



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

JUNE 2020

Volume 29 - Issue 6

Wachiska Program — Thursday, June 11, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom web conference (registration required)

Native Plants are for the Birds!

by Jason St. Sauver

This fun and informal Zoom presentation will focus on the importance of growing native plants for local birds. Led by Jason “the Birdnerd” St. Sauver, director of education and outreach with Audubon Nebraska, and Cacey Wilken, Marian Langan Conservation Education Young Leader from Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, the program will provide information on recent changes and improvements to Spring Creek Prairie and give advice on great native plants, places to find them, and ways to plant them to bring more amazing birds to your own backyard and neighborhood. Knowing Jason, there may even be some birds songs involved—even virtually!



Jason St. Sauver



Cacey Wilken

In the United States, a native plant is defined as one that was naturally found in a particular area before European settlement. Native plants are the foundation of a region's biodiversity, providing essential food sources and shelter for birds, especially those threatened by the changing climate. Since native plants are adapted to local soil and precipitation conditions, they generally

require less upkeep, therefore helping the environment and saving you time, water, and money. The key to getting started is picking the right plants for your area.

The best results for your area have been hand-selected by Audubon experts in your region. They are important bird resources that are relatively easy to grow and are available at native plant nurseries. Filter your results by types of plants, resources, and the bird families you'd like to attract or search for specific plant names. Add plants to your list by selecting the checkbox below each plant profile. Then click the orange "get your plant list" button below to receive an emailed list.

Bring birds to your home today by growing native plants. With Audubon's Native Plant database, you can find the best plants for the birds in your area. Growing bird-friendly plants will attract and protect the birds you love while making your space beautiful, easy to care for, and better for the environment. Explore all of our native plant resources, including factsheets on creating a native plant garden and how it can save you money.

The National Audubon website lists native plants for your zip code area along with scientific names, photos of each, descriptions, sun requirements, and bird species each plant may attract. For the Lincoln area there are 67 plants recommended.

For more information on planting for birds, use this link:
<https://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds>.

REGISTRATION IN REQUIRED FOR THIS PROGRAM (see above).

Calendar

June

- 8 Conservation Committee, 5:30 p.m. via teleconference (check with chairman)
- 11 General Meeting via Zoom teleconference, “Plants for Birds,” by Jason St. Sauver & Cacey Wilken, 7:00 p.m. (**NOTE required registration**)
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 16 Board Meeting via Zoom teleconference, 7:00 p.m. (contact Theresa Pella for meeting/password if you're not a Board member and want to attend)

NO Backyard Garden Tour this year
NO Field Trip this month
NO Education Committee this month

Wachiska Audubon Office: 402-486-4846

Email: Office@WachiskaAudubon.org

Remember the Birdathon

by Tim Knott, Birdathon Chair

By early June Wachiska will learn the total of all the Give to Lincoln Day donations our members and friends made during May. A little later we usually learn of the matching money we receive from Lincoln Community Foundation, based on that total. This is a substantial amount, especially when combined with the regular donations Wachiska receives during April. Thank you to everyone who participated by sending in your check or donating online. But, if you haven't already contributed, don't forget to participate in the Birdathon. Based on past experience, we still need the contributions of as many of our members and friends as possible during the summer months to reach our goal.

That final total must pay for much of Wachiska's day-to-day expenses, and the Birdathon donations also pay the expenses of our legislation committee, including our part of the representation we support in Nebraska's legislature. It's becoming increasingly clear that we must have strong representation at the Capitol if we want to influence the environmental decisions being made in Nebraska.

It is difficult to donate when the economy is in turmoil but give as much as you can—any amount will be welcome. We need the contributions of each of our members to keep doing the things we do for the environment each year.

Make your check payable to Wachiska Audubon and write Birdathon on the memo line. Mail to Wachiska Audubon Society, 4547 Calvert St, Ste 10, Lincoln NE 68506. Thanks once again for supporting Wachiska Audubon.

Help Wachiska When You Shop Online

by Theresa Pella, Vice President

On the back page of every issue of The Babbling Brook is a small paragraph reminding readers that if you order through Amazon there is a way to financially support charitable organizations of your choice, including Wachiska, at no additional cost; simply put, Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of your eligible purchases. This may not seem like much but, as in many things in life, it's the collective efforts that make a difference. As of February 2020, Wachiska has received \$108. So, if you think 0.5 percent of an order isn't worth it, think again—those pennies add up!

You do need to create an account at smile.amazon.com and place orders from there rather than the basic amazon.com website. There is a helpful FAQ on Amazon's website to get you started, so check it out at https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi_se_rspo_laas_aas. Since we're homebound shopping now, we might as well contribute whether buying necessities or luxuries (no one but you will know what you purchased)! Thank you for your consideration of helping Wachiska Audubon!

Emerald Ash Borer

by Richard Peterson



The emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) has arrived in Nebraska. It is in the beetle Family Buprestidae. It is an invasive species, meaning that it is not native to the U.S. It feeds on and, in a short period of time, will kill many if not most of our native ash trees. Its native range is in temperate, north-east Asia, which includes Russia, Mongolia, northern China, Japan, and Korea.

Ash trees are in the Family Oleaceae, which include the lilac, forsythia, jasmine, and privet. For the homeowner, ash trees as a group are easy to identify but difficult to key to species. The species usually found in Nebraska woodlands are the white ash (*Fraxinus americana*) and green ash (*F. pennsylvanicus*). Elsewhere in the U.S., black ash (*F. nigra*) and blue ash (*F. quadrangulata*) are also at risk. Years ago, after the Dutch elm disease killed most of the American elm trees, many of which were used in residential areas along parkings and in parks, cities began planting ash trees to take their place. It seemed an informed choice at the time. Besides the emerald ash borer, there are other pests of our native ash including the lilac borer, flatheaded appletree borer, carpenter worm, longhorned beetle, and ash bark beetle; all cause some minor damage but usually do not kill the tree.

The life cycle of the emerald ash borer can take one to two years depending on the time of year oviposition takes place, the health of the tree, and temperature. Females typically live about six weeks and lay from 40-200 eggs. Eggs are deposited between bark crevices, flakes, and cracks and hatch two weeks later. Upon hatching, the larvae chew into the inner phloem, cambium, and outer xylem where they feed, grow, and develop. Fully mature fourth instar larvae are 1 - 1.3 inches long. In the fall they excavate chambers into the sapwood and develop into pupae. Those pupae that fully develop into adults emerge in the spring through an exit hole that is distinctly D-shaped. Those that are not fully developed remain in the tree and require additional time the following year to become adults. Adults are only a third of an inch long and are bright metallic green. They spread from place to place through flight or by the transport of items that contain ash bark such as mulch, firewood, or nursery stock.

The first specimen identified in the U.S. was in Michigan in 2002, arriving perhaps in shipping crates. Some think the beetle may have been here since the late 1980s. Although some North American predators and parasitoids do attack the beetle and woodpeckers can cause some reduction in numbers, overall control is minimal. Because insecticide treatment of trees and tree removal is expensive, especially in urban and residential areas, the most cost-effective way to slow the beetles' movement is through inspection or treatment quarantines before the transport of ash trees and their products.

(Editor's Note: The emerald ash borer hitchhikes on firewood and spreads insects and diseases that destroy our trees. Keep your backyard, campgrounds, and favorite places safe from these pests. Buy and use firewood only from your local area.)

Birdathon 2020 Species Count

by Ken Reitan, Compiler

Weather conditions for this year's Count were far from ideal. There was a little rain—but not a lot. The wind was a problem on Sunday. The biggest problems were skies that were either very cloudy or at least partly cloudy which scatters light, making for a more difficult background to see the birds. This problem doesn't occur as much with blue skies. However, **151 bird species were identified this year** compared to 124 found last year. Ironically, 148 species were seen in both 2017 and 2018.

Locations birded included Wilderness Park, Holmes Lake, Branched Oak Lake, Pawnee Lake, Arbor Lake, Schramm State Park, Indian Cave State Park, and various backyard feeders.

Wachiska birders participating this year included Jeff Meyer, Linda Plock, Moni Usasz, Larry Einemann, Jason St. Sauver, Esa Jarvi, Linda Sullivan, Tim Knott, Theresa Pella, Terry Stentz, Christie Hobensack, Linda Brown, John Carlini, Shari Schwartz, and Ken Reitan.

The species found and identified by these birders were:

Eared Grebe	Lesser Yellowlegs	American Crow	Orchard Oriole
American White Pelican	Franklin's Gull	Tufted Titmouse	Baltimore Oriole
Canada Goose	Ring-billed Gull	Black-capped Chickadee	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Wood Duck	Forester's Tern	Horned Lark	Red-winged Blackbird
Northern Shoveler	Least Tern	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Brown-headed Cowbird
Blue-winged Teal	Caspian Tern	Purple Martin	Common Grackle
Ruddy Duck	Black Tern	Tree Swallow	Great-tailed Grackle
Mallard	Double-crested Cormorant	Bank Swallow	Kentucky Warbler
Northern Pintail	Black-crowned Night-Heron	Barn Swallow	Wilson's Warbler
Common Merganser	Snowy Egret	Cliff Swallow	Louisiana Waterthrush
Sora	Great Egret	White-breasted Nuthatch	Ovenbird
American Coot	Great Blue Heron	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Black-and-white Warbler
Northern Bobwhite	White-faced Ibis	House Wren	Blackburnian Warbler
Ring-necked Pheasant	Turkey Vulture	Carolina Wren	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Wild Turkey	Bald Eagle	Marsh Wren	Tennessee Warbler
Rock Pigeon	Broad-winged Hawk	Sedge Wren	Orange-crowned Warbler
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Red-tailed Hawk	European Starling	Nashville Warbler
Mourning Dove	American Kestrel	Gray Catbird	Common Yellowthroat
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Belted Kingfisher	Brown Thrasher	American Redstart
Great Horned Owl	Red-headed Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird	Northern Parula
Barred Owl	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Downy Woodpecker	Swainson's Thrush	Magnolia Warbler
Common Nighthawk	Hairy Woodpecker	Wood Thrush	Yellow Warbler
Chimney Swift	Northern Flicker	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Mourning Warbler
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Pileated Woodpecker	American Robin	Blackpoll Warbler
Piping Plover	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Cedar Waxwing	Scarlet Tanager
Semipalmated Plover	Least Flycatcher	House Sparrow	Summer Tanager
Killdeer	Eastern Phoebe	House Finch	Northern Cardinal
Upland Sandpiper	Great Crested Flycatcher	American Goldfinch	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Stilt Sandpiper	Willow Flycatcher	Grasshopper Sparrow	Indigo Bunting
Baird's Sandpiper	Alder Flycatcher	Chipping Sparrow	Dickcissel
Least Sandpiper	Western Kingbird	Clay-colored Sparrow	
White-rumped Sandpiper	Eastern Kingbird	Field Sparrow	
Pectoral Sandpiper	Bell's Vireo	Lark Sparrow	
Wilson's Phalarope	Yellow-throated Vireo	Song Sparrow	
Long-billed Dowitcher	Blue-headed Vireo	Spotted Towhee	
Dunlin	Warbling Vireo	Eastern Towhee	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Red-eyed Vireo	Bobolink	
Spotted Sandpiper	Philadelphia Vireo	Western Meadowlark	
Greater Yellowlegs	Blue Jay	Eastern Meadowlark	



Tree Swallow

NET Board Meeting Postponed to June 11

The Nebraska Environmental Trust's original second quarter meeting scheduled for April 2 and then postponed to May 21 has now been moved to June 11 due to COVID-19. This will be an entirely virtual meeting using Zoom. A virtual meeting is possible because the governor extended the Executive Order allowing virtual public meetings through June 30. In order for the Trust to gauge the interest and time needed to devote to the public hearing on the 2020 grants to be funded, they are asking those wishing to testify to indicate so by sending an email to marilyn.tabor@nebraska.gov no later than 3:00 p.m. CT on June 10. Instructions to join the web meeting and a password will be emailed to those contacting the Trust. If you just want to watch the meeting, use the same email and indicate you want to observe. At the end of the hearing, people will be given the opportunity to testify, even if they didn't indicate their intentions earlier. Those Interested may also submit written comments online to Marilyn Tabor prior to the hearing. These comments will be entered into the hearing record if received by the day and hour above.

Zoom does have an audio-only option using a telephone line if a person does not have a computer. This phone number will be provided to everyone requesting the Zoom information; however, it would be best if participants could have a video connection. The easiest set up is probably a laptop with a headset. Earbuds with a microphone from your cell phone also work. If you have questions, call the Trust office, 402-471-5409, or email Marilyn Tabor at marilyn.tabor@nebraska.gov.

This public hearing will begin at 2:00 p.m. and will cover the 2020 Trust recommended grant projects. At the February 4 Trust board meeting, the full board defunded five projects recommended to be funded by the Trust's Grants Committee. Those projects were three Ducks Unlimited habitat projects, the City of Lincoln's Saline Wetlands project, and the Nebraska Land Trust's project near Fort Robinson. Nearly \$1.8M was shifted from those five projects to a project that will fund blender pumps allowing the sale of more ethanol in Nebraska. The blender pump project originally was funded at over \$1.2M, but with the modification would now receive \$3M from the Trust over three years.

Garage Sale Later this Year??

During these unusual times, unwanted and unneeded items are still piling up in our homes. So Wachiska is planning to have a garage sale later this year. At this time, please collect your no-longer-needed things, put a price tag on each, and hold them in a box or corner for a few weeks until we see what the COVID-19 climate situation is in late summer or early fall. This will be a fundraiser for Wachiska. Thank you for helping in this way if you are interested.

Knott Prairie Open House Planned

by Tim Knott, Conservation Committee

Wachiska's prairie near Yutan, the Knott Prairie, is exceptional. It has particularly good plant diversity, a number of rare plant species, and it's a magnet for bobolinks. The prairie should be in top form in early July. Wachiska purchased the 21-acre prairie in 2001, thanks to funds provided by the Nebraska Environmental Trust because we believe it is one of the best native tallgrass prairies remaining in Southeastern Nebraska.

If you haven't visited this native grassland, now is your chance. We are planning a visit on Sunday afternoon, July 5, beginning at 3:00 p.m. It is likely to be a hot and humid day, but late June and early July are the best times to see a native prairie. The plants are at their peak, and the nesting birds are still active taking care of their young. We are planning to have experts on insects, birds, and photography to answer questions and give some demonstrations.

Because of COVID-19, it might be safest for attendees to drive their own vehicle to the site. If you are not too concerned about COVID-19 by early July, I am planning to provide rides for three people and there may be others willing to do so. For carpooling, we will meet at the Wachiska office at 1:30 Sunday afternoon. We will then drive north to Wahoo, turn east on Highway 92, and proceed to Yutan. It is about 45 miles and one hour and 10 minutes from Lincoln to Yutan. We will rendezvous at Cubby's filling station (on Hwy. 92) at 2:45 p.m. and proceed to the prairie by 3:00.

Directions: Knott Prairie can be reached from Yutan by driving one mile north of Highway 92 on County Road 5 (east side of Yutan). Turn east (at the northeast edge of Yutan) on road N, and drive one mile down into the Platte floodplain. Next, turn north again on road 4 and drive ½ mile to reach the prairie.

Bring water and insect repellent and wear long pants and boots. If it has been dry for at least a week, there should be no problems with puddles in the road; if it has rained heavily in the days just prior, we may want to postpone the visit until the following weekend. Check the July *Babbling Brook* for any schedule changes or call me before you go at either my cell - 402-217-8505 or land line - 402-483-5656.



Prairie Ragwort



Yellow Star-grass

Celebrate Nebraska Wildflower Week

by Ross Scott, Conservation Committee Chair

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA) has asked us to help celebrate Nebraska Wildflower Week the first week of June. Is there a more natural way to celebrate wildflowers than to visit one of Wachiska's prairies? For more information about Wildflower Week including a list of Nebraska's wildflowers, visit the NSA website at <https://plantnebraska.org/connect/events/wildflowers.html> where you can find a list of wildflowers in Nebraska. For information about Wachiska's prairies, go to <https://www.wachiskaaudubon.org/mentoring-programs>.

Berg West would be a good prairie to visit this spring as we have conducted prescribed burns there two out of the last three years and did deferred haying last season. The response has been amazing. It is a wet, lowland site with a nice population of golden alexander, wild strawberries, and Canada anemone. During these troubled times, to seek solace and social distancing, you will find it on a walk amidst the wildflowers on one of Wachiska's prairies.



Gromwell or Hoary Puccoon

Buy RECs to Send a Message to LES

by Linda R. Brown, Director at Large

I am a customer-owner of Lincoln Electric System (LES). I want LES to know that I will pay more for electricity generated from sustainable sources like wind and solar, so I signed up to buy Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) to cover part of my carbon footprint. I paid an upfront fee of \$10 and now about 50 cents per month. I think it's cheap and it sends a message. I want sustainable energy.

As you may know, some years back LES contracted with wind farms to buy wind-generated electricity. The money LES agreed to pay for many years helped the wind farms buy the wind towers that produce the electricity. It locked LES into a cost for sustainable energy that was higher than they could buy from fossil fuels. Now, what do we do? LES is committed to providing low-cost electricity. LES found it could sell its sustainable energy in the form of RECs to people—whole communities—that were willing to pay more in order to minimize their carbon footprint. I would like to see more of our wind and solar resources being used in Lincoln instead of other communities. This new program is a test to see if we are willing to prioritize renewable energy resources.

You can sign up for the RECs program at this site: <https://app.les.com/applications/energycertificate>.

Shaping the Future of Wachiska

by Theresa Pella and Linda Brown

Following the tremendous amount of thoughtful input from members and others interested in Wachiska's future, the Board met (via Zoom) with the strategic planning consultant to begin digesting the feedback. Prior to the May 2nd retreat, individual Board members listed their top priorities from the listening session and survey results. Then during discussion, priorities began to emerge under three topics for which actions could be detailed and tracked—subject area, organizational structure, and constituencies/members.

Action items and timelines that will be flushed out include what needs to be done to ensure the prairies currently under Wachiska's umbrella (one of the highest priorities in the survey) are preserved. Last year's Board decision that recognized volunteers can no longer do everything to manage and do the work was a first step in acting. They decided to pursue hiring a prairie habitat manager, and a grant application that will help fund a position is underway. Likewise, action items and timelines will be developed in response to the strong interest in hiring an executive director. Like a prairie manager, how to fund the position will be the toughest component.

Another high priority from the survey, "lobbying and advocacy for preserving and enhancing natural areas" may be the most difficult to further define and narrow into action items. Based on the survey results, one piece may be specific steps Wachiska (and individuals) can take to help educate others about the impact of a changing climate on the tallgrass prairie ecosystem. As the organization moves forward on these, we want to also develop opportunities to get to know each other better as people. Some readers may be enthused to take the lead coordinating an activity such as meet and greets on the prairies, coffee shops, or small discussion groups.

Expectations for the next meeting with the consultant on June 6 are to start detailing specific action items and timelines. The Board anticipates bringing recommendations to the membership in the July/August timeframe.



Mind the Web

Heading down the path to my car one morning, I walked right into a huge spiderweb that had appeared overnight. I felt foolish for not having seen it, rid myself of the web tendrils, and went on my way. The next morning the very same scenario occurred, and I felt even more foolish. On the third day, I was careful to look for the web—the spider had rewoven it, but this time off the path in the bushes. How humbling to realize the spider and I had learned the exact same lesson in the same amount of time!

(This story is reprinted from an old brochure of unknown origin.)

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

Some beautiful drawings from David Sibley's new book, *What It's Like to Be a Bird*, were shown in the New York Times along with advice about what to do with feelings of boredom, anxiety, or grief due to COVID-19. Go birdwatching! For many people I know, spring migration was especially welcome this year.

Two areas of Congressional action that could improve the security of birds and humans as part of the pandemic recovery plan. The first is energy, the second is protection of natural spaces.

Needed for energy is an extension and enhancement of tax credits for renewable energy, the creation of a new clean energy bank, and increased funding for research in energy technology (ARPA-E), and the Weatherization Assistance program for making low-income homes more energy efficient. All of these investments will create jobs. Over the last decade, job growth in clean energy has been greater than in the fossil fuel sector, Audubon's Michael Obeiter points out in "Recovery Efforts Provide the Opportunity to Build a 21st Century Energy System" (5/6/20).

Some natural climate solutions will come with the protection of natural spaces. Dan West writes on the Audubon website about examples that draw carbon out of the air. One solution is restoration of wetlands, which also improves water and air quality and reduces flooding risk. Another is land management programs that pay farmers to take sensitive land out of crop production and plant native vegetation. He notes these programs have bipartisan support.

If you write to Congressman Fortenberry about action for energy and natural areas, you might also thank him for his sponsorship of legislation for small farmers who produce for local markets. H.R. 6682 waives matching fund requirements for three USDA programs: the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Programs (FMPP and LFPP) and Value-Added Producer Grants (VAPG). As Congressman Fortenberry said, "Due to the coronavirus related closure of farmers markets and restaurants, local food producers are facing unprecedented challenges. This legislation can help." Sponsorship is bipartisan.

The coronavirus crisis and the climate crisis have much in common—both invite denial. Given our worldwide communication and travel, we're aware of their global reach. One especially painful similarity is the far harsher consequences of both the virus and climate change falling on people with low incomes and/or more melanin skin pigment. They both offer opportunity for dividing us by conflict between policies based in science and by those that reflect political expediency. Both seem to have increased polarization and

oversimplification of opinions, especially about the gap between setting public priorities for shorter- or longer-term visions.

For both the pandemic and climate, public discourse tends to be conducted in abstractions. We're not used to hearing language like Dr. Anthony Fauci's warning: bad policy choices mean "needless suffering and death." Similarly, instead of looking at climate change as a problem of physics, a new study looks ahead just 50 years (which most of us in Wachiska know is not a long time) and asks the practical question "what temperatures do humans require for livable habitat?"

The results astonished the authors. Published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences on May 4 titled, "Future of the human climate niche," they report: "We demonstrate that depending on scenarios of population growth and warming, over the coming 50 y[ears], 1 to 3 billion people are projected to be left outside the climate conditions that have served humanity well over the past 6,000 y[ears]."

Can the Americans deal with two crises at the same time? A nationwide Yale poll reported (NYT 5/19) that the pandemic did not diminish Americans worry and engagement about climate change. As was true earlier, in April, 73 percent of those polled said climate change is happening, and 62 percent say the cause is mostly human activity.

But what about Congress? Can they manage two crises at the same time? The former secretary of energy, Ernest Moniz, now CEO of Energy Futures Initiative, sees hopeful signs as he has met with members of Congress (The Hill 5/14). He points out that funding for clean energy gives you twice the jobs for your buck as other investments. It meets the immediate need for jobs and moves us in the direction we want to go longer term to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy. Two things at once! We can do it!

Why Native Plants are Better for Birds and People

by Marina Richie, from National Audubon's website

Your garden is your outdoor sanctuary. With some careful plant choices, it can be a haven for native birds as well. Landscaped with native species, your yard, patio, or balcony becomes a vital recharge station for birds passing through and a sanctuary for nesting and overwintering birds. Each patch of restored native habitat is just that—a patch in the frayed fabric of the ecosystem in which it lies. By landscaping with native plants, we can turn a patchwork of green spaces into a quilt of restored habitat.

More native plants mean more choices of food and shelter for native birds and other wildlife. To survive, native birds need native plants and the insects that have co-evolved with them. Most landscaping plants available in nurseries are exotic species from other countries. With 96 percent of all terrestrial bird species in North America feeding insects to their young, planting insect-proof exotic plants is like serving up plastic food. No insects? No birds.

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
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Congressman Don Bacon (2nd District)

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Congressman Adrian Smith (3rd District)

416 Valley View Dr Ste 600, Scottsbluff NE 69361
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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
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E-mail: commish@lancaster.ne.gov

Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird

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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.

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

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



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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. The first Zoom program in May was well-attended. The program was excellent, and comments were 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. 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.....	*vacant	
Director at Large.....	*Terry Stentz.....	402-202-8819
Conservation	*Ross Scott (Roca).....	402-202-1523
Education	*Tim Knott	402-483-5656
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**.