's personal count during Birdathon weekend this year was 149 bird species identified.



Semipalmated Plover



Marbled Godwit



From the Board ...

by Ken Reitan,
Field Trip Representative

Wachiska's Contribution to Wilderness Park

Just north of the 14th Street entrance to Wilderness Park south of Southwest High School, you'll see a sign on the west side of the road that has the names of several organizations on it, including Wachiska Audubon Society.

That sign is situated on a 12.19-acre property that was purchased by the City of Lincoln from the estate of a man named Glebe. The purchase took place in 2004 at a price of \$113,850, and Wachiska contributed \$1,400 towards that purchase.

The property is still being farmed but at some point will be converted to a more natural type of habitat. Note in this photo that the property was flooded at the time it was taken several years ago.



(Terry Genrich of the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department contributed information and the photo for this article.)

Do You Like Numbers?

by Elizabeth Nelson

We need a new volunteer, or volunteers, to serve on our finance committee and make treasurer's reports to the Board. We have revamped this position so that it requires NO data entry. We basically are looking for someone with a sound financial mind who can look over the monthly reports, work with the finance committee, make quarterly presentations to the Board, coordinate annual budget planning, and coordinate with our accounting firm for tax payments. We have a strong, knowledgeable finance committee, a great bookkeeping crew, and a good accountant; we just need another set of eyes on the books and someone to help with coordination. It is anticipated this job will take about 35 hours a year, more some months and less others. You will get lots of training and support from the rest of the team!

PLEASE, this is an area of critical need for Wachiska. If you can do this job, we would so greatly appreciate your joining the finance team! If you might like to help, please contact me (past president, on the finance committee, general helper outer) to discuss more details. You can reach me at 402-770-3485 or enelson555@gmail.com.

Baltimore Oriole

by Richard Peterson

The following poem about the Baltimore oriole appeared in the 1914 *Bird-Lore*, Volume XVI, Number 3, page 171.



*Is it a firebrand, tossed in the air,
Which the soft breeze fans to a flame?
Glowing and brilliant beyond compare,
As it darts and flashes, now here, now there,
Pray, can you give it a name?*

*Or is it a petal from some gorgeous flower,
Wind-blown from the tropics this way?
Or a meteor shooting through orchard and bower?
Till the blossoms come falling, a glorious shower,
Like a ghost of a snowstorm in May?*

-- Nellie J. Wharples

I'd like to tell you more about Nellie, like when she was born, where she lived, and the other aspects of her life, but an online search was fruitless.

Display at Lincoln City Libraries

by Barb Francis, Population & Environment Committee

The Jimmie Cooley memorial panel set up by Wachiska's population and environment committee, featuring environmental books for kids, is now on display in Lincoln City Libraries. Please drop by and see the display in Eiseley Library until July 31, in Gere Library August 1-31, in Walt Library September 1-30, and in Anderson Library October 1-31. Check some books out to share with kids you know!



Make Wachiska's Prairie Preservation Legacy, Your Legacy

by Marilyn McNabb

For many years, there was a rhythm to the work of our conservation committee whose primary project is prairie preservation: identify a site, talk to the owner and get an OK to make a visit, walk the land and make a plant species list to assess its quality, negotiate a conservation easement and get it approved by the County Board, get a sign made and hold a dedication ceremony for the owners, their neighbors, Wachiskans and the local newspaper, and then on to the next site. The hours we spent driving country gravel roads told us how few prairie remnants have been saved. One committee member believed the patches of prairie we found were often kept unplowed to serve as hay for the horses. Sometimes people told us that grandpa, or great-grandpa said to never plow that field, and they had held to that.

At the dedications, we sometimes talked about the time scale that accounted for the unique web of life of tallgrass prairie—the animals, birds, insects, flowers, grasses, and astonishing numbers of creatures that live in the soil, all of them having evolved together. The closest we got to touting practical benefits of saving remnants was with a mention of possible medicinal uses of prairie plants. At city council meetings, I've heard developers praise a piece of land's "highest and best use," assuming that money is the measurement of value. At our dedications, I don't recall any talk about how preserving prairie would likely make anybody rich. So then why did we do it? I think Wachiska's conservation committee understands the value of our islands of prairie surrounded by plowed and chemically treated agricultural fields similarly to the islands described by another Auduboner, Rachel Carson, in *The Sea Around Us*. Her biographer, Linda Lear, described how Carson wrote about "the slow emergence of an island with its unique collection of flora and fauna, [and] how it had been transformed by humankind's thoughtless destruction." Carson continued, "What has taken centuries to develop is being destroyed in a few years. . . . In a reasonable world, men would have treated these islands as precious possessions, as natural museums filled with beautiful and curious works of creation, valuable beyond price. . . ."

Wachiska is one of the few Audubon chapters managing as many acres of prairie as we do with all volunteers. To sustain this effort, we are reaching the point where we need to hire a part-time prairie manager to lead the prairie management effort. Wachiska has created an investment fund, the Prairie Management Fund, held at the Lincoln Community Foundation which will initially pay for a part-time person to coordinate maintenance and restoration activities under the supervision of our chapter's conservation committee. Eventually we would like to increase this fund and turn it into an endowment which would generate funds for the prairie manager position and perhaps support additional staff positions such as a volunteer coordinator, a grant writer, or an executive director.

I hope you will consider dedicating part of your personal financial legacy toward securing Wachiska's prairie preservation efforts. Nebraska's prairies are now, and in the future, valuable beyond price.

Information on Wachiska's prairie preservation efforts and ways to give are available from the donor development committee (call the Wachiska office) or the Lincoln Community Foundation.

Backyard Garden Tour Report

On a scorching hot Sunday afternoon in June, Wachiska held its 27th annual Backyard Garden Tour. It was also Father's Day, so many families attended to celebrate. Approximately 200 people visited one or more of the seven private yards and the UNL experimental gardens on East Campus. At the end of the afternoon, the chapter had taken in \$1,382 before expenses. Gratitude is extended to the planning committee which works all year long with the many aspects and logistics of this activity. It is hoped that visitors came away with ideas of how to better plan and care for their yards to assist wildlife in their area.

Memorial Received from Long-time Member

Wachiska received a gift from Robert Diller of Steele City in remembrance of Lucy Virginia Diller.

Keep Feathered Visitors Safe

by Stephen W. Kress, PhD

In the U.S., about one billion birds die from flying into windows each year. Bird collisions can be greatly reduced by placing feeders less than three feet from a window or more than 30 feet away. Mobiles, opaque decorations, and fruit tree netting outside windows also helps to deflect birds from the glass.

Squirrels are best excluded by placing feeders on a pole in an open area. Pole-mounted feeders should be about five feet off the ground and protected by a cone-shaped baffle (at least 17 inches in diameter) or a similar obstacle below the feeder. Locate pole-mounted feeders at least 10 feet from the nearest shrub, tree, or other tall structure. Squirrel feeders stocked with blends that are especially attractive to squirrels and chipmunks can reduce competition for high-priced foods offered at bird feeders. Position squirrel feeders far from bird feeders to further reduce competition.

Cats kill hundreds of millions of birds annually in the U.S., often pouncing on ground-feeding birds and those dazed by window collisions. Responsible and caring cat owners keep their cats indoors where they will be safer from traffic, disease, and fights with other animals. Outdoor cats are especially dangerous to birds in the spring when fledglings are on the ground. Bells on cat collars are usually ineffective for deterring predation.

Stabilizing Human Population is Critical to Our Survival

submitted by Chuck Francis
Population & Environment Committee

“We need to figure out a better way to stabilize population. Education must be the basis. Without education and awareness around the issue of population growth, nothing will happen and habitats will continue to be reduced,” said Dr. Margery Nicolson in the June, 2016 issue of *Population Connection* [Vol 48, Issue 2, and pp. 8-9]. A biochemist and conservationist who grew up in California, she has degrees from Stanford University and Baylor Medical School in Houston, and has become a passionate environmentalist. In the article, Dr. Nicolson describes her current activities traveling and advocating for environmental causes. She was an early supporter of research and education about sandhill cranes, and the Iain Nicolson Center at Audubon’s Rowe Sanctuary near Kearney is named for her late husband. She also volunteers for two to four weeks at Rowe each spring during the crane migration.

For those of us who work in agriculture and food systems, it is obvious how connected our ag production is to the natural environment and the ecosystem services on which it depends. Much of today’s monoculture industrial ag is highly dependent on fossil fuels to manufacture chemical pesticides, pump irrigation water, and generate artificial fertilizers. Yet, in fact, many of the inputs into production come from natural and renewable resources such as organic matter in the soil, rainfall and snow, cover crops and residues for nutrients, and natural predators for insect control. We need to promote more biodiverse production systems that are sustainable and resilient in the face of climate change.

Above all, we depend on fertile farmland for survival. With population growth in the U.S. of about one percent per year, and annual loss of over one million acres of farmland to other human activities, in a short four decades we will have only half as much land per person as we have today. Thus human population growth is a key factor in reducing farmland as we build more cookie cutter houses in peri-urban subdivisions, multi-lane highways, shopping malls with their broad paved expanses for parking, acreage dwellings where land is rarely used for food production, and commercial developments to drive our over-consuming economy. These are local as well as regional issues, and in the aggregate their “consumption of land” is shaping the future of this country.

There are valiant efforts to preserve wildlife habitat in our state and national parks and in our municipal parks and recreation areas where Lincoln is a clear leader. Wachiska members have been dedicated and vocal proponents of preserving native prairies, providing areas in perpetuity here in Southeast Nebraska that will be available for education of the next generations. Many individuals are also dedicated to keeping land in prairies, but these efforts are dwarfed by the forces of development that remove land from agriculture and destroy natural habitat.

Several of our chapter meetings have highlighted the connections between wildlife habitat and futuristic farming methods. Windbreaks in Nebraska have been shown to harbor birds and other natural predators for insects that damage crops, as well as provide shelter and connectivity for wild populations of many species to migrate across the rural landscape. Those farmers who use non-chemical, organic, or biodynamic practices help provide safe and clean habitat for bees and other pollinators. A farmer we visit each summer in Southwest Minnesota describes to our students how he practices no-till planting methods to maximize habitat for ground-nesting prairie birds in his corn and soybean fields. He also delays cultivation until all the young birds have fledged in early summer. This same farmer holds an ecological summit for two days of education and fellowship, plus tours of his native plantings that surround each of his ponds in this prairie pothole region.

Thus many individuals and groups are contributing solutions to offset the disappearance of natural areas as well as biodiverse, small-scale farming systems that preserve habitat on the farm. These help mitigate the effects of larger numbers of people competing for land and resources. Yet our growing human population in the U.S. and many countries in the developing world is often the “elephant in the room” that we find it difficult to discuss for religious or ethical concerns, for fear of stepping on someone else’s feelings, or independence, or because we don’t recognize the magnitude of its long-term effects. Finding the willingness to tackle this critical issue is one of the defining challenges of our time and one we will be accountable for in the future. One can easily imagine a grandchild asking one day, “Where were you and what were you doing during the time when we realized for sure that the world is overpopulated?”

The father of the Green Revolution, the late Dr. Norman Borlaug from Iowa who received the Nobel Peace Prize, was a well-known scientist and proponent of high-tech agriculture. In spite of the fact that his research and that of colleagues are credited with saving at least a billion lives through increased production of wheat and rice by breeding more productive strains, he was prescient in his 1970 Nobel address. “The green revolution has won a temporary success in man’s war against hunger and deprivation; it has given man a breathing space. If fully implemented, the revolution can provide sufficient food for sustenance during the next three decades. But the frightening power of human reproduction must also be curbed; otherwise the success of the green revolution will be ephemeral only.” We would provide ourselves and humanity a great service if we were to heed the words of Dr. Borlaug, and take specific steps to improve education and awareness of the need for balance of natural resources and human population. Dr. Margery Nicolson is right in her call to focus on population, demonstrating an awareness and concern that she and Iain gained from reading Paul Ehrlich’s book, *The Population Bomb*. We all need to take this issue seriously, and Wachiska’s population and environment committee is continually seeking ways to tactfully educate ourselves and the next generation. We invite your comments and suggestions.

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

Awhile back, this column reported information about the judge who approvingly quoted a U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) staff member saying it was a “no brainer” that the agency’s plan to issue taking permits to wind projects for eagles periods of 30 years was required to have an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Now USFWS has produced that EIS and again proposes to extend taking permits from five to 30 years. Both National Audubon and the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) are fighting the proposal. While the 30-year permit would offer security to the wind companies and their financial backers, it would not require the agency to adjust numbers in response to unexpected changes in survival and reproduction rates or to allow public input in periodic reviews. The proposed rule does not require the industry to make mortality data public.

The current rule allows companies with permits to kill up to a total of 1,100 bald eagles a year as “incidental takings,” meaning kills in the course of doing business. For golden eagles, the limit remains at zero. Audubon wants the rule to require an initial assessment of a project’s risk to local eagles and an analysis of actions to reduce anticipated deaths. From a bird’s perspective, siting is the most important decision about a wind project. The ABC thinks the rule’s biggest weakness is the lack of knowledge about golden eagle populations—behavior, migration, and habitat use. Either Audubon or ABC may follow up with a court challenge. Check these sources: <http://www.audubon.org/news/why-permits-kill-eagles-shouldnt-last-three-decades> and <http://www.outdoornews.com/2016/06/30/opinion-does-federal-a-plan-endanger-eagles/>.

If Saudi Arabia can imagine it, then surely the rest of us can, too. In June, Saudi Arabia, the world’s largest producer and exporter of oil, adopted a “Vision 2030 Plan.” Part of the plan calls for the deployment of 9.5 GW of renewable electrical capacity to be funded by the sale of five percent of Saudi Aramco, the state-owned oil company.

The Saudi cabinet approved of the plan which was promoted by Prince Mohammed bin Salman, 31, next in line behind the crown prince. In his position as chairman of the Council for Economic and Development Affairs, Prince Mohammed estimated the cost of the plan to be upwards of \$2 trillion. This plan would move the country to an investment-based—much more diverse—economy. Prince Mohammed was quoted as saying, “We have developed an oil addiction in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, among everyone. That is dangerous, and that is what has hampered the development of many different sectors in recent years.”

Newsweek reported that he appealed to Saudi youth and promised them a “new Saudi Arabia.” However, “he also said he

did not believe Saudi society was ready to end its ban on women driving.” Sources: <http://cleantechnica.com/2016/06/08/saudi-prince-mohammed-bin-salman-plans-end-kingdoms-oil-addiction/> and <http://www.newsweek.com/saudi-prince-offers-reforms-end-addiction-oil-452183>.

An organization called the Partnership for Responsible Growth has run a series of 12 full-page ads opposite the *Wall Street Journal’s* editorial page in June and July. You can read them here: <http://www.partnershipforresponsiblegrowth.org/pricecarbon/>.

The first ad, referring to Exxon Mobil, asks “If the CEO of the world’s largest oil company accepts the basic physics that humans are heating the climate with excess CO₂, why won’t the editorial board of this newspaper?” It continues, the “CEOs of BP, Shell, Total, Statoil, BG Group, and ENI call climate change ‘a critical challenge for our world’ and have also called for a price on carbon.[v]” The group offers 26 quotes—most from captains of industry and conservative economists—calling for a tax on carbon. Refer to this source: <http://www.partnershipforresponsiblegrowth.org/research-1/2016/6/10/prominent-figures-on-pricing-carbon>.

Birdathon Donations Still Welcome throughout the Year

by Tim Knott, Birdathon Campaign Chair

If you are a regular contributor to Wachiska’s Birdathon, the chapter is especially counting on your donation! There is still time to contribute this month or in the next four months. By making your regular donation as soon as you can, you will be making this year’s Birdathon fundraiser the most successful one we have ever had. But these donations are needed and used—not just put in the bank. Wachiska, among other groups, is helping to fund a very effective information service at the State Capitol, one that has made the difference on some critical pieces of legislation in the past several months. Wachiska also provides funds for our bookkeeping and financial record keeping, a necessary part of being a responsible conservation organization. Rent, printing, and other expenses also increase as time goes on.

Wachiska Audubon is familiar to many but should be known by many more people. We are an important voice speaking for you and on behalf of the environment in Southeast Nebraska and often around the state. Consider our accomplishments and our potential to increase our effectiveness. Then make a donation to the Wachiska Audubon Birdathon. We welcome all contributions small or large from regular donors or first-time donors. By getting your gifts into the office in the next three weeks, we will be able to include your name in the list of donors which will appear in the September *Babbling Brook*. Thank you to everyone who has already contributed this year.

Public Officials

President Barack Obama

1600 Pennsylvania Av NW, Washington DC 20500-0001
Comment line: 202-456-1111
Phone: 202-456-1414 Fax: 202-456-2461
E-mail at website: <http://whitehouse.gov/contact>

Senator Ben Sasse

100 Centennial Mall N Rm 287, Lincoln NE 68508
Lincoln phone: 402-476-1400 Fax: 402-476-0605
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-4224 Fax: 202-224-5213
E-mail at website: <http://sasse.senate.gov>

Senator Deb Fischer

440 N 8th St Ste 120, Lincoln NE 68508
Lincoln phone: 402-441-4600 Fax: 402-476-8753
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-6551 Fax: 202-228-0012
E-mail at website: <http://fischer.senate.gov>

Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (1st District)

301 S 13th St Ste 100, Lincoln NE 68508-2537
Lincoln phone: 402-438-1598
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4806 Fax: 202-225-5686
E-mail at website: <http://fortenberry.house.gov>

Congressman Brad Ashford (2nd District)

7126 Pacific St, Omaha NE 68106
Omaha phone: 402-916-5678
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4155 Fax: 202-226-5452
E-mail at website: <http://ashford.house.gov>

Congressman Adrian Smith (3rd District)

416 Valley View Dr Ste 600, Scottsbluff NE 69361
Scottsbluff phone: 308-632-3333 Fax: 308-635-3049
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-6435 Fax: 202-225-0207
E-mail at website: <http://adriansmith.house.gov>

Capitol Hill Switchboard

888-436-8427 or 202-224-3121

Governor Pete Ricketts

Capitol Bldg, PO Box 94848, Lincoln NE 68509-4848
Phone: 402-471-2244 Fax: 402-471-6031
E-mail at website: <http://governor.nebraska.gov>

State Senator _____

District ____ State Capitol, PO Box 94604, Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

State Capitol Switchboard

402-471-2311

Lancaster County Commissioners

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10th St Rm 110, Lincoln NE 68508
Phone: 402-441-7447 Fax: 402-441-6301
E-mail: commish@lancaster.ne.gov

Mayor Chris Beutler

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10th St Rm 208, Lincoln NE 68508-2828
Phone: 402-441-7511 Fax: 402-441-7120
E-mail: mayor@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln City Council

402-441-7515
E-mail: council@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln Journal Star

Letters to the editor, 926 P St, Lincoln NE 68508
E-mail: oped@journalstar.com

Join now! Become a Friend of Wachiska Audubon Society!

This local chapter membership provides you with voting privileges and access to all our events, programs, and committees, **plus 100 percent of your membership donation goes directly to the Wachiska chapter. In addition, Friend members receive our monthly newsletter, *The Babbling Brook*, in their choice of print or electronic form.**

Friends of Wachiska (local membership)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

- ___ \$25 Individual/Friend
- ___ \$35 Family Friend
- ___ \$50 Black-capped Chickadee Friend
- ___ \$100 Northern Cardinal Friend
- ___ \$250 Western Meadowlark Friend
- ___ \$500 Bald Eagle Friend
- ___ \$1000 Peregrine Falcon Friend

Select the level of support that is right for you and make your check payable to **Wachiska Audubon Society**. All funds remain with our local chapter and are tax deductible. Mail to:

Wachiska Audubon Society
Attention: Membership Committee
4547 Calvert St Ste 10
Lincoln NE 68506-5643

___ **I prefer to receive my newsletter by email.**

Please note: If you are already a member of National Audubon Society (NAS) you automatically become a member of Wachiska, but not a Wachiska Friend member. Only Wachiska Friends receive the printed monthly newsletter each month. If you wish to join NAS or receive *Audubon* magazine, please contact National Audubon Society directly.



American Goldfinch family

Remember—Please

It is certainly appreciated when our members and supporters let us know when they move, change to a post office box number, have a name or phone number update, or a member passes away, so we can keep our database current. Please let us know also if you receive mail that is incorrect in any way. Being a volunteer conservation organization, we hope to save paper, postage, and time for our volunteers.

People find it surprising that returned mail can cost Wachiska between a few cents and often over a dollar to get a correct mailing address. Also, with more people going to cell phone use only, it is difficult to find people unless they have provided us with the information. The same goes for multiple last names in one family.

Thank you Thanks Thank you Thanks

Arllys and all the volunteers



The Babbling Brook (ISSN #1068-2104) is published monthly by Wachiska Audubon Society. The known office of publication is 4547 Calvert St Ste 10, Lincoln NE 68506-5643. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Send address changes to *The Babbling Brook*
Wachiska Audubon Society, 4547 Calvert St Ste 10
Lincoln NE 68506-5643



The Babbling Brook is printed on recycled and recyclable paper.



Wachiska Audubon Society
4547 Calvert St Ste 10
Lincoln NE 68506-5643
402-486-4846
Office@WachiskaAudubon.org
www.WachiskaAudubon.org

WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2016

OFFICERS

President.....	*Jessi Umberger (Otoe)	402-580-3057
Vice President.....	*Gary Fehr	402-570-4382
Recording Secretary	*Rachel Simpson	402-742-7991
Treasurer (acting)	*Arnold Mendenhall (Hickman)	402-525-4884
Immediate Past President	*Elizabeth Nelson	402-770-3485

STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large.....	*Richard Peterson.....	402-489-2996
Director at Large.....	*Roxanne Smith	402-477-1319
Director at Large.....	*vacant	
Conservation.....	*Stu Lutlich (Geneva).....	402-759-3597
Education.....	Sue Kohles (Palmyra)	402-780-5558
	*Tim Knott	402-483-5656
Field Trips	John Carlini	402-475-7275
	*Ken Reitan	402-423-3540
Hospitality.....	Cheryl Moncure.....	402-488-0036
Legislation.....	Bruce Kennedy (Malcolm)	402-796-2114
	*Sam Truax	402-325-9012
Membership	Joyce Vannier	402-570-8469
	*Lana Novak.....	402-475-8693
Monthly Programs/General Meetings.....	Arllys Reitan	WAS office 402-486-4846
Newsletter Editor	Arllys Reitan	WAS office 402-486-4846
Population/Environment	*Colleen Babcock	308-850-0445
Publicity/Public Relations.....	Jeanne Kern	402-423-0428

*Denotes Board member

OTHER ASSOCIATES

Bird Questions	Kevin Poague	402-797-2301
Facebook Coordinator	Benjamin Vogt	402-499-5851
NAS Regional Board Member	Michele Crist (Boise, ID).....	208-863-1918
Newsletter Layout	Linda Sullivan.....	402-580-8515
Raptor Recovery	Betsy Finch (Elmwood)	402-994-2009
Executive Director Audubon Nebraska.....	Marian Langan.....	402-797-2301
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Director	Glynnis Collins	402-797-2301
Webmaster	Dan Staehr	402-440-5869

NEBirds Website

Check out the email discussion at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NEBirds> to learn of the latest sightings and interesting tales of Nebraska's most avid birders and those interested in Nebraska birds and their ecology. Posts change daily—and even more often when excitement arises. Offerings of recent sightings, questions, and new photos are all welcome.

Wachiska Audubon Society's financial records are available for examination in the office.

A Gift to the Future

A bequest to Wachiska Audubon Society is a gift to future generations enabling our natural heritage to continue. For wills, trusts, and gifts, our legal name is **Wachiska Audubon Society**. Our Federal Tax ID number is **51-0229888**.

