



Wachiska
Audubon Society

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 47th Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2020

SEPTEMBER 2020

Volume 29 - Issue 9

Wachiska Program — Thursday, September 10, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom web conference (registration required)
Link to register: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcrc-CspjgqE9IVMDPDgJQAN9M6gVz_LQym

Managing Wachiska's Prairies

presented by Wachiska's Conservation Committee

While it is admirable and easy to think globally, it is harder to act locally; yet, Wachiska Audubon has acted locally by acquiring land and conservation easements on almost 1,000 acres to protect one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world, the tallgrass prairie. It is the job of Wachiska's conservation committee to manage these lands and easements.

Join us on **Thursday, September 10, at 7:00 p.m.** for a virtual tour of Wachiska's prairies as the members of our



Burn crew at Klapka Prairie

conservation committee share photos and experiences from the prairies that Wachiska owns in Southeast Nebraska. Traveling thousands of miles and volunteering hundreds of hours, committee members aren't just out there smelling the wild roses. They are volunteering their time to conduct prescribed burns, scout for invasive species, cut volunteer trees, conduct easement reviews, and gather seed.

Since its founding in the 1970s, Wachiska members have taken an interest not just in birding but also in protecting the habitat of native flora and fauna on the area's prairies. They identified land and landowners who shared this interest and then raised funds to purchase land or acquire easements to accomplish this mission. The work to maintain the unique plant communities on these lands is a labor of love carried out by these volunteers. They all have a commitment to native prairie and bring unique talents to the group.

Tim Knott is the longest-serving member and knows prairie plants as well as anybody. He was instrumental in identifying prairies to protect and in raising necessary funds. Tim knows the history of the efforts firsthand. **Don Pepperl** is the legal expert handling easements and land deeds. Raised in Pawnee County, he grew up around prairie. **Arnold Mendenhall**, a rangeland specialist, was raised on a farm in Kansas and studied at Ft. Hays State. He was the first land manager at Spring Creek Prairie and currently manages our largest tract, the Klapka farm. With a background in wildlife biology, current Chapter President **Stu Luttich** owns and manages prairie in Fillmore County. **Terry Stentz** teaches at UNL and has a life-long commitment to conservation through scouting. **Beth Coufal** knew plants before joining the committee and has become knowledgeable in techniques and timing of harvesting ecotype native seed. She leads our seed-gathering efforts. Committee Chair **Ross Scott** worked with NRCS all over Southeast Nebraska, where he developed an interest in native plants and prairie. **Ethan Freese** recently earned a M.S. degree in grassland studies from UNL. He has worked on the Prairie Corridor Project. Ethan graciously volunteered to help us put this presentation together!

Join the conservation committee for a Zoom presentation when they share tips on when to visit and where to go to find their favorite plants, birds, and pollinators. There will be ample time for questions. This free Zoom presentation will be open to the public, but you must register in advance at the link above which can be copied into your browser or go to our website and click the direct link.

September Calendar

- 10 General Meeting, "Maintaining Wachiska's Prairies," by Conservation Committee, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom (**NOTE required registration**)
- 14 Conservation Committee via Zoom (check with chairman)
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 15 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m. (contact Theresa Pella for meeting number/password if not a Board member and want to attend)
- 24 Legislation Committee via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
- 30 Submission deadline for 2021 Board nominations (page 4)

NO Education Committee meeting this month
Remember Birdseed Sale in September (details next month)

Wachiska Audubon Office: 402-486-4846

Email: Office@WachiskaAudubon.org

Wildlife, People, and Food in Your Backyard and Neighborhood

by Wally Graeber, Ali Loker, and Chuck Francis

Thanks to everyone who attended Wachiska's August Zoom general meeting to engage in discussion around the intersections of wildlife and our local food system. As we invest in and modify our local landscapes for wildlife health and habitat, we have the opportunity to simultaneously encourage a more resilient community-based food system by eating, advocating, grazing, and buying local. Together, our daily choices build and cast a decisive vote for the health of our local food system. Creating your own backyard landscape installation to include food crops positively impacts wildlife habitat while diversifying your own diet choices. Furthermore, you then become a model neighbor and advocate for others around you.

Changes to consider at home and nearby include planting prairie strips in your yard or in agricultural fields (Iowa State University), installing permaculture guilds in place of a typical urban lawn (visit Southern Heights Food Forest at 40th and Old Cheney Road), and planting a diverse food and flower garden in your



backyard (visit a nearby Community Crops garden site for ideas). You can also vote with your food dollar by purchasing Audubon Conservation Ranching Initiative certified beef which fulfills a farm habitat management plan. These

backyard and grassland management acts can all contribute to reduced soil erosion, improved water quality, and local wildlife habitat. Some of these actions you can do from your kitchen, others are done in your own yard, and still others can be encouraged in your local farmers' fields.

Ways to connect with nearby farmers are to seek out food that is produced locally, prominently featured at Open Harvest Cooperative, at Leon's Grocery, at Hy-Vee, and at some Russ' Market locations. When you visit these stores, it is useful to not only buy local produce but to ask the managers how they could access more food from farmers nearby. This act of advocacy can help build demand and interest on the part of those who make food decisions that impact our access to local food.

To see examples of small-scale gardens and food crops, visit one of the ten Community Crops sites in Lincoln (see map at



CommunityCrops.org/gardens/). There, you will meet people from many countries and discover vegetables that are not commonly grown here—and learn how to prepare them.

These actions for promoting wildlife health and habitat improvement are ways to live your personal values, to demonstrate creative options to your neighbors, and to provide conversation starters with your friends; all the while, your own decision-making will incrementally make necessary changes in our shared landscape that give both wildlife and humans the healthy space they deserve and need to be resilient.

Fall Birdseed Sale Next Month

by Cathy Shaner, Birdseed Sale Chair

Watch for the October issue of *The Babbling Brook* for the fall birdseed sale order form. Orders with payment must be postmarked by Wednesday, October 7, in order to pick them up on October 16 and 17. For the safety of volunteers, members, and customers, we will ask that masks be worn at all times and respect for social distancing maintained. When the orders are picked up, we ask that you stay in your car and open the trunk for us to load the seed. Your cooperation will be appreciated. Now look for that order form next month. Thank you for your continued support of Wachiska Audubon.



Hy-Vee Promoting Wachiska Audubon

Wachiska Audubon Society has been selected by local Hy-Vee store leadership as the benefiting nonprofit organization in the Reusable Bag Program!

For the month of September, Wachiska Audubon will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable red "My Heart" bag at the Hy-Vee store located at 7151 Stacy Lane in southeast Lincoln (only at this location).

Skinny as a What?

by Ken Reitan

The sora is a relatively small rail, with a length of about nine inches and a wingspan of almost 14 inches. Their shape is laterally compressed, from which the expression "skinny as a rail" comes from! This shape allows them to slip in and out of the cattails to work along the marsh edge and on the lily pads when foraging for food.



Sora

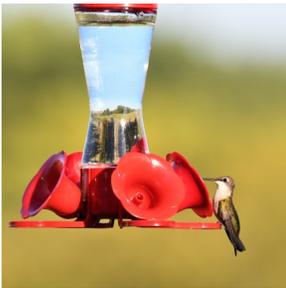
Sharp-shinned Hawk vs. Cooper's Hawk

by Ken Reitan

If you are like me, you have problems identifying these two hawk species, sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks. Recently I was looking through an old *WildBird* magazine and found an identification tip that is not in my field guide. The eye in the sharp-shinned is centered in its head whereas it is closer to the beak in the Cooper's hawk.

Hummingbird Feeders

This month while purchasing birdseed, this tip was offered: If an aggressive male hummingbird keeps others from enjoying the sweet nectar you are providing in a hummingbird feeder, try placing a second nectar feeder out of sight of the first one, such as on the opposite side of your house. This aggressive male cannot patrol both feeders at once, thus allowing others to enjoy the sugary treat!



Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Great American Outdoors Act to Become Law

Earlier this year, President Trump called on Congress to send him a bill that would fully and permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund and restore our national parks. On August 4, 2020, President Trump signed the Great American Outdoors Act into law, accomplishing those exact objectives.

The Trump Administration worked with Congress to secure the passage of this landmark conservation legislation which will use revenues from energy development to provide up to \$1.9 billion a year for five years to provide needed maintenance for critical facilities and infrastructure in our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, recreation areas, and American Indian schools. It will also use royalties from offshore oil and natural gas to permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund to the tune of \$900 million a year to invest in conservation and recreation opportunities across the country.

National parks host more than 325 million visitors every year, and the infrastructure cannot keep up without significant repairs. The network of roads, trails, restrooms, water treatment systems, and visitor facilities are aging, and many are exceeding the capacity they were designed to support. The National Parks and Public Lands Restoration Fund will provide funding for priority projects that address the maintenance backlog at NPS facilities, including campgrounds, picnic areas, roads, trails, and other critical infrastructure. Specific projects to be funded will be announced in the future.

Shearwaters

by Richard Peterson



Great Shearwater

With hurricane season popping up on our weather radar, it's time to learn more about another bird that has to cope. Shearwaters are medium-sized, long-winged, pelagic sea birds. These birds of the open water spend months, or even years, completely out of sight of land. They eat and sleep on the

water. They are present in all the world's oceanic bodies of water but are absent from the Bay of Bengal and Hudson Bay. Shearwaters are in the Procellariidae family which also includes the fulmarine petrels, gadfly petrels, and prions. There are over 30 species of shearwaters.

These birds fly with stiff wings and use a flight technique taking them close to the water that seems to cut or "shear" the tips of the waves as they move across wave fronts. This minimizes flight movements while searching for food. They feed on small fish, squid, and crustaceans and will also follow fishing boats to take discards or follow whales to feed on fish disturbed by the whales. They have a unique tubular nasal passage providing an incredible sense of smell to locate prey and nesting colonies.

Those shearwaters in the genus *Puffinus* are proficient divers. When scientists began using maximum-depth recorders they found some species could dive 220 feet.

Many shearwaters are long distance migrants. The sooty shearwater covers distances over 8,700 miles from their breeding colony in the Falkland Islands off the coast of Argentina to the North Atlantic off northern Norway. Short-tailed shearwaters do their migration loop from the Pacific Ocean near Tasmania to the Arctic Ocean off Alaska. In a displacement experiment, a Manx shearwater was marked and released in Boston, Massachusetts. It returned within 13 days to its home colony in Skomer, Wales, a distance of 3,200 miles.

The oldest known wild bird in the world is a Manx shearwater. Tagged as an adult in 1953, when it was at least five years old, it was recaptured in 2003. The bird was at least 55 years old. It had traveled a minimum of 620,000 miles in migrations alone.

Shearwaters use islands or coastal cliffs to breed. They lay one white egg. Nesting in burrows, they are active at night, preferring moonless nights to minimize predation. Enemies include feral cats, rats, mice, mongoose, and man. They are also called muttonbirds and are harvested for food in Tasmania and New Zealand. You may get a glimpse of shearwaters from land with the aid of a spotting scope. A better bet is to see them during a whale-watching trip, provided your guide knows seabirds; even better is an organized pelagic trip where you are guided over deep water and have an expert birder on board.

A Chance to Give Your Views on Climate

by Marilyn McNabb

How fast can the Lincoln Electric System (LES) transform itself into the renewable energy electric company we need? LES went from annual retail sales of renewables—wind and hydro—of 12 percent in 2013 to 46 percent in 2019. That's a good start.

Another way to ask that question is this: How much greenhouse gas pollution should the Lincoln Electric System contribute to climate change? How quickly should LES shift to wind, solar, geothermal, hydro, batteries, increasing efficiency and other means of generating and managing energy to avoid emitting greenhouse gases? How should these goals be balanced against the need to keep rates low and reliability high? A goal that addresses these questions will be chosen by the LES Board at their November meeting. LES's goal will be integrated into the city's Climate Action Plan. In the meantime, all of us in the LES service territory can register our opinions with the Board.

Board members do care what the Lincoln public is thinking and pay attention to the opinions of their neighbors and customers. Board members are appointed by the mayor for three-year terms. There's no pay. Full disclosure: I served on the Board for nine years which is why I am so sure Board members care what you think.

Your views can be offered in two ways. You can send an email to board@les.com which goes to all Board members. Also, you can make a statement of no more than three minutes at the Board meetings on September 18, October 16, and November 20 in person or virtually. For how to testify, go to <https://www.les.com/about-les/management-board/board-meetings-agendas-summaries>. Public comment is one of the first agenda items at the 9:30 a.m. meetings.

What to say? The wizards of climate change communication at Yale University advise us to share personal stories and concerns about how climate change is affecting the people—and birds—we care about. Audubon science finds that two-thirds of North American birds are at risk of extinction from climate change. (Check out this link: <https://www.audubon.org/climate/survivalbydegrees>.)

The urgency of action to reduce greenhouse gases is important to communicate. On July 9, Time magazine ran a cover story titled "2020 Is the Last Best Chance to Save the Planet." It began "From our vantage point today, 2020 looks like the year when an unknown virus spun out of control. . . In the future, we may look back at 2020 as the year we decided to keep driving off the climate cliff—or to take the last exit." See <https://time.com/5864692/climate-change-defining-moment/>.

Here are other recent reports you can Google to help get you started:

- "Parts of Nebraska Seeing Major Drought for First Time in 8 years," *Lincoln Journal Star*, Aug. 17, 2020

- "Nebraska's Losses from 2019 Flooding, Blizzard Exceed \$3.4 Billion," *Omaha World-Herald*, Jan. 15, 2020
- "Last decade was Earth's hottest on record as climate crisis accelerates," *The Guardian*, Aug. 12, 2020
- "Report of the State of the Climate in 2019," National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Aug. 12, 2020

Wachiska Board Nominations Open for 2021

by Theresa Pella, Vice President

As reported last month, the 2021 nominating committee is accepting nominations for officer and director-at-large positions. Committee members include Stu Luttich, Theresa Pella, Elizabeth Nelson, Linda Brown, and Lana Novak. September 30 is the submission deadline. Nominations should be sent to President Stu Luttich at rangifer@windstream.net.

Officer positions that Wachiska members will be electing during the November annual meeting include President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. Per Wachiska's bylaws, all officers serve one-year terms and may not hold the same position for more than three consecutive terms, unless approved by the board of directors.

In addition, during its January 2021 meeting the Board will vote to fill three director-at-large positions from a list of candidates submitted by members and the current Board. The responsibilities of a director-at-large are to assist with Board activities but not necessarily hold committee chair positions.

Officer and director-at-large candidates must be current chapter members. Nominators must have permission of the nominee before submitting them for consideration. Position terms begin January 2021. One change during the last few months is that similar to Wachiska's general meetings, the Board has been meeting via Zoom, and expectations are to continue to meet that way for the foreseeable future.

Garage Sale Postponed this Fall

by Arlys Reitan

Since the beginning of this year, Wachiska leaders had planned to sponsor a garage sale sometime this summer. Then COVID-19 struck, and these plans were pushed back indefinitely. At this point, it has been decided that there will not be a sale this year. For those who have contacted me or are still accumulating items, we hope you can stuff them away until next spring or summer. Remember that clothing will not be accepted as this does not sell well at Lincoln sales. Your interest and enthusiasm are really appreciated as this is just another way to recycle and keep things out of the landfill while donating to Wachiska. Thanks to all.

"September days are here, with summer's best of weather and autumn's best of cheer."

-- Helen Hunt Jackson, Poet

Research Showing a Possible Low-cost Way to Protect Birds from Wind Turbines

by *Moni Usasz*

Increasingly, climate change is demanding energy sources which reduce greenhouse gas emissions which means more wind farms. Protecting birds continues to be a problem. A new study from Norway has found that painting one of a wind turbine's three blades black led to a dramatic decline in bird mortality along the Norwegian coast (<https://www.eenews.net/stories/1063712423>). Bird death from turbine collisions dropped by 71.9 percent where a turbine blade was black, compared with unpainted turbines at the same wind farm, according to findings published this summer in the peer-reviewed journal *Ecology and Evolution*.

The wind farm in Norway was in a marshy area near the coast. For over 10 years, nearly 500 dead birds were found at the base of turbines. The two species found most often were willow ptarmigan flying into the base of the turbines and white-tailed eagles which were flying into the blades.

Scientists questioned how to reduce bird-turbine collisions. A 2002 University of Maryland laboratory study showed a single black blade could reduce bird impacts. Researchers began a field experiment in 2013 using four painted turbines as their study subjects and observed over 3 ½ years. They found birds appeared to be more aware of what's happening to their right and left. The blurred motion of moving wind blades directly in front of them doesn't appear as an obstruction. The single black blade of three created a visual smear birds saw as an obstacle.

Keeping birds safe from wind turbines is a complex problem. Different birds may respond differently to the visual smear created by a single black blade. The Norwegian study was small and may not work the same way in other places and with different birds; however, given the number of birds killed by wind turbines every year and the growth of wind farms, more research in this area needs to be done quickly. If effective, painting one blade black would be an inexpensive fix.

Another problem is that turbine color is strictly regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration which permits a white to light gray because they are most conspicuous for pilots.

Time is Money

Wachiska continues to enjoy the remarkably fast Internet service we received as a gift from Allo Communications a few months ago. Now Allo has extended an invitation to Wachiska to tell our members about our fast connection. In return the chapter will receive \$50 for each new customer referred to Allo by Wachiska. There is no limit to the number of referral credits we can receive, so please let Arlys know and we'll be glad to get things rolling.

The Effects of an Unexpected Pause for Marine Soundscapes in Alaska

The Cornell Lab Center for Conservation Bioacoustics
by *Michelle Fournet, PhD, May 26, 2020*

In yet another casualty of COVID-19, Earth Day parades and science marches were cancelled this year as people globally were instructed to stay home. In this monumental moment, humans are experiencing an unprecedented change in how they interact with their loved ones, their communities, their professions, and yes, their ecosystems. All of this in an effort to reduce the devastation associated with the spread of a virus for which we have no vaccine, no cure, and are only beginning to understand. Unprecedented doesn't confer the gravity of the global situation; but in Alaska the seals don't know that.

In Alaska's Inside Passage, harbor seals are gearing up for their early summer breeding season; humpback whales are just starting to migrate into the waterways of their historic foraging grounds. In Glacier Bay National Park, National Park Service researcher Chris Gabriele recently heard a soft "crunch" echo through the hydrophone moored underwater outside her office—the sound of a killer whale eating something. Traditionally, late April marks the arrival of the first cruise ships of the season into Southeast Alaska. For decades, marine mammals have started their own summer seasons under the alternating roar or distant din of marine tourism. This year, however, no cruise ships are scheduled to come into port until at least July, under a mandate released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This means also no whale watching, no kayak tours, no glacier tours, or no helicopter rides, and no charter fishing. The economic ramifications of Covid-19 are dire, and no intentional experiment could justify such massive social consequences, but despite the devastation to humans, the ocean is quieter as a result of our absence.

This protracted pause in ocean noise is certainly the first of its kind and may represent the first time in decades that seals and whales have been granted unadulterated access to a quiet ocean. Humpback whales in Alaska alter their calling behavior when vessel noise inundates the soundscape by calling louder and calling less. While the implications of these behavior shifts are unknown, it is likely that these adaptations increase humpback whale resilience to noise to some degree. This doesn't appear to be the case for seals, however.

New research led by Dr. Leanna Matthews and Dr. Susan Parks of Syracuse University in collaboration with CCB indicates that during the early summer breeding season male harbor seals, who rely on sound to attract mates and defend territories, may not be able to compensate for vessel noise. On a breeding ground, Glacier Bay harbor seals weren't able to call louder than the noise associated with passing cruise ships and tour vessels, and as a result they likely couldn't be heard by potential mates. The inability to communicate this critical message means that breeding gets harder. Except—not this year.

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

The subtitle of my favorite new book is “Unleashing the Power of Imagination to Create the Future We Want” (Rob Hopkins, *From What is to What If*). So, I’m inviting you to unleash your imagination about Nebraska, starting with reports on the National Audubon website about initiatives on climate in the states of Louisiana and Washington.

Audubon reported (8/19) that the governor of Louisiana by executive orders moved the state toward goals for reducing its contributions to carbon emissions that cause climate change while improving the state’s ability to cope with the effects of climate change which include flooding, hurricanes, and sea level rise.

The goals set for a newly created Climate Initiatives Task Force are to develop recommendations for a strategy to reduce carbon by up to 28 percent by 2035, up to 50 percent by 2030, and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, meaning that carbon released would be cancelled out by efforts like reforestation.

The second executive order creates a state level chief resilience officer and requires that all state agencies create similar resilience coordinators.

Brent Newman, policy director of Audubon Louisiana said, “Our role as an energy state also gives us the opportunity to lead the nation in transitioning to a clean energy economy. Today’s actions are a decisive first step in creating the future we need for birds and people to thrive in Louisiana.”

A year earlier, in Washington state, Senate Bill 116 was signed calling for zero-carbon electricity by 2045. It also requires new standards for energy use in large buildings and sets tougher efficiency standards for appliances. It sets a 2025 deadline for utilities to end all reliance on coal. The *Seattle Times* quoted Gail Gatton, executive director of Audubon Washington: “Today isn’t just a victory celebration; it’s the beginning of a transformation.”

In August, 520 scientists from more than 60 countries published a peer-reviewed study in the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* titled “State of the Climate 2019.” It reported that in 2019, greenhouse gas levels hit their highest level ever recorded. Effects were felt from widespread flooding across east Africa and wildfires in Australia, the Amazon, and Siberia. Climate scientist Michael Mann said, “We must act dramatically over this next decade, bringing emissions down by a factor of two, if we are to limit warming below catastrophic levels of 1.5 C that will commit us to ever more dangerous climate change impacts.”

The *Financial Times* (6/13/20) reported on a Morningstar study of sustainable (Environmental/Social/Governance) “ESG” Funds.

A sample of 745 Europe-based sustainable/socially responsible funds showed the majority have done better than non-ESG funds over one, three, five, and 10 years. The asset class studied of U.S. large-cap blend equity funds were the best performers “with more than 80 percent of funds in this category beating their traditional peers over 10 years.” Survivorship rates compared an average of 77 percent of ESG funds available 10 years ago still exist compared to 46 percent of traditional funds.

In an earlier report (1/30/20) of the same publication, Morningstar’s director of sustainability research explained, “Portfolio managers are increasingly aware of the investment risks posed by stranded assets held by fossil fuel companies. Divestment can free up capital to invest in companies that will assist the transition to a low-carbon economy.”

Nebraska Environmental Trust Roundtable Meetings

by Mark Brohman, Executive Director
Nebraska Environmental Trust

The Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) holds Category Roundtable meetings ever five years. Traditionally one meeting is held in each of the three congressional districts. Because of COVID-19, these three meetings will be conducted online via Zoom. There will be one site available in each district, so one Zoom meeting will include a site in Omaha, another meeting will have one site in Lincoln, and the third meeting will have a site in the Third Congressional District, probably Kearney. The Trust encourages people to Zoom in from home as there will be extremely limited space at the onsite areas, but they do want to accommodate folks who may not have a computer or reliable Internet service at home. The meeting dates are September 29, October 6, and October 14, 2020. The onsite locations have not been paired with a date yet, but individuals can sign up for any of the three dates once the registration link is made available.

The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center will be facilitating the meetings and setting up registrations. A registration link will be provided soon, so keep an eye on the NET website or contact the NET office at 402-471-5409. Each meeting will be limited to 150 participants, and we ask that individuals only sign up for one meeting. The purpose of the meetings is to obtain public input and recommendations on the funding categories. The public can also comment on any aspect of the NET. The current funding categories are surface and groundwater, air quality, soil management, waste management, and habitat. The meetings will consist of general information and instructions, followed by breaking into smaller work groups to address the categories, then the small groups reporting back to the full group at the end. Each meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. and end at approximately 4:00 p.m. Central Time. There will also be an opportunity for the public to submit written comments before, during, and a few days after the public Zoom meetings. Comments can be addressed to the NET office at 700 S 16th St, Lincoln NE 68508. If you have additional questions, contact the NET office above.

Public Officials

President Donald Trump

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

1128 Lincoln Mall Ste 305, 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 Don Bacon (2nd District)

13906 Gold Cir Ste 101, Omaha NE 68144
Omaha phone: 888-221-7452
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4155 Fax: 202-226-5452
E-mail at website: <https://bacon.house.gov>

Congressman Adrian Smith (3rd District)

416 Valley View Dr Ste 600, Scottsbluff NE 69361
Scottsbluff phone: 308-633-6333 Fax: 308-633-6335
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 Leirion Gaylor Baird

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10th St Rm 301, 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 will 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



American Goldfinches

___ **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 newsletter each month. If you wish to join NAS or receive *Audubon* magazine, please contact the National Audubon Society directly.

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NOTE THIS POLICY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

During COVID-19, Wachiska Audubon will continue to provide our monthly general meeting programs at **7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday each month;** however, these presentations will be by Zoom teleconferencing until such time as we can resume meeting in person. This practice began in May and all have been well-attended. The programs have been excellent and comments extremely favorable.

Please give this format consideration. There's no night driving and you don't have to even put your shoes on. The only thing is you will need to provide your own cookie!

Check out the link in the front-page article for registering or go to the website. It really is very easy!!



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

WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2020

OFFICERS

President.....	*Stu Luttich (Geneva).....	402-759-3597
Vice President.....	*Theresa Pella.....	512-585-1511
Recording Secretary	*Marilyn McNabb.....	402-476-7463
Treasurer	*Mary Rogge.....	402-488-1342

STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large.....	*Linda R. Brown	402-489-2381
Director at Large.....	*Terry Stentz.....	402-202-8819
Director at Large.....	*Dave Titterington	402-432-6988
Conservation	*Ross Scott (Roca).....	402-202-1523
Education	*Tim Knott	402-217-8505
Field Trips.....	John Carlini	402-475-7275
	*Lana Novak	402-475-8693
Hospitality	Cheryl Moncure	402-488-0036
Legislation	*Bruce Kennedy (Malcolm).....	402-796-2114
Membership.....	*vacant	
Monthly Programs/General Meetings.....	Arlys Reitan	WAS office 402-486-4846
Newsletter Editor	Arlys Reitan	WAS office 402-486-4846
Population/Environment	Mary King.....	402-570-3295
	*Patty Spitzer	402-525-9726
Publicity/Public Relations	Arlys Reitan	WAS office 402-486-4846
Donor Development.....	Elizabeth Nelson	402-770-3485

*Denotes Board member

OTHER ASSOCIATES

Bird Questions.....	Kevin Poague.....	402-797-2301
Facebook Coordinator	Benjamin Vogt	402-499-5851
Raptor Recovery.....	Betsy Finch (Elmwood).....	402-994-2009
Executive Director Audubon Nebraska.....	*Kristal Stoner.....	402-797-2301
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Director.....	Meghan Sittler	402-797-2301
Webmaster.....	Roxanne Smith	402-477-1319
Wachiska Computer Issues/Questions	Linda Sullivan	402-580-8515
Bookkeeper	Nancy Hamer	402-499-1306

Remember Wachiska Audubon When Shopping Online

Every time you order from Amazon, please consider logging into smile.amazon.com. Make Wachiska Audubon Society your permanent designee for a 0.5 percent discount on whatever you purchase at no extra cost to you.

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**.