



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

**JANUARY 2021**

**Volume 30 - Issue 1**

Wachiska Program — Thursday, December 14, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom web conference (registration required)  
Link to register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMtdOmoqDltG9GATIYAe-euFUzAfwN5Tsjp>

## Nebraska's Environmental Trust:

## The Good, the Bad, and the Solution

by *Dave Sands, Executive Director, Nebraska Land Trust and  
Lorrie Benson from Friends of the Nebraska Environmental Trust*

**D**ave Sands, executive director of the Nebraska Land Trust and Lorrie Benson from Friends of the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) will provide the program for Wachiska Audubon's monthly meeting on January 14. They will present a two-part presentation highlighting NET-funded land conservation in Nebraska's cherished Pine Ridge, the NET Board's recent opposition to such funding, and actions being taken to get the NET back on track.



Dave Sands



Lorrie Benson

Lorrie Benson is a retired lawyer. She spent many years working for environmental organizations, including The Groundwater Foundation and the Water Center, School of Natural Resources at UNL. Lorrie will discuss the above changes in the NET's direction, the Friends' effort to assure that the NET maintains a fair, transparent grant process based on conservation merit, and additional steps that can be taken to encourage a return to fairness and transparency in the future.

The mission of the Nebraska Land Trust is to foster the protection of agricultural, historical, and natural resources on land in Nebraska through education, partnering, and permanent conservation. Dave's presentation will focus on a \$900,000 NET block grant to purchase conservation easements in the Pine Ridge that was approved for funding by the NET in 2015. The grant promised public engagement, a 1:1 match, and 5,000 acres of protection, but delivered much more. Recently, the NET board has refused to fund such grants regardless of conservation merit which is one reason the Friends of the Environmental Trust was formed.

Both Lorrie and Dave will be available for questions following their presentations.

Please join Wachiska Audubon for our next Zoom program on **Thursday, January 14, at 7:00 p.m.** This free, public program is available to those who register at <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMtdOmoqDltG9GATIYAe-euFUzAfwN5Tsjp>. Copy and paste this link into your browser or go to Wachiska's website after January 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.

### Calendar

#### January 2021

- 2 Christmas Bird Count (contact Jason at SCPAC)
- 11 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 5:30 p.m.
- 14 General Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 19 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
- 28 Legislation Committee via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.



**See Notice on page 2 for Spring Birdseed Sale coming next month.**

## Dalbey Prairie Conservation Easement

by Bruce Kennedy, Legislation Committee

At a Wachiska Board meeting in early 2016, members Tim Knott, Arnold Mendenhall, and Stu Luttich made the Board aware that the University of Nebraska Foundation was planning to sell Dalbey Prairie, a 640-acre tract in Gage County. This gift was made in 1944, and the donor had not spelled out in writing that he wanted this parcel of land to be held and protected in perpetuity by the University of Nebraska as a memorial. Hence, there was a possibility that the Foundation could sell the prairie, and there would be no protection from the land being turned into row crops. The Wachiska Board was very concerned.

I suggested that we take some action. I solicited written comments from various conservation organizations, such as the Nebraska Wildlife Federation, Big Blue NRD, Prairie Plains Resource Institute, Nebraska Native Plant Society, and others who would support Dalbey Prairie remaining native prairie. I filed the comments that I received in a scrapbook.

On May 16, 2016, I appeared before the University of Nebraska Foundation along with other individuals from the conservation community, where we presented our case for saving the prairie. I found the Foundation board as a whole to be noncommittal, but there were two members who expressed an interest in saving Dalbey Prairie. At the end of the meeting, I presented the scrapbook to the board's chair. I continued to follow up on this to the people who had written letters in support of preserving the prairie. Dialogue continued for some time with Dave Wedin at UNL and members of the Foundation board. The last email update I sent out to interested parties on this topic was dated March 26, 2017, where I reported I had spoken with Dr. Archie Clutter, Dean of the Agricultural Research Division at UNL; he told me at that time that plans were to keep the 100 acres given by Dalbey as a memorial and to sell the remaining tract with a conservation easement placed on it.

Things move slowly sometimes, but this is a case where things actually happened as promised! In 2020, the university decided to retain 140 acres to be managed by the Center for Grassland Studies and to return 503 acres to private ownership, honoring Dwight Dalbey's intentions to keep the land in its natural state through a conservation easement managed by the Nebraska Land Trust.

## Spring Birdseed Sale Coming Next Month

by Cathy Shaner, Birdseed Sale Chair

Be on the lookout in the February newsletter for Wachiska's Spring Birdseed Sale order form. The distribution dates will be Friday and Saturday, February 26 and 27, at the same Arapahoe Street location as in the past. The deadline for ordering will be February 17—so look for details and order form for this fundraiser next month if you are a bird feeder.

## Latest Saunders County Bird-feeding Saga

by Stan Shavlik

When I called Tim Knott the other night, we visited about several subjects, including the wooden prairie signs falling apart. He talked about making smaller signs, and I suggested metal poles with holes drilled for attaching signs. He will be coming down to visit and check on poles that I have. He suggested submitting my bird feeding report and some photos.



Stan Shavlik

I have a large maple tree about 25 feet from the bird feeder. When I go out in the morning with oranges and grape jelly, the birds are watching! I tell them "OK, food is served," and go back

in the house. I have had as many as 27 Baltimore and orchard orioles feeding as soon as I look out the window!! They go through five 32-ounce jars of grape jelly and a large bag of oranges while they are visiting my place.



Along with orioles, blue jays, nuthatches, downy woodpeckers, hairy woodpeckers, red-bellied woodpeckers, red-headed woodpeckers, ring-necked doves, mourning doves, spotted towhees, and many sparrows are all being fed.

I had a late female ruby-throated hummingbird stop in and as I sat a few feet from the feeder, I saw her sip from the feeder while flying the whole time—53 times without landing! I also observed a blue jay eating 45 large sunflower seeds before flying away. I learned how to call quail, sandhill cranes, wild turkeys and cardinals, to name a few.

I have a great place for nature to attract birds, frogs, garter snakes, making them welcome!!



*(Editor's Note: Over the past 17 years, I've occasionally received a handwritten note from Stan reporting on his current bird-feeding duties. The above is the latest one from this 90+-year-old young man who also furnished these Baltimore oriole photos.)*

## Wachiska Audubon Society in 2021

by Theresa Pella, President

Thank you for your trust in my abilities to serve as Wachiska's president in the upcoming year. As we leave 2020 behind (for good!), I'd personally like to thank Stu Lutich for keeping the Board running as several important decisions needed to be made—COVID-19 or not.

The 2020 accomplishments put Wachiska in a good place—with the strategic planning done, Wachiska's new Board understands where the membership wants us to focus. We'll continue to support efforts to hire a prairie habitat manager by mid-2021 and advocate for preserving and enhancing natural areas.

The more mundane work of managing and strengthening a volunteer-driven organization with 300 local Friends is equally important. A recent example of challenges for this maturing organization is an insurance review that discovered the organization lacks liability coverage for directors and officers, a standard for organizations. Similarly, should liability from volunteer activities or cyber security risk be a concern for Wachiska? How do we fill the gap left by a talented volunteer with an accounting background? How does not knowing what new technology can do for us be addressed? These and other questions have been floating around in my head...

As life does return to normal, presenting options for face-to-face activities, it will feel good just to shake someone's hand and pat them on the back; in the meantime, keep in mind—saving birds and prairies—it's what Wachiska does! Please look for ways to help! Thanks!

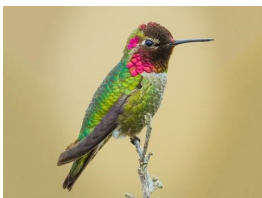
Theresa

*In this photo Theresa is holding an Anna's hummingbird during a hummingbird survey at San Pedro Center near Patagonia, Arizona, in 2018.*



### Did you know?

Anna's hummingbird is a medium-sized bird species of the family Trochilidae named after Anna Massena, Duchess of Rivoli. It is native to western coastal regions of North America. In the early 20th century, they bred only in northern Baja California and southern California. Anna's hummingbirds are 3.9 inches long and their wings beat about 40-50 times per second in normal flight. They fly about 25 mph in normal flight and up to 40 mph in a courtship dive.



A hummer can consume up to 50 percent of its weight in nectar each day. Their nest is slightly bigger than a walnut!

## Unicameral Update

by Marge Kennedy, Legislation Committee

Nebraska is unique in that it is the only state with a one-house legislature (the Unicameral). It is also officially nonpartisan. A bill that is introduced during either the first or second year of the legislative session that has not been killed or passed into law by the end of the second year's session will no longer be viable. The first year of a session is termed a "long session" with a duration of 90 working days; the second year is a "short session" consisting of 60 working days.

A bill or resolution will be introduced by a state senator generally in the first ten days of the legislative session in January. It will be assigned to a committee so a public hearing can be conducted. This is another unusual and much appreciated aspect of Nebraska's Unicameral: virtually all bills and resolutions receive a public hearing which is not the case in many states. After the hearing, the committee may vote to "indefinitely postpone" the bill (meaning kill it), hold for further discussion, or advance to the full Legislature. There may be amendments recommended by the committee when they forward bills to the floor. If advanced, the bill is placed on General File; most if not all will be debated on the floor eventually. Bills on General File may be amended, indefinitely postponed, sent back to the committee, or advanced ultimately to Select File. Again, the bill may be amended, indefinitely postponed, sent back to committee, or advanced to Final Reading where it can be passed if there are at least 25 votes in favor. The bill then goes to the governor who may sign it into law or veto it. A 2/3 majority is required to overturn a veto.

Wachiska's legislation committee reviewed various legislative bills and resolutions introduced in the 2020 session of the Nebraska Unicameral and made recommendations to Wachiska's Board to take an official position (support or oppose) on eight of these. The Board voted to accept our committee recommendations. Letters from Wachiska on each of these bills or resolutions were sent to the state legislative committee to which the particular bills were assigned.

Let's see what transpires now in 2021!

### Our Readers Continue to Write

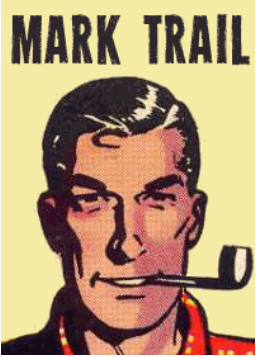
"Wachiska Friends, at the age of almost 93, I'm having to back off certain activities. Since I can no longer physically participate even without the pandemic—and reading the newsletter is difficult—I am having to drop my membership as of now.

"However, I am including a gift because of my gratitude for your work and the friendship of many for several years. My late husband appreciated this organization so much, also. Please accept this check in the interest of the prairies. Thank you so very, very much over the years!"

— Virginia M.

## “Mark Trail”

by Richard Peterson



I was never really into the Sunday funnies—except for one, the comic strip “Mark Trail.” This strip first came out in 1946 and introduced readers to environmental and ecological issues. There were initially 45 newspapers around the U.S. that picked up the *New York Post* syndication. I’m not sure if our paper at the time, the *Des Moines Register’s* Sunday edition, was one of those. Since I was only four years old at the time, it was probably a bit later when the strip caught more of my attention.

The strip was created by cartoonist Ed Dodd; Jack Elrod was hired as the background artist and letterman. Tom Hill, an artist and naturalist, drew the strip which was devoted to natural history and wildlife education. “Mark Trail” is loosely based on the life of Charles N. Elliott, a U.S. forest ranger. Elliott would go on to edit *Outdoor Life* magazine.

Mark Trail was a photojournalist and writer for the outdoor magazine *Woods and Wildlife*. Trail, sometimes depicted smoking his favorite pipe, lives in Lost Forest National Forest with his faithful St. Bernard, Andy. Over the years, he interacts with veterinarian Tom “Doc” Davis, Doc’s daughter and Mark’s girlfriend (and eventual wife) Cherry, and their adopted son Rusty. Others to appear over the years were Johnny Malotte, Kelly Welly, Bill Ellis, and Ranger Rick Rogers.

The Mark Trail Studios, where the production team worked, was on the second floor of Dodd’s home situated on 130 acres of forest north of Atlanta, Georgia. The home was located on Marsh Creek, a tributary of the Chattahoochee River. Dodd’s challenge was to write an outdoor-themed continuity strip in various settings about a conservationist who was credible in his response to exploiters and to the underdog.

In 1950, Mutual Broadcasting System began a radio adaptation of “Mark Trail.” The 30-minute episodes aired three times a week, and 174 episodes were produced. Between 1955 and 1959, “Mark Trail” adventures were reprinted in comic books by Fawcett Publications. The strip was further morphed into numerous books and coloring books for younger readers. The strip’s popularity grew in the 1960s when it appeared in nearly 500 newspapers through the North American Syndicate.

The “Mark Trail” comic strip is still in print. Over the years the message and the characters have changed some, as have the character’s physical appearance.

In 1991, Congress set aside 16,400 acres of forest along the Appalachian Trail in Georgia to be designated the Mark Trail Wilderness.

## Stopping the West Desert Water Grab

Water officials from the Central Iron County Water Conservancy District in Utah want to siphon billions of gallons of water away from rural valleys to feed sprawl development in fast-growing Cedar City.

The project will harm communities like Milford, Beaver, and Baker. It will imperil places like Great Basin National Park, Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge, the Great Salt Lake, and sacred tribal sites. The economies, the heritage, and the future of rural communities will be forever changed in the Great Basin.

Local groups are working with farmers, ranchers, tribes, conservationists, and rural communities to stop this boondoggle. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) reported the project’s impact would span 10,000 square miles across the desert, draining Pine and Wah Wah Valleys’ aquifers by more than 1,500 feet. The effects will encroach into Nevada and all the way to Salt Lake City. The water underground dates to at least 28,000 years ago, according to the USGS. Once its pumped and piped to green lawns in Cedar City, it won’t be coming back.

USGS reports show the project will also impact the Snake Valley and Spring Valley Basins along with three underground flow systems that feed the Great Salt Lake.

Simulating 15,000 and 6,500 acre feet per year of proposed withdrawals in Pine and Wah Wah Valleys, respectively, causes large drawdowns near the withdrawal wells within 62 years and ultimately causes water-level declines of more than 1,900 feet near the withdrawals and of more than 5 feet in an area of about 10,500 square miles (Brooks, 2017).

For the sake of future generations, take action today. A coalition of conservation groups has been formed and is working with partners in Beaver County to stop this proposal from wreaking havoc in the desert. It is one of the nation’s driest regions. The water Cedar City wants doesn’t exist. For more information and to sign a petition, check out: “Stopping The West Desert Water Grab,” at <https://greatbasinwater.org/stopping-the-west-desert-water-grab/>.

*(Editor’s Note: A local conservationist is familiar with this area, having relatives living in Cedar City. The growth from St. George to the south is moving northward, and in 50 years the area from St. George to Parowan (north of Cedar City) will be one large development zone. Southwest Utah simply does not know how to control growth. The valleys proposed for water development are dry lake valleys part of the ancient Great Basin Lake system. Much of the land is in federal ownership as Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. The spring sources in these valleys are used by pronghorn, mule deer, and elk, along with a host of other species. The wet areas are not extensive but serve as critical water sources during the hot summer months and very cold winter months. Sadly, the BLM lands are poorly managed, i.e., overgrazed, sagebrush is chained out, and have lots of off-road vehicle trails.)*

## Statement from the National Audubon Society

by *President and CEO David Yarnold*

People are rising up to demand action on climate change and racial equity. Birds are telling us there is no time to lose—more than two-thirds of North American birds are threatened with extinction because of climate change. We need bold, equitable, and durable action on climate. That’s why National Audubon’s 1.9 million members are helping to lead this movement. Rural and urban, progressive and conservative, Black college students and white grandparents all agree that everyone regardless of race or ethnicity should have access to clean air and water and feel safe and welcome in the outdoors.

Now that the votes have been counted, it’s important that the rule of law is respected and the peaceful transition of power proceeds as it has since the founding of our nation. The tone of this election season put a spotlight on the deep divisions in our nation. Audubon members are deeply troubled by the racist, sexist, and homophobic rhetoric present in some campaigns. These divisions make it even harder to address climate change and to protect the places both birds and people need to thrive; but Audubon members know there is a better way forward—one that lifts up all people and creates a healthier, more resilient world.

We have a long history as community builders and because we are local everywhere, our membership reflects America. Our membership is 53 percent progressive and 47 percent moderate/conservative, and we have members in nearly every county in the United States. In a recent survey of our membership, we found that

- Nearly every Audubon member (97 percent) agrees that “every American, regardless of race or color, should have equal access to clean air and clean water.” That belief is shared by 98 percent of progressive Audubon members and 96 percent of moderates and conservatives—a deeply held value across political lines.
- More than 95 percent of all Audubon members—including 9 in 10 moderate and conservative members—report concern about the following issues:
  - Destruction of habitat for birds and other wildlife
  - Air and water pollution
  - Attacks on bedrock environmental law
  - Oil drilling and mining on protected public lands
- 75 percent of all Audubon members, including a majority of moderate and conservative members, rank climate change as one of their top three concerns among all issues facing America today—and 82 percent of Audubon members (including 61 percent of moderates and conservatives) are personally “very concerned” about growing impacts of climate change.

Our membership demonstrates strong support across the political spectrum for action on environmental, climate, and community priorities. We need durable solutions with support across political lines—and our members are ready to raise their voices. Environmental concerns are no place for partisan divisions.

Audubon is resolute in our ambition for inclusivity, our commitment to becoming an anti-racist organization, and our determination to address the disproportionate impact climate change and air and water pollution have on marginalized communities. To that end, we will advocate for a more resilient and inclusive economy with more green jobs, for cleaner air, and stronger communities that protect birds, conserve water, restore wetlands, and reduce emissions.

We look forward to working with elected officials to achieve this vision.

This letter was dated November 9, 2020.

## Could Fishermen Hold the Key to Conservation of Ocean Species?

by *Gareth Hollyman, Liverpool John Moores University,*

*12/10/20*

*posted on the website 12/17/20*

A lifeline for the world’s seas could lie at the bottom of a fisherman’s net, according to marine biologists. Scientists say the slush that comes up with the catch holds the key to a new way of estimating fish stocks involving the fishermen themselves.

“Data is notoriously unreliable on which species of fish are landed, which are discarded, and how much fish is caught. It may be easier to just take a sample of the slush,” says Professor Stefano Mariani, a marine biologist at Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU).

Advances in Environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling now allow conservationists to forensically examine seawater for fish DNA—traces of skin, blood, feces, eggs, etc.—and pinpoint the exact species those belong to. Indeed a recent LJMU study found the technique to be more accurate in identifying which species swim in which waters than traditional visual or catch-and-return surveys.

Read more here: <https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/about-us/news/articles/2020/10/20/molecular-trackandtrace-of-ocean-life-outperforms-traditional-fish-and-marine-surveys>.

Read the Ecological Applications paper: <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/eap.2273>.

# Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

New year, new administration, new hopes for birds, humans, and climate. Audubon greeted the creation of a new position of Special Envoy for Climate with an invitation to John Kerry to work together “to effectively address climate change as the existential threat to both people and wildlife that it is.” “The challenges ahead are great, but so are the possibilities,” Andy McGlashen wrote. (National Audubon website, 11/23 and 11/9.)

McGlashen reports that President-elect Biden has proposed a \$2 trillion climate plan for a carbon-free electric grid by 2035 and will rejoin the Paris Accord. He is expected to end several executive orders that directed agencies to cancel climate policies and promote fossil fuels. He can issue executive orders aimed at reducing emissions, increasing clean energy, and protecting the greater sage-grouse in the West and waterfowl in the Arctic by ending new fossil-fuel permits on federal lands and waters.

For an excellent exploration of what the new Administration can and must achieve to reach the goals set by international climate scientists, see the Yale Environment 360, Dec. 3, 2020, “How Biden Can Put the U.S. on a Path to Carbon-Free Electricity” by Michael Gerrard. He points to government purchasing opportunities from buying electricity, vehicles, computers, appliances and occupying 2.8 billion square feet of space. Additional actors Gerrard identifies are state and local governments, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Advanced Research Projects Agency, the Department of the Treasury, the Federal Reserve, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

A report on the same subject from Brookings (“Making Climate Policy Stick,” Victor, Frank, and Gesick, 12/9/20) looks at finance. For the Securities and Exchange Commission, the key question concerns defining and disclosing material risks. Another potential actor is the Federal Reserve which discussed climate risks for the first time in its November 2020 Financial Stability Report (pp. 58-61). The Brookings report summarizes the Fed’s analysis “focused on how climate change could impair the value of assets in the country—for example, real estate and related commercial and public infrastructure investments. If coastal flooding or wildfires destroy these assets—and if insurance coverage is allowed to respond by pricing the risks accordingly—massive devaluation could follow.” The other major risk that the Brookings paper identifies is “the risk that financial instruments could revalue quickly as the economy shifts away from today’s polluting activities to greener industries of the future.”

Many climate activists want a Green New Deal with large investment in green energy, an end to subsidies to fossil fuels, and a nationwide clean energy standard. Both the Yale and Brookings reports are skeptical that this Congress will say yes.

National Audubon, a truly bipartisan organization, likes legislation with strong bipartisan support like the Growing Climate Solutions Act. Introduced by Republican birdwatcher Senator Mike Braun of Indiana, the bill would establish national standards to help farmers and foresters be rewarded for sustainable management practices. As Audubon President and CEO David Yarnold said about the bill, “a love of nature transcends party politics. Everybody wins when we put political differences aside and work together for our common survival.” Congressmen Jeff Fortenberry and Don Bacon and Senator Deb Fischer are sponsors.

## Fair Isle Bird Observatory Fair Isle, Shetland, Scotland

by Linda R. Brown

A couple months ago, the Wachiska Board received a letter asking for funds to help rebuild the Fair Isle Bird Observatory which burned in 2019. At first glance, I wondered why we would do that, when we were involved with our own campaign to raise money for a prairie habitat manager; however, just as many of you, I am a birder, so I was curious.

I reached out to Bill Scharf, a master bird-bander and former associate director of Cedar Point Biological Station, the University of Nebraska field station near Lake McConaughy. I knew Bill had banded birds in Scotland. He replied that the bird species and more than 70 years of banding (ringing) at Fair Isle are legendary. Fair Isle is a tiny island located between the Orkney and Shetland islands, off the north coast of Scotland. He added, “So yes, I would support the Fair Isle Bird Observatory. Its expenses are extraordinary, being so far out.”

The Wachiska Board sent \$200. We invite you to acquaint yourself with their work and needs at [www.fairislebirdobs.co.uk](http://www.fairislebirdobs.co.uk).

## Allo Makes Good on its Offer

Wachiskans will be happy to know that the invitation in this newsletter last fall from Allo that they would credit Wachiska with \$50 every time one of our members mentioned us when they signed up for Allo service has been honored. Charles J. is responsible for lowering our office phone bill so the total for December was only \$2.80!! Thanks so much, Charles!!

For everyone out there who is planning to take Allo for your communications service, tell them at the time you sign up that you wish to have Wachiska Audubon receive the \$50 credit for your business with them. Then if you can, please call or email Arlys in the Wachiska office that you did so, and she’ll check the next phone bill. Thank you again, Charles, and anyone else who is considering this move.

## 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 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://fischer.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 Don Bacon (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> District)**

416 Valley View Dr Ste 600, Scottsbluff NE 69361  
Scottsbluff phone: 308-633-6333 Fax: 308-633-6335  
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-6435 Fax: 202-225-0207  
E-mail at website: <http://adriansmith.house.gov>

### **Capitol Hill Switchboard**

888-436-8427 or 202-224-3121

### **Governor Pete Ricketts**

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

### **State Senator \_\_\_\_\_**

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

### **State Capitol Switchboard**

402-471-2311

### **Lancaster County Commissioners**

County-City Bldg, 555 S 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 Leirion Gaylor Baird**

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10<sup>th</sup> St Rm 301, 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)

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



*The Babbling Brook* is printed on recycled and recyclable paper.

## Recycling of Calendars

**Wachiska will continue to accept 2021 nature calendars through January. Bring them to the office and leave them by our door on second floor.**

**Unfortunately, we will NOT be able to take your old calendars at this time. The places that have used them in the past are not accepting anything from the public right now due to COVID-19. Please recycle them.**

**Thank you to all who help in this way!**



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

## WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2021

### OFFICERS

President.....	*Theresa Pella.....	512-585-1511
Vice President.....	*Marilyn McNabb.....	402-476-7463
Recording Secretary .....	*Linda Plock.....	402-488-5851
Treasurer .....	*Mary Rogge.....	402-488-1342
Past President.....	*Stu Luttich (Geneva).....	402-759-3597

### STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large.....	*Dean Cole .....	402-430-1082
Director at Large.....	*Terry Stentz .....	402-202-8819
Director at Large.....	*Dave Titterington .....	402-432-6988
Conservation .....	*Ross Scott (Roca) .....	402-202-1523
Education .....	*Tim Knott .....	402-217-8505
Field Trips .....	John Carlini.....	402-475-7275
	*Lana Novak .....	402-475-8693
Hospitality .....	Cheryl Moncure .....	402-488-0036
Legislation .....	*Bruce Kennedy (Malcolm).....	402-796-2114
Membership .....	*Linda R. Brown .....	402-489-2381
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](https://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**.