



*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 40th Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2013*

**JANUARY 2013**

**Volume 22 - Issue 1**

**General Meeting—January 10, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Dick Administration Building, Union College Campus**

## American's Great Migration - Cranes and the Platte River

There is a one-of-a-kind wildlife resource in North America, a prairie river made up of braided channels flowing around shifting sand bars. There are a half a million sandhill cranes and several endangered species including the few remaining whooping cranes that depend on this river. Here, at the heart of one of North America's greatest migration spectacles, Audubon has created a safe haven for the cranes and a place of wonder for generations to come. The January general meeting program will feature photos and a talk on this topic.

**Bill Taddicken** is the director of the Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary near Gibbon, which is dedicated to conserving the Platte River ecosystem for cranes and other wildlife. Over 15,000 visitors experience the Platte River annually at the Center, many coming to witness and enjoy this spectacle during the sandhill crane migration north. Rowe Sanctuary also has the highest incidence of whooping cranes using the river, which are sometimes seen by lucky visitors.

Many challenges have been encountered and successfully met while working for conservation in the agricultural heartland of the United States. Ecotourism has helped make it possible for people to come together to work towards cooperative solutions that benefit both wildlife and people. The mayor of Kearney has

proclaimed his city the "Sandhill Crane Capital of the World," and the city now hosts an annual crane festival. The University of Nebraska Center for Great Plains Studies has included Rowe Sanctuary in the "Top Ten Ecotourism Sites of the Great Plains." Taddicken has worked for the National Audubon Society for 15 years. He holds a B.S. in wildlife biology from the University of Nebraska-Kearney.



**Bill Taddicken**

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, January 10, at 7:00 p.m.** in the lower level auditorium of Union College's Dick Administration Building, 3800 South 48<sup>th</sup> Street, in Lincoln. From 48<sup>th</sup> and Calvert streets, go one block south to the north end of campus. Due to construction on campus, parking can be found along 48<sup>th</sup> Street, near the church on Prescott Avenue, or at the campus gym. At the Dick Building, there is a handicap ramp and an elevator. Look for Audubon signs on the doors. Refreshments will be served following the program. If there are sweatshirts left after the holiday discount, they will be available for sale.

### Calendar

#### January

- 3 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 3 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Population/Environment Committee, Anderson Library, 7:00 p.m.
- 10 General Meeting, "America's Great Migration—Cranes and the Platte River," by Bill Taddicken, Union College Dick Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Field trip to view owls in Iowa, 9:00 a.m. (page 2)
- 14 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m. (note time change henceforth)
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 24 Legislation Committee, DaVinci's at 11<sup>th</sup> & G streets, 6:00 p.m.

### Wachiska Audubon is 40 this Year!

Wachiska Audubon received its charter from the National Audubon Society in February 1973, which makes the chapter 40 this year. We plan to celebrate all year long with special speakers and activities.

Join us at the January general meeting to help kick off this inspiring event with our first program—sandhill cranes.



## Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

### Iowa's Winter Owls with Don Poggensee

Keen powers of observation and hours of dedicated searching are two important ingredients in Don Poggensee's success at finding so many interesting wintering owls over the years near Ida Grove, Iowa. This year will mark his 23rd winter for locating fantastic little northern saw-whet owls in the conifer plantings of Moorehead Park. Most observers would agree that these miniature owls are a real treat to see (unless you're a mouse). Don has generously offered to help us find this species on our January field trip to northwest Iowa. Last winter Don took time to share the Ida Grove owls with visitors from 14 different states. In addition to being an unofficial ambassador for the owls, he is an outstanding photographer who also teaches photography, a former corporate pilot, and a knowledgeable birder. As with most wildlife outings, we can't guarantee an owl encounter; however, Don found four wintering in the park this season and is confident we'll see at least one. On our way home, we'll detour past the Owego Wetlands Complex to look for short-eared owls, another winter visitor that can often be seen in that area during daylight hours. Don observed seven at Owego in mid-December.

Meet at **9:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 13**, on the south side of the State Capitol in Lincoln, 15th and H streets, across from the governor's mansion. From there we'll caravan and carpool 150 miles to Ida Grove. Participants may want to bring a sack lunch, snacks, and beverages or purchase refreshments at rest stops along the way. Bring binoculars and scope if you have them and dress for winter temperatures as we plan to spend some time outside. Our arrival time back in Lincoln will be around 7:30 p.m. There is no fee and the public is welcome. Birders in the Omaha area preferring to join the group en route can contact me to arrange a meeting place. If you have questions, call John at 402-475-7275.



### Think You Know a Lot About Nature?

The Pioneers Park Nature Center is sponsoring the first ever Nature Quiz Show. Grab a co-worker, friend, relative, or stranger off the street to take part on Saturday, January 12, at Misty's, 6235 Havelock Avenue. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m. with competition following at 7:00. Registration is required by January 10. Teams of 3 are \$30. Call 402-441-7895. Prizes and trophies will be awarded to the top three teams. Enjoy free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar while your nature knowledge is tested in ecology, plants, the environment, mammals, science, and more!



### Meet Wachiska's New Board Member

Joining the Board this month is Benjamin Vogt who we met a couple of years ago when he agreed to have his backyard featured on the chapter's Backyard Habitat Tour.



**Benjamin Vogt**

Benjamin has a Ph.D. in English from UNL. He is the Great Plains gardening columnist for Houzz; blogs at The Deep Middle; and owns Monarch Gardens, a prairie garden coaching business. His 1,500-foot native plant garden has been featured on Fine Gardening's blog, in the *Lincoln Journal Star* and the *Omaha World-Herald*. Vogt currently teaches English at both UNL and Doane College. His award-winning poetry, nonfiction, and photographs have appeared in *American Life in Poetry*, *ISLE*, *Orion*, *Subtropics*, and the *Sun*. Benjamin is the author of several books and is currently at work on a prairie memoir about Oklahoma. His main website is <http://bevogt.com>.

Wachiska is looking forward to getting to know this young man and working with him on projects and activities. Welcome, Benjamin!

### Wachiska's New Corresponding Secretary

Beginning January 1, Elizabeth Nelson has agreed to serve as the chapter's corresponding secretary for 2013. She has been a Wachiska member since the mid-80s, serving over the years as conservation committee chair, at-large board member, finance committee member, and assisting with Birdathon fundraising. In the spring of 2012, Elizabeth took over the organization of the birdseed sales.



**Elizabeth Nelson**

Elizabeth has served on other boards, most notably for the Lincoln Children's Museum for six years. She is a long-time member of Open Harvest coop and sings with Lincoln Choral Artists.

Elizabeth is a marketing communications strategist focusing on research, strategic planning, and copy writing. She says, "I love birds, but am not a hardcore birder; I love prairies but can't name many wildflowers. Planning, organizing, and writing are my strongest abilities."

Elizabeth and her husband, Daniel, have two sons—Dylan is serving in the Navy and Wyatt attends Cornell University.



## From the Board ...

by Chuck Francis, P/E Committee Chair

### Three Futures for Great Plains Wildlife

adapted from Paul Olson Great Plains Lecture  
Lincoln, October 17, 2012

Our choices of farming and ranching practices will have a large impact on the future of wildlife in the Great Plains. We have an urgent need for food production and must meet this challenge in spite of declining fossil fuel and water resources and less land available for agriculture. Three paths are possible for us to follow as we decide the future of this region.

The first option is to develop a “buffalo commons,” where large tracts in either private or public ownership are dedicated to grazing ruminants and used for protein production and recreation. A second is to pursue the present course of industrial farming, using ever-larger investments of energy and expensive technology to produce higher crop yields in a fragile environment. The third and most desirable is to embrace an ecological approach to farming that is consistent with the use of renewable resources, that preserves ecosystem services and the environment, and that manages land in a sustainable way. There are compelling reasons why the first two strategies are undesirable and why the ecological approach is essential.

The Buffalo Commons was proposed by Frank and Deborah Popper as an environmentally friendly solution to preserve the plains using a time-honored grazing system with bison and domestic livestock to preserve soil and habitat, as well as the eco-services available from an intact ecosystem. Although this would be tremendous for wildlife and natural resource generation, if managed correctly, it is highly unrealistic with future food needs and the importance of reducing animal protein in human diets.

Further expansion and intensification of farming with more chemical fertilizer and pesticide inputs, along with continued dependence on scarce irrigation, will produce more food in the short term. This is the current course, and an industrial farming strategy is coming up against real constraints. Crucial inputs for intensive farming are becoming scarcer, and large-scale farming is reducing biodiversity and causing environmental decline. In spite of advantages of some desirable practices such as no-till, a continuation of present trends leads to large fields and a homogeneous landscape with reduced wildlife habitat, fewer people, and benefits skewed toward an ever-smaller fraction of residents. Our rural communities and services are disappearing, and there is less diversity of homes for other species.

Just as the prairie has endured, we need to endure beyond meeting immediate needs and design sustainable production systems based on ecological principles that will be resilient to increasing weather extremes and unpredictability. Integrated crop/livestock systems, crop rotations and intercropping, permaculture that integrates trees and other deep-rooted species, and perennial polycultures such as those under development at The Land Institute in Salina, Kansas, provide creative options for farming. Local ownership and management of smaller farms provides a higher degree of local autonomy, opens opportunities

for adding value on farms and in the rural community, and helps build a local food system. Ecosystem services are enhanced by the biodiverse farming strategies listed here.

We need future systems that meet the multiple needs of people today while not reducing the options available to future generations, according to the forward-thinking 1988 Brundtland Report, *Our*

*Common Future*, from the United Nations. These include sustaining production, keeping farms economically viable, preserving rural families and communities, and creating a shared environment that is healthy for people and for wildlife. In an increasingly polarized society, there is need to seek strategies that reduce economic, social, and political differences and find future directions that create healthy and equitable solutions to current challenges. An ecological approach to agriculture is the most resilient option available. We should heed the words of Nobel laureate Rene Dubos, “Trend is not destiny,” and move toward a more environmentally-friendly agriculture.



Photo by Louis Bentzinger

Chuck Francis

### Rivers and Wildlife Celebration



Sandhill crane

The 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Rivers and Wildlife Celebration will be held March 21-24 in Kearney, the “Sandhill Crane Capital of the World.” Organized by Audubon Nebraska, the conference gathers together nature enthusiasts from across the country to witness the migration of over half a million sandhill cranes and millions of waterfowl and other birds through central Nebraska.

Events include guided field trips to local birding hotspots. Saturday’s presentations of live raptors and reptiles are free to the public. In addition, daily visits to river blinds operated by Audubon’s Rowe Sanctuary will be offered for up-close views of cranes roosting on the Platte.

Speakers will present information on a variety of wildlife and conservation topics. Keynote speakers are author, wildlife biologist, and falconer Dan O’Brien; and Noppadol Paothong, staff photographer at the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Beginning in January, registration materials can be found at [nebraskacrane festival.org](http://nebraskacrane festival.org). For more information, including lodging in the area, call or write Audubon Nebraska at 402-797-2301 or [nebraska@audubon.org](mailto:nebraska@audubon.org). Rowe Sanctuary has information about viewing the sandhill crane migration at 308-468-5282 or [rowe.audubon.org](http://rowe.audubon.org).



## Children are the Future

by Chuck and Barb Francis  
Population/Environment Committee

The future of birds in our environment, wildlife in general, and health of the ecosystem is in the hands and minds of our children and grandchildren. There is nothing more important in the long term than our investment in education to orient the next generation toward conservation of wild species, preservation of habitat, and promoting recognition of the ecosystem services on which we all depend.

We invite your active participation and contributions to two educational activities in February. The first is the Wachiska general meeting February 14 with a panel of experts on youth education about the environment. Focused on preschoolers, K-12, and university students, this program will provide details on ways to actively engage your family in recognizing wildlife species, managing your yard and garden to improve their habitat, and promoting discussion and learning about the importance of other species to our own well-being and survival. There will be more details in February's *Babbling Brook*, and we urge you to plan to attend and learn what specific things you can do to promote education. It will be a practical, hands-on, and exciting evening. We will be awarding the Lyman Award to Ruth Staples Laboratory on UNL's East Campus for their dedicated work to outdoor education.

The second Lincoln bird enCOUNTER is planned to coincide with the 2013 Great Backyard Bird Count. This is an educational activity about birds for children to be held at the Anderson Branch and the Walt Branch Libraries on Saturday, February 16, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. We will mentor children through crafts related to birds—they will build pine cone feeders and packets of nesting materials to be hung in their back yards. Children will make their own binoculars to take home. They will also do bird drawings and puzzles of bird species. These activities will help them identify birds in their own gardens, in parks, and in other urban and rural spaces. Special events will include demonstrations and explanations of live raptors, instruction in the use of binoculars to view birds outside, and bird identification games using photos and recorded bird sounds.



Chuck and Barb Francis

(outside the door upstairs if the office is locked) and we will pick them up there. Both of these activities are being organized by Wachiska's population and environment committee with the help of many chapter volunteers.

### We need volunteer mentors to help guide children in these activities in both libraries.

Anyone interested should call us at 402-483-6727. In the spirit of liberalization of donations, we also have formed a new TPAC (Toilet Paper Action Committee) to which you are invited to donate an unlimited number of empty toilet paper rolls for the binocular project. These can be left at the Wachiska office

## Great Backyard Bird Count Goes Global in 2013

*Bird watchers worldwide can take part for the first time*

After 15 years of success in North America, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will open up to the entire world for the first time in 2013. Anyone, from anywhere on Earth, can participate by visiting [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) and reporting the kinds and numbers of birds they see during the 16<sup>th</sup> annual count which will take place February 15-18.



Red-breasted nuthatch

A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, with partner Bird Studies Canada, the four-day count typically receives sightings from tens of thousands of people reporting more than 600 bird species in the U.S. and Canada alone. "This year's count will give us a whole new perspective as sightings pour in from around the globe in real time," said Marshall Iliff at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. "Millions of people encounter birds every day all over the world. Imagine what scientists will learn if each one of us shares observations from our own area!"

During the 2012 count, participants reported 17.4 million bird observations on 104,000 checklists. Snowy owls thrilled many participants when these striking birds of prey ventured south from the Arctic in record numbers. In 2013, scientists predict that U.S. and Canadian bird watchers will see an influx of red-breasted nuthatches and winter finches (such as pine siskins) because of scarce food supplies on their northern wintering grounds.

"The GBBC is an ideal opportunity for young and old to connect with nature by discovering birds and to participate in a huge science project," said Gary Langham, Audubon's chief scientist. "This year we hope people on all seven continents, oceans, and islands will head out into their neighborhoods, rural areas, parks, and wilderness to further our understanding of birds across the hemispheres."

Participating is easy. Simply watch birds for at least 15 minutes at the location of your choice on one or more of the count days. Estimate the number of birds you see for each species you can identify. You'll select your location on a map, answer a few questions, enter your tallies, and then submit your data to share your sightings with others around the world. If you don't have Internet access, Lincoln's Wild Bird Habitat Stores will take your tallies and record them online. Call 402-420-2553 for details.

The global capacity for the count will be powered by eBird, an online checklist program for all of the world's 10,240 bird species. Participants will be able to view what others are seeing on interactive maps, keep their own records, and have their tallies recorded for perpetuity.

The popularity of the Great Backyard Bird Count grows each year and with the new features, participation will be even more exciting.

## New Members

After a rather small list of newcomers last month, we had an abundance of new members in December. If you recognize any of these folks, call and welcome them to Wachiska. Maybe you could offer to pick them up for an event.

Darell Aerts	Christine Harris	Eric Rasgorshek
Mark Awakuni-Swetland	Robert Hillestad	Rebecca Roberts
Erdene Burgess	Jessica Jurzenski	Steven Schwartz
Pam Burnham	Danni Klasek	Carrie Smith
Jennifer Cardwell	Jeffrey Lairmore	Kirsten Stephan
Raymond & Barbara Chollet	Nicholas Lange	Linda Stephen
Richard Claussen	Jessica Laskowski	Kristi Steward
Craig Connolly	Leslie Levy	Mary Strand
Debra Dahab	Robert Lichtenberg	Linda Sullivan
Jen Davidson	Tammy Lofing	Katherine Walter
Nancy Fiedler	Edward Long	Norton Warner, Sr.
Holly Foster	Scott McKinney	Thomas Wheeler
Monica Fowler	Ken Meier	Marcia White
Daniel Garrett	Jane Moody	Rodney Whitehead
Sara Gilliam	Jennifer Morava	David Wiebe
Barbara Gray	Cindy Morris	Denise Wiemer
Shedera Gropp	Maureen Ose	M. S. Windle
Richard Hargesheimer	Michael Ostrom	Terry Wittler
	Reynold Peterson	David Woll
	Glenda Plettner-Nelson	Tom Yaussi

Dan Staehr joined us as a Friend of Wachiska.

Kevin Miller transferred into Wachiska from another chapter.

## TNR Program for Feral Cats at UNL Campus

*by John Carlini*

As much as I value information published by American Bird Conservancy, a recent guest editorial would not accurately describe the Trap/Neuter/Release (TNR) program recently implemented in the Lincoln area. In fact, the opposite is true for the Husker Cats TNR program on UNL's downtown campus.

Several years ago that campus was plagued with cats and kittens running around and the alarming absence of squirrels and rabbits. Since then the Humane Society has funded the sterilization of two cats/week, and the Husker Cats sterilization program has exceeded everyone's expectations and returned only healthy cats to the colony. They expanded their target radius area, kittens were adopted out, and the remaining adults will be regularly fed until they eventually die out. This has eliminated their taste for the squirrel population which is now rebounding nicely.

TNR programs are a great way to protect wildlife when kitties are dumped in wild habitat. The alternative (killing) is not only inhumane but ultimately ends up opening the territory to other ferals. It's an unfortunate problem created by irresponsible humans, but fortunately it can be solved by responsible humans. We should support properly-run TNR programs when possible.

## "Thank You" from Audubon's President

Happy Thanksgiving. Together we achieved some remarkable things this year. I'm thankful to you—bird lovers and Audubon supporters—for making them happen.



**David Yarnold**

- You joined with fellow conservationists to submit more than 400,000 public comments in favor of protecting Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve, and we are now just weeks away from protecting 11 million acres of critical bird habitat, including the vital Teshekpuk Lake area.
- You called your representatives and supported our lobbying efforts as we worked to achieve passage of the RESTORE Act, a victory that will send billions of dollars in BP penalties to Gulf Coast restoration.
- Your generous contributions made it possible for us to be a voice for birds on key issues like wind energy, helping ensure safer guidelines were passed to minimize bird strikes while decreasing our dependence on fossil fuels.

It's been a good year for birds, but 2013 needs to be an even better one. Rising temperatures are already causing birds to shift their winter ranges, throwing entire ecosystems out of balance. Together we've been speaking up for birds—and for ecosystems—for more than a century.

To each and every one of you who has read our emails, sent a message to your elected officials, donated to our campaigns, liked us on Facebook, signed the American Eagle Compact, or gone birding this year—thank you.

David Yarnold  
President & CEO  
National Audubon Society

## WasteCap Nebraska's Recycling Guidebook

WasteCap Nebraska introduces their new On-line Recycling Guidebook, now featuring recycling locations from every county in Nebraska. WasteCap Nebraska has partnered with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to reach every business and organization in Nebraska that offers recycling programs of all kinds.

Visit the Recycling Guidebook at [www.wastecapne.org/recycling/](http://www.wastecapne.org/recycling/). If you would like to submit an entry for the Guidebook, email [communications@wastecapne.org](mailto:communications@wastecapne.org) for more information.

# W.A.R.B.L.E.R

(Wachiska Audubon Readers' Bulletins, Letters, and Environmental Reports)

## New E-address for Wachiska

Effective immediately, Wachiska has a new email address. Please change your address book to show the following: [office@wachiskaaudubon.org](mailto:office@wachiskaaudubon.org) (be sure to note the double "aa"). The old address will forward messages for a time.

## Chapter Annual Report Approved

"Thanks very much [for receipt of your annual recertification report required of each chapter.] Your baseline funding [\$2,772.50] will be forthcoming in the next few weeks."  
Rebecca Richter, National Audubon Society

*Editor's Note: Currently this is the extent of the monetary support our chapter receives from NAS. This has been the amount we've been allocated for several years; before that, the formula enabled Wachiska to receive around \$5,000-\$6,000 annually from the dues share. It is because of this drastic reduction that the Friends of Wachiska membership category was instituted. There were nearly 200 Friends at the end of 2012.*

## Thanks for Saving Calendars

A huge THANK YOU to all the Wachiska members who generously shared their calendars and picture magazines with our students here at Lancaster County Youth Services. You gifted us with a veritable flood of gorgeous pictures of nature, the species which weave the rich fabric of life, works of art, and just plain fun stuff (I loved the sock monkeys)!

My favorite memory: One of my students who dreams of travel spent hours going through the pictures, enthralled. He peppered me with questions. He learned a lot and developed quite a "bucket list" of places to go. In fact, each time we make bookmarks, the tremendous variety of species and habitats engender lots of questions from the students. You have helped create many teachable moments.

For now, we are well-supplied with pictures for bookmarks, collages, and other projects. But when we run low, I hope I can call on you again. Thank you once more for your kindness and generosity!

Linda Geisert  
Pathfinder Program, Lancaster County Youth Services

## Backyard Habitat Tour

Wachiska's Backyard Habitat Tour committee is looking for one more garden for next year's tour on June 16. We are concentrating on the area south of South Street. Call Anne Senkbeil at 402-423-6524 with any suggestions. We love to have a variety of spaces and plants.

## A Well-kept Secret?

I wanted to give you a heads up that I will be retiring the end of this month and direct you to send information about your meetings and special outings to [my successor]. I wish you continued enthusiasm and success in your work with Wachiska, a wonderful group. You do such interesting things. I hope you're not a well-kept secret in Lincoln. I think your group is fantastic. And, oh yes, I love the Backyard Habitat Tour! I will plan to come for that next year. Thanks, Arlys, for helping any time and many times...

Rhonda Stansberry  
*Omaha World-Herald*

## Grateful Members All Over the Country

I got the December issue of *The Babbling Brook* today. It is a wonderful issue and should make the chapter proud. Wachiska has still got it!:

- \*Accomplished speakers on timely topics for monthly meetings
- \*Dedication to prairie restoration and conservation
- \*Leader recognition (Ernie)
- \*Sightings of winter finches from the Pacific Northwest
- \*Birdathon!
- \*Energy conservation
- \*Prairie education for grade schoolers
- \*A great WARBLER column

Thank you so much, Arlys, for your efforts and your facilitation of all these activities and accomplishments. You may sometimes feel overwhelmed with all that's going on and with attending to your parents. For all that, the results are impressive. Thanks so much for all you do.

Mort Stelling  
Seattle

PS - A mission is what an organization intends to accomplish every day. A vision is what the organization hopes to achieve some day. "To share the experience and love of nature—that life may flourish in all its natural diversity." *The Babbling Brook* proves this is what Wachiska is actually doing, every day! It is Wachiska's Mission.



"A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows."

- St. Francis of Assisi

## 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 Nelson**

440 N 8<sup>th</sup> 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://bennelson.senate.gov/contact.me.cfm>

### **Senator Mike Johanns**

100 Centennial Mall N Rm 294, Lincoln NE 68508-3803  
Lincoln phone: 402-476-1400 Fax: 402-476-0605  
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-4224 Fax: 202-228-0436  
E-mail: [mike\\_johanns@johanns.senate.gov](mailto:mike_johanns@johanns.senate.gov)

### **Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (1<sup>st</sup> District)**

301 S 13<sup>th</sup> 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 Lee Terry (2<sup>nd</sup> District)**

11717 Burt St Ste 106, Omaha NE 68154  
Omaha phone: 402-397-9944  
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4155 Fax: 202-226-5452  
E-mail at website: <http://leeterry.house.gov/>

### **Congressman Adrian Smith (3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Dave Heineman**

Capitol Bldg, PO Box 94848, Lincoln NE 68509-4848  
Phone: 402-471-2244 Fax: 402-471-6031  
E-mail: [dave.heineman@nebraska.gov](mailto:dave.heineman@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 10<sup>th</sup> St Rm 110, Lincoln NE 68508  
Phone: 402-441-7447 Fax: 402-441-6301  
E-mail: [commish@lancaster.ne.gov](mailto:commish@lancaster.ne.gov)

### **Mayor Chris Beutler**

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10<sup>th</sup> St Rm 208, Lincoln NE 68508-2828  
Phone: 402-441-7511 Fax: 402-441-7120  
E-mail: [mayor@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:mayor@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lincoln City Council**

402-441-7515  
E-mail: [council@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:council@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lincoln Journal Star**

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

## **Membership**

Wachiska offers two choices of membership. Local membership, called Friends of Wachiska, includes receiving *The Babbling Brook*, our chapter's monthly newsletter. It also includes voting privileges and attendance at monthly meetings, programs, and field trips. All membership dues from a local membership stay with Wachiska to support chapter activities such as prairie preservation and education.

Membership in the National Audubon Society also includes membership in our local chapter, Wachiska. You will receive *Audubon* magazine from National Audubon along with *The Babbling Brook*.

### **Friends of Wachiska (local membership)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Recruited by \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 Individual/Friend

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Sustainer

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Families

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Patron

Make checks payable to **Wachiska Audubon Society**. All funds remain with our local chapter. Mail to:

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

As a conservation organization, our goal is to use our natural resources wisely. Materials and postage are considerable, and we do not want to waste them. When your address changes or if you are receiving *The Babbling Brook* and would rather not get it, please notify us at [office@wachiskaaudubon.org](mailto:office@wachiskaaudubon.org) or 402-486-4846.

### **OR**

### **National Membership in National Audubon Society**

Dues from new (introductory) memberships and for first-time gifts will be returned to Wachiska if this coupon is used:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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. Information changes 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**.