



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 48th Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2021

APRIL 2021

Volume 30 - Issue 4

Wachiska Program — Thursday, April 8, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom web conference (registration required)

Link to register: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAvfuGoqTssE9I_TKR6enwyeE8DW5-5UAeU

Fun Facts About Trees

by Justin Evertson, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and Nebraska Forest Service

Nebraska was rightly known for a long time as the tree planter's state. Early settlers were challenged to plant trees to improve their land claims, and they did just that. Every community that sprang up on the Nebraska prairie quickly became cloaked in a "community forest" as people earnestly went about planting trees for the many comforts they provided (and still do). During the Dust Bowl years of the 1930s, the Prairie States Forestry Project put trees front and center in efforts to conserve soil. Millions of trees were planted in thousands of miles of shelterbelts in Nebraska. Thanks to the efforts of J. Sterling Morton and others, Nebraska became known as the home of Arbor Day with all the tree enthusiasm such a holiday elicits.



Justin Evertson
Justin Evertson

Arbor Day got its start thanks in large part to Morton's belief that Nebraska's treeless prairies were found wanting and that the land would be greatly improved with the planting of trees. Although we can look back now with appropriate discomfort at the idea that Nebraska's prairies were an inferior land form, it was still a fair longing by early settlers to have more trees around them; in fact, trees were critical in helping to make life on the Great Plains more tolerable as they provided shade and wind protection, emotional comfort, beauty, food, and lumber.

Today we also add in other benefits like lower utility costs and higher property values; for me, one of the best things trees do is provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife, especially birds.

Nebraska was once mostly a fantastic prairie from corner to corner and we now rightly celebrate that prairie and work hard to conserve and expand the few remaining remnants. But Nebraska was also home to important trees, serving as a crossroads of species moving into and out of the region for millennia. This presentation will honor the month of Arbor Day by taking a fun look at trees in Nebraska, while delving into both the good and the bad of our tree-planting efforts.

Justin Evertson has been employed at UNL since 1990 working with both the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA) and the Nebraska Forest Service (NFS). He is the green infrastructure coordinator for the Community Landscapes and Forest Health Bureau of NFS where he oversees programs that provide funding, technical assistance, and educational outreach for sustainable landscape enhancements in communities across the state. Justin earned his architecture and community and regional planning degrees from UNL. He grew up on a farm in western Kimball County where he learned an appreciation for shortgrass prairie and Nebraska's wide-open spaces. Justin is passionate about trees, the native landscape, biodiversity, and sustainable landscape development. He lives in Waverly where he plants many trees and works to increase the biodiversity and sustainability of landscapes in the community.

Calendar

April

- 5 Education Committee via Zoom, 6:00 p.m.
- 8 General Meeting via Zoom, "Fun Facts About Trees," by Justin Evertson, 7:00 p.m. (**NOTE required registration**)
- 12 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 5:30 p.m.
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 20 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
- 22 Legislation Committee via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

Join Wachiska for this Zoom presentation at **7:00 p.m.** on **Thursday, April 8**. This free public program is available to those who register at https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAvfuGoqTssE9I_TKR6enwyeE8DW5-5UAeU. Copy and paste this link into your browser or go to Wachiska's website after April 1 and click on the link directly from the notice to register. You will then receive a confirmation with the meeting number and password. Keep that email, and a few minutes before the program is to begin, click on that confirmation and you'll be invited into the meeting. Invite others to take part as well.

Lammergeyer

by Richard Peterson

The lammergeyer is a one-off in the bird world. *Gypaetus barbatus* (Linnaeus, 1758) is also called the bearded vulture. It's the only species in the *Gypaetus* genus and is at the very end of a branch on the vulture family tree. Being the only known animal whose diet is almost exclusively bone marrow, this species is sometimes referred to as ossifrage (bone breaker). It lives and breeds in the high mountains in southern Europe, the Caucasus, Africa, the Indian subcontinent, and Tibet, and is almost entirely associated with mountains with plentiful cliffs, crags, and precipices.



Like other vultures it's a scavenger feeding on the remains of dead animals. Unlike most vultures, it does not have a bald head. Its head is small, considering the size of the rest of its body, while its neck is thick and powerful. Lammergeyers grow up to 40 inches long, have a wingspan of over nine feet, and weigh up to 17 pounds. Females are slightly larger than males. Populations do not migrate.

The lammergeyer will sometimes return months later to search out the remaining bones and marrow of dead animals. The acid level in this vulture's stomach has been estimated to be pH 1 (think battery acid). Large bones can be broken down and digested in about 24 hours.

The lammergeyer can swallow whole or bite through a lamb's femur, the largest of the leg bones. Bones too large to be swallowed are carried high aloft in flight, then dropped on the rocks below. They can fly with bones up to four inches in diameter and weighing more than eight pounds. After dropping the bone, they will spiral and glide down to inspect the breakage, then feed on any suitable pieces of bone or bits of marrow that have been exposed. If not satisfied, they will carry the bone aloft again and give it another drop.

The territorial and breeding display of this vulture is spectacular, featuring exposed talons and shrill whistles, while tumbling and spiraling through the air. The pair regularly lock feet and fall out of the sky together for some distance. Nests are built in caves and on ledges and rock outcrops or in caves in sheer rock walls to make it difficult for nest predators. The nest is a massive pile of sticks up to eight feet in diameter and three feet deep. These birds usually lay one or two eggs in mid-winter that hatch at the beginning of spring. They have a mean life span of 21 years and can live up to 45 years in captivity.

The conservation status of the lammergeyer is nearly threatened. In parts of the Ethiopian Highlands, bearded vultures have adapted and survive by living largely off human garbage.

Birdathon 2021 is About to Begin

by Tim Knott

Wachiska Audubon's 33rd annual Birdathon begins in early April when you receive your Birdathon letter. This is Wachiska's main fundraising event of the year. The letter will report our successes of the past year and the challenges facing the coming year. Most importantly, it will ask for your support again to keep our chapter moving forward.

These funds pay for our office expenses and salary of the office administrator. They also enable us to pay our rent and keep the lights on, help to cover property taxes, insurance, postage, and computer maintenance. The Birdathon makes possible our critically important work in the state legislature and pays for our education programs, conservation work with habitat protection, and much more.

So, when you receive your letter from Wachiska this month, please send in your check or donate online. You can also participate on Wachiska's behalf during Give to Lincoln Day which will be Tuesday, May 25. For more information on these two events, see the description article on page 5. Thank you for your interest and support. Wachiska is counting on you.

Garage Sale

Coming this Spring

It's finally time to venture out and get offerings of garage



sale stuff gathered together and organized! Plans are for a May or June date which will be announced next month. For now, get your unwanted items together, cleaned up, priced, and set aside in anticipation of a spring sale, if you'd like to donate them to Wachiska. For larger items, please email Elizabeth at enelson555@gmail.com to make arrangements for delivery.

Celebrate Urban Birds

Effervescent, iridescent, and gregarious, common grackles haunt a variety of landscapes across a large swath of North America. During breeding season, a male will point his bill straight to the sky (known as the "head-held-up display" in response to being approached by another male. Visit celebrateurbanbirds.org to learn more about birds that are common in cities.

Happy Birthday to J. J. this Month

John James Audubon would have celebrated his 236th birthday on April 26 if he were still around! He left quite a legacy!!

Wachiska Hires Prairie Legacy for Conservation Easement Inspections

by Stu Luttich, Ross Scott, and Elizabeth Nelson

Over the past several years Wachiska Audubon has been working diligently to upgrade our Prairie Habitat Management Program with the ultimate goal of hiring a prairie habitat manager.

Toward this end, Wachiska applied for grant funding from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) in September 2020 for the contract employment of a prairie habitat manager. Recently we learned that Wachiska was not awarded grant funding. There has been significant controversy this year about changes within the NET resulting in many programs which, in past years would have been strongly considered for grant funding, not receiving funding. We do plan to reapply during the 2021-22 grant cycle. Regardless, Wachiska is determined to move ahead with our updated Prairie Habitat Management Program although we will do so in smaller bites as we pursue other funding options.

As a result, the conservation committee has considered other approaches as we continue toward our goal. As we do have some funds available, the committee identified a key priority as the need to continually monitor conservation easements held by Wachiska and to expand and improve reporting to the landowners. These are properties not owned by the chapter but for which, many years ago, Wachiska accepted the responsibility of monitoring the easements attached to these prairies. This responsibility remains a high priority for our organization and a key part of our Prairie Habitat Management Program.

With this understanding, the committee recommended and the Board approved funding a one-year contract with Prairie Legacy, Inc., a botanical consulting service headed by long-time Wachiska partner, Dr. Kay Kottas, for the purpose of inspecting and examining the ecological status and condition of the 23 properties for which Wachiska is the designated conservation easement monitor. The contract stipulates that Prairie Legacy will inspect these prairies twice during 2021 and advise whether prairie and land management actions are consistent with the terms of the respective conservation easements, and to provide the committee and ultimately the landowners with suggestions and recommendations for improvements in native prairie management on the respective properties.

The Wachiska Audubon Society and our various committees continue to raise money, explore grant opportunities, and make progress on our Prairie Habitat Management Program. We are committed to protecting and preserving these remaining parcels of endangered ecosystems so important to the birds, flora, and other wildlife of the Great Plains region.

Note from Wachiska members:

"Thank you for your great work in preserving and managing prairies in Southeast Nebraska." — Tom and Gretchen P.

Turning a Golf Course into a Bird Haven in Nevada

(from National Audubon's website)

Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation, in partnership with Lahontan Audubon Society and AmeriCorps, are restoring vital wetland habitat in a decommissioned golf course in Reno, Nevada. Bird numbers have been declining in the Truckee Meadows valley since the 1970s, when agricultural and urban projects replaced a vast network of wetlands in the area and drove birds like black-headed grosbeaks and willow flycatchers out. The former Rosewood Lakes Golf Course sits on one of the last vestiges of the disappearing wetlands and has been overrun by invasive plants like salt cedar and tall whitetop.

Since the project began in late 2019, the project's team has already removed 48 acres of weeds and invasive species, planted 450 native plants, and enhanced approximately 1.85 miles of trails with interpretive signage and walkways for bird viewing, outdoor fieldtrips, and community science projects. Over the coming months, members of Lahontan Audubon will help monitor the site to evaluate how and when the birds recolonize the area.

Support Wachiska and the Environment with a HyVee Bag

by Theresa Pella, President

For the second time in a year, Wachiska Audubon Society was selected as the beneficiary in the HyVee Reusable Bag Program that supports local nonprofits. The program, which launched in November 2019, facilitates community support with HyVee's goal to make a positive difference.



As COVID-19 vaccines become more common and businesses more open, HyVee is once again accepting reusable bags. During the month of April, for every \$2.50 purchase of these special bags at the **HyVee store located at 7151 Stacy Lane, Wachiska** will receive a \$1 donation (unless otherwise directed by the customer on the giving tag). The bags are located at the front of the store near the checkout counters.

If you shop at a different HyVee and you see the bags, just let the checkout clerk know you'd like your \$1 donation to go to Wachiska. To learn more about this program, please visit <https://hy-vee.bags4mycause.com/faqs/>.

"Hope is a waking dream." — Aristotle

Book Encourages Birding for Mental Wellness

edited from article by Amelia Langas in Audubon Magazine

Joe Harkness, a blogger and teacher in England, experienced a “fallout” of birds which changed his mental outlook. This phenomenon occurs when winds funnel migrating species to shore where they hit a wall of rain and are forced from the sky. This climatic moment led Harkness to writing a blog called *Bird Therapy*, with his first post documenting the awe-inspiring event and the positivity he felt through birding. After more revelations and entries, he spun the series into a book of the same title.

Since he was young, Harkness has struggled with his mental health, self-medicating by turning to drugs and alcohol. After suffering a breakdown in 2013, he took time off work to care for himself and began spending more time outside, particularly watching birds. “Because I’ve been trapped by my mental health for so long, I found their freedom and their majesty quite enchanting. I wanted to experience that feeling again, so I decided to take more interest in what was around me bird-wise when I was outside.”

Harkness was familiar with birding, but he hadn’t developed his own appreciation for birds. Once he began his recovery, he began to take a deeper interest. A friend encouraged him to write a book. He was not an author but realized it meant having a broader platform to help others facing similar struggles. Using his semi-weekly entries as the bones of the manuscript, Harkness paired up with an editor.

In the book, which caters to beginners, Harkness describes his own birding experiences and gives advice for getting the most out of the activity. His suggestions include:

- Consider finding yourself a local birdwatching patch. The consistency and security that visiting a regular patch provides can also help you to connect with yourself and with nature.
- Investigate local bird groups or clubs, as they can widen your local birdwatching network with others who share your interest.
- Keep and submit your bird records as they can help to map local and national data trends, as well as potentially encouraging others to monitor and visit different areas.
- Familiarize yourself with the natural sounds of your bird community, either in your own garden or in a place you visit often.
- Explore different places in different weather conditions as they alter your local avifauna.

With tips like these at the end of most chapters, it’s clear that Harkness didn’t just write *Bird Therapy* to help himself. By sharing his experiences, he hopes the book will guide those who’ve had similar downturns to embrace nature as a form of self-care. “I think that it’s going to do a lot of good,” he says, “even though I didn’t allow myself to think that for a long time.”

Bird Therapy, by Joe Harkness, 272 pages, \$13.48

Backyard Birding as a Hobby

by Hermann Samano at porch.com

Throughout 2020 and 2021, social distancing considerably limited our options for entertainment and hobbies. Sheltering in place has definitely expanded our appreciation for **nature and creative pastimes**. It’s no surprise that many people have turned to backyard birding as a free way to relax, get fresh air, and add enjoyment to their days.

Backyard birding is an activity suitable for people of all ages and physical abilities. It is also **completely free and can be done anywhere**. All you need to do is go outside with the intention of watching the



Tree Swallow

birds. You don’t even need a backyard—a simple window bird feeder is a great way to attract birds into view for you to enjoy.

With some time, a guide book, and a method of tracking, such as a simple notebook, you can get acquainted with the unique characteristics and habits of your local wildlife all year round.

Birdwatching 101: Beginning Your Backyard Birding Adventure

Before you begin your new adventures in backyard birding, it’s important to remember that birdwatching is wildlife appreciation. While this hobby should be fun, it is even more important that it is a pastime based on the preservation of the species. Birdwatching should never cause harm or stress to the birds, even in your own backyard. Structures such as decks, gazebos, and porches offer you a perch to observe without disrupting the birds.

Staying still and quiet will also keep the birds calm and relaxed, making it more likely that they will get close to you. Another technique for blending in is to wear camouflage or muted colors, never white, while you are birding.

Birders should always give back more than they take and never leave traces of their presence where they are birdwatching.

Reviewing the American Birding Association Code of Ethics is a great place to learn more.

Birdwatching from Home If You Don’t Have a Backyard

If you don’t have a yard, no problem! You can create a **sanctuary from your apartment window that’s appealing for birds to visit**. In fact, the higher up you are, the more likely you are to spot migrations of birds of prey like eagles, falcons, and hawks as they pass over your city.

If you are a little closer to the ground, installing a window feeder or a **squirrel-proof bird feeder on your balcony** could make a pleasant pitstop for the birds in your neighborhood.

2021 Birdathon and Give to Lincoln Day Frequently Asked Questions

by Theresa Pella, President

This time of year, terms and acronyms such as Birdathon, GTLD, and LCF appear in articles and letters and can be confusing. The following FAQs are intended to help make things clearer.

1. Why do Birdathon and Give to Lincoln Day (GTLD) occur at the same time?
Wachiska's Birdathon coincides with the annual migration and has existed for over 30 years as the primary fundraiser for the annual operating budget. A few years ago, when the Lincoln Community Foundation (LCF) initiated its May GTLD fundraiser for local nonprofits, Wachiska decided to participate because of the possibility of receiving match funds that would boost the power of donations. This year, the challenge match fund totals \$500,000. The timing of the two events is just a coincidence. This year GTLD will be Tuesday, May 25th.

2. What's the difference between the two?
Birdathon accepts donation at any time, kicking off each year in April when letters are mailed. Donors can write a check to **Wachiska Audubon Society** and mail or drop it off at the Wachiska office in the Birdathon envelope. Birdathon donations can also be made online via the *Donate* link in the top right corner on Wachiska's website, <https://www.wachiskaaudubon.org/>.

Give to Lincoln Day donations are accepted only during the month of May through the 25th. Checks must be payable to **Lincoln Community Foundation** (with Wachiska Audubon noted on the memo line) and can be mailed or dropped off at Wachiska's office until May 25th or mailed to the LCF office by May 18th. Donations may also be made directly on the LCF's website at www.givetolincoln.com. All donations, regardless of the method, have a 2.9 percent processing fee. Credit card donations also have a 30-cent transaction fee. Giving during GTLD helps Wachiska increase its matched portion from the Foundation. In 2020, Wachiska received approximately \$1,300 from the match fund as a result of GTLD donations!

Whether you contribute through Birdathon or GTLD, your donation is vital to the continued operation of Wachiska Audubon by supporting staff, office expenses, and committee work.

3. I'm currently a Wachiska Friend and my membership is due for renewal during this time. How can I be sure my renewal doesn't get mixed up with the two fundraising events?
To ensure your check is correctly credited, note that the purpose is membership and include the Friends renewal letter with the check. You may also join as a Friend or renew online via the *Join/Renew* link on the upper left side of the homepage. If you are making both a Friend

donation and a Birdathon donation, it is extremely helpful if you write separate checks or clearly detail how to allocate the donation. Online, you'll do separate transactions as described above.

4. If I'm not a Friend, will a Birdathon or GTLD donation give me that status?
Wachiska loves its Friends and all its donors! Making a separate commitment through a financial donation to become a Friend provides full participation in activities, including voting; only Friends can receive a printed, mailed copy of our newsletter, *The Babbling Brook*.
5. What else should I know?
If you're bringing something to the Wachiska office, it is staffed weekday afternoons. It's always good to call first to be sure someone is in the office, 402-486-4846.

Results of the Spring Birdseed Sale

by Cathy Shaner

Thanks to Dave Barnhouse, Tom Davlin, and Tim Hinkle for helping Lana Novak and Cathy Shaner with sorting and loading seed into customers' vehicles during the February birdseed sale. Elizabeth and Daniel Nelson again provided their garages for this easy transfer of 20- and 50-pound bags of birdseed. A total of \$3,733.20 of seed was sold (before expenses). Our sale profit was \$1,409.04 plus \$267 in donations. Thanks to all!

A Very Short Book Review

by Marilyn McNabb

Busy birder Moni Usasz loaned me her copy of *The Lost Words*, an oversized (but not overpriced) book of gorgeous watercolor paintings and musical and clever poems about 20 of the birds, plants, and animals that were "lost words" in the most recent edition of the Oxford Junior Dictionary.

Included were acorn, dandelion, fern, heron, kingfisher, otter, starling, willow, and wren. The artist's purpose was to bring back children's awareness of the lost words and the complexity of realities of the natural world around each one.

Although some are more English than Nebraskan, I can't imagine that any child or adult who appreciates the natural world wouldn't be delighted with this beautiful book.

Birds Can Dance

Check out this 2.5-minute video of various species of birds dancing. All ages will get enjoyment out of this one!

<https://groups.io/g/NEBirds/attachment/39494/0/Les%20oiseaux%20dansent%20.%20%2005%2001%20%20%202021.MP4>

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

State of the world getting you down? Here's a quick, painless, no-cost, non-addictive remedy: go to [Audubon.org](https://www.audubon.org) and then to "Top Wins for Birds in 2030." It's impressive. For example;

"The Vermont General Assembly passed the Global Warming Solutions Act into law last fall. The legislation sets carbon pollution reduction targets, requires the development of a state plan to achieve those goals and includes natural climate solutions in that plan and creates an enforcement provision for the public to sue the state for non-compliance with implementing that plan. Audubon Vermont joined together with a broad coalition of organizations across the environmental, housing, social services, and energy sectors to help advance the bill."

You may have noticed: the Nebraska Legislature has not taken this step—well, actually, they haven't really thought about it much.

The city of Lincoln, on the other hand, is taking up the challenge. By the time you are reading this, I expect the City Council will have amended the 2021-2027 Climate Action Plan into the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Wachiska will have gone on record as supporting that action. You might consider taking a little time and looking at the plan at lincoln.ne.gov/resilient.

The initiatives are for energy; transportation; the city economy; safety, especially from flooding and extreme heat; growing food locally; natural solutions; reduction of waste; and engagement of Lincolniters to turn these 30 pages of 120 initiative ideas into reality.

Here are some of the initiatives (#84-111) under Maximize Natural Climate Solutions, skipping the ones on trees.

- 99 -- Continue to support prairie restoration and protection of natural resources
- 100 -- Continue supporting native plantings on municipal and development projects
- 101 -- Reduce irrigation needs by incentivizing conservation practices and native plantings
- 103 -- Expand native prairie plantings through strategies such as requiring the addition of native prairie plantings to detention ponds and runoff areas
- 102 -- Encourage conversion of lawns to native grasses, vegetable gardens, and/or drought-tolerant landscaping

Turning lawns into native grasses, prairie flowers, and food? That sounds like one of the themes in Kay Kottas's terrific Wachiska March program. It was recorded and can be found on Wachiska's website. Dr. Kottas heads Prairie Legacy, a business selling local ecotype plants and seed. She is a botanist, horticulturalist, and prairie ecologist who has helped Wachiska with prairie inspections.

This spring we are hoping to see federal government action on climate. National Audubon supports economy-wide solutions including placing a fee on carbon emissions, which would require businesses to pay for each metric ton of carbon emitted. Revenues could be invested in clean energy innovation, returned to consumers, or put to any number of productive uses.

Announcements

The March edition of the Center for Grassland Studies newsletter is now available at <https://grassland.unl.edu/grassland-studies-newsletters>. Articles include "Stretching Prairie Remnant" by Dr. Kay Kottas, president of Prairie Legacy, Inc., Western, Nebraska. Be sure to listen to the accompanying podcast interview found at <https://grassland.unl.edu/center-grassland-studies-podcast-stretching-prairie-remnant-kay-kottas>.

Available March 23 will be "Spring Prescribed Burning Season," a podcast interview with Ed Hubbs, habitat and private lands manager at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center in Denton. Ed has a lot of great information to share about the planning and execution of prescribed burns, as well as plant and animal responses to them. You'll find the interview at <https://grassland.unl.edu/tags/center-grassland-studies-podcast>.

Our Members Respond . . .

Q: Is it a bad idea to put bird feeders in the same space as a pollinator garden?

— Richard P.

Jason "the Birdnerd" St. Sauver at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center near Denton replies:

A: Good question. It depends a bit on your goal. We here at Audubon think it is a great idea as many birds—and especially those with chicks in a nest nearby—will need to eat insects. So having a feeder nearby means the area would be a great feeding source for many birds. If your goal is more to provide habitat for pollinators to NOT be eaten by birds, you may want to keep feeders a bit farther apart. But ultimately, native plants that are good for pollinators are great for birds and having them together or nearby is usually a great plan.

"Wachiska Friends, at age of almost 93, I'm having to back off certain things. Since I can no longer physically participate even without the pandemic, and reading the newsletter is difficult with a sight problem, I am choosing to drop my membership; however, I am enclosing a gift of gratitude for your work and the friendship of several years. . . . Please accept this in the interest of the prairies. Thank you SO much."

—Virginia M.

Public Officials

President Joe Biden

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: 308-633-6333
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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The Babbling Brook is printed on recycled and recyclable paper.

Women and Birds in Nebraska

The Bird Conservancy of the Rockies gathered together people who worked with **Marian Langan** and **Mary Bomberger Brown**, including Marian's daughter, and they talked about these remarkable women who dedicated their lives and careers to nature, particularly birds in Nebraska. The March 18 recorded video was narrated by Delanie Bruce, Wachiska's November 2020 program speaker from the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, which can be found on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvdrpTEfMRk>.

Wachiska Audubon Society

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WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2021

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Vice President	*Marilyn McNabb
Recording Secretary	*Linda Plock
Treasurer	*Mary Rogge
Past President	*Stu Luttich

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Director at Large	*Terry Stentz
Director at Large	*Dave Titterington
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Population/EnvironmentMary King *Patty Spitzer
Publicity/Public RelationsArlys Reitan
Donor DevelopmentElizabeth Nelson
Executive Director Audubon Nebraska. .	*Kristal Stoner

*Denotes Board member

For contact information of officers and committee chairs, call the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846.

April is National Native Plant Month

National Audubon is a sponsor of this observance along with Doug Tallamy, well-known author on this topic. Find more at <https://www.portman.senate.gov/index.php/newsroom/press-releases/portman-hirono-introduce-resolution-designating-april-2021-national-native>.



Remember Wachiska Audubon When Shopping Online

Every time you order from Amazon, consider logging into smile.amazon.com. Make Wachiska Audubon Society your permanent designee for a 0.5 percent discount on all purchases 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**.

"It is Spring again. The Earth is like a child that knows poems by heart."

— Ranier Marie Rilke

"Nothing happens to anybody which he is not fitted by nature to bear."

— Marcus Aurelius