



Wachiska  
Audubon Society

Wachiska Audubon Society's vision: To share the experience and love of nature—that life may sustainably flourish in all its natural diversity

# The Babbling Brook

Our 52<sup>nd</sup> Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2025

MAY 2025

Volume 34 - Issue 5

Wachiska Program and General Meeting — Thursday, May 8, 7:00 PM, Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also via YouTube link: <https://youtube.com/live/0C6xgMbpXR4?feature=share>

## Travis Jensen: Conservation Through Collaboration

**T**ravis Jensen is the Community Conservation

Coordinator for Solidago Conservancy in Lancaster County, Nebraska.

Solidago Conservancy is a land trust who allies with public and private partners to conserve and connect wild lands and open space in Lincoln and Lancaster county. Solidago works to ensure that as the community grows, it incorporates green spaces that are accessible by all people. The focus is on protecting open space and three vital natural resources in priority landscapes within the Salt Valley watershed: wetlands, tallgrass prairie, and stream corridors. Travis will give a presentation on how Solidago pursues their work through collaborations with public and private organizations and individuals. He will introduce three exciting conservation projects in which Solidago plays key roles.



Prior to joining Solidago, Travis enjoyed a 25+ year career in education, first as a high school English teacher in Lubbock, TX and Lincoln, NE and then at Nebraska Wesleyan University as an administrator and faculty member serving primarily nontraditional (adult) and transfer students. When he's not

working, Travis and his wife, Karla enjoy traveling, entertaining, puttering, and doing pretty much anything outdoors.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, May 8 at 7:00 PM** at Lincoln's Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, to learn more about Travis Jensen, Solidago and Conservation Through Collaboration. This free, public, in-person talk will also be live-streamed on YouTube at:

<https://youtube.com/live/0C6xgMbpXR4?feature=share>

No registration needed. This program can also be viewed at a later time. Check Wachiska's website for links to past programs.



### GIVE TO LINCOLN: BIG IMPACT for WACHISKA

**Gifts given May 1-29 during GIVE TO LINCOLN greatly help us at Wachiska Audubon.** Every donation given during this time makes a bigger impact because our nonprofit also gets a proportional share of a \$650,000 challenge match fund provided by Lincoln Community Foundation!

#### HOW TO GIVE:

1. You may **scan the QR Code** or give **online** with credit/debit card at <https://givetolincoln.com/nonprofits/wachiska-audubon-society>
2. Or **write a check** to: *Lincoln Community Foundation*. In the memo of the check, please write: *Wachiska*. Mail your check to: **Lincoln Community Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68508** Donations must be received between *May 1–Midnight, May 29*



### CALENDAR

#### May

- 5 **Education/Outreach Committee** via Zoom, 6PM
- 8 **General Meeting: Travis Jensen of Solidago Conservancy** Unitarian Church, 7PM
- 10-11 **Bird-A-Thon Hikes** 8-12PM: *5/10* Prairie Pines. *5/11* Observation Tower, Platte River State Park.
- 12 **Conservation Committee** via Zoom, 6:30 PM
- 15 **Newsletter deadline**, Wachiska office, Noon
- 17 **Wild Adventures**, Pioneer Park Nature Center, 1-4 PM
- 20 **Board Meeting** via Zoom, 7:00 PM
- 1-29 **GIVE TO LINCOLN: GIVE to WACHISKA** every donation given is made bigger by matching funds.

# Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman

April was a busy month with having a booth at Return of the Thunderbirds, two Earth Day celebrations, and Arbor Day. We really appreciate everyone that volunteered at those events and helped us educate the public. I had the honor of speaking at the International Quilt Museum as part of a bird quilt exhibit, they were holding. We hosted the Otoe-Missouria and a celebration blessing their garden they are planting in the Community Crops area at Prairie Pines. They will be planting a number of crops, including beans and squash and hope to use those items in future celebrations. Wachiska board member, Dr. Tom Lynch, will be overseeing the garden this summer.



I attended the unveiling of the new Loren Eiseley historical marker in Irvingdale Park in Lincoln. There were a few Wachiska members in attendance, as well as, Dr. Tom Lynch, who is the Vice President of the Loren Eiseley Society. Eiseley was a Lincoln native and grew up exploring the Irvingdale neighborhood and creek.

In May, I will be doing some nature sessions with the La Petite Academy. I will take our fur collection to the school and share information with the littles. We will also have a booth at the 2025 Wild Adventures at Pioneer Park Nature Center from 1:00-4:00PM on Saturday, May 17

The April monthly meeting featured the Nebraska State Climatologist, Dr. Deb Bathke. Her talk was very good and informative. We had City Councilman Bennie Shobe and longtime Audubon icon, Ron Klataske, in attendance. Ron was in town speaking at the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Plains Conference. His son, Ryan, I were on the planning committee and moderated a panel on bison for the event.

Wendy Bantam, our office manager, works in the office at Prairie Pines on Mondays and Tuesdays. Remember, Prairie Pines is open and free to the public Fridays and Saturdays, 9AM-5PM, and Sundays 1-5PM. If you want to stop by the office on Monday-Thursday, please call to make sure Wendy or I will be in before you drive out.

The Legislature is winding down and I continue to monitor bills. Our biggest concern is Nebraska Environmental Trust(NET) funds being taken and reallocated by the Legislature. The session will end on June 9<sup>th</sup>. On the legislative front, we continue to watch bills attempting to take funds from the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

Please remember: **Give to Lincoln Day** begins May 1st! Wachiska will be given the opportunity to receive matching funds from all donations made **May 1-29!** There are challenge match funds made available from Lincoln Community Foundation's generous sponsors. Last year we received a \$250 gift as a result of one of our donors giving on-line, we were one of the random daily winners. We appreciate all of our members and donors and those that give during Give to Lincoln Day!

*Get out and enjoy Mother Nature if you can!*

If you rise at dawn in May you can savor the world before the pandemonium din of the Industrial Revolution and 24/7 shopping...To stand alone in a field and listen to the morning chorus of the birds is to remember why life is precious.

— John Lewis-Stempel, **Meadowland**



Poet's Daffodil at Prairie Pines photo by WJ Bantam

## Prairie Pines Partners Events at Prairie Pines Nature Preserve

As Free as A Bird  
Sunday, May 4, 2025 1- 4 PM

Celebrate Nebraska Bird Month & World Migratory  
Bird Day.

~Have a close encounter with birds from  
Raptor Conservation Alliance

~Take a bird watching walk

~Enjoy fun activities that create healthy bird habitats

~Learn funny "Bird Brain" expressions

~And more!



## Monitoring Nebraska's 2025 Legislation

*The 109<sup>th</sup> Legislative session will end around June 9. This is a 90-day session, and any legislation not passed, withdrawn, or indefinitely postponed will carry over to next session beginning in January 2026. 715 bills were introduced. The priority bills we are watching are **LB261, LB264, and LB638**. They involve the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET). Here are other bills we are monitoring this session:*

**LB121** prohibits land disposal of solar panels and wind turbine blades and components in Nebraska. We support recycling as many of these types of items as possible, but some parts will need to be landfilled, and this law would hamper solar and wind energy production in Nebraska. In Natural Resources Committee.

**LB137** prohibits homeowner associations from restricting solar panels or pollinator gardens. In Natural Resources Committee.

**LB145** continues the Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Species Assistance Fund and grant program to assist local control authorities and other weed management. In Ag Committee.

**LB163** creates the office of Climate Action within Nebraska's Department of Environment and Energy. In Natural Resources Committee.

**LB167** continues the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Act. In Natural Resources Committee.

**LB260** reappropriates funds including lowering the NE Game and Parks Administration General Fund budget appropriation by \$5M and replacing it with \$5M in NET funds. In Appropriations Comm.

**LB 261** would take \$15M from the NET and give \$10M to the Water Sustainability Fund and \$5M to the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Fund. In Appropriations Committee.

**LB264** would take 50% of the NET funds **forever** and give half to the Water Resources Cash Fund and half to the State Park Cash Revolving Fund. The Appropriations Committee has temporarily removed the NET take, but it could come back. In Appropriations Committee.

**LB309** to adopt the Safe Battery Collection and Recycling Act that would require recycling many types of batteries by 2028. In Natural Resources Committee.

**LB317** would merge the Department of Natural Resources with the Department of Environment and Energy and change the name to the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment. Creating super-sized state agencies has always been troublesome in the past. The Natural Resources Committee has made this one of their Priority Bills. On Select File.

**LB377** would extend the term limits for Nebraska Game and Parks Board members from two four-year terms to three four-year terms, allowing them to serve for 12 years instead of eight. Signed by the Governor.

**LB484** redefines agricultural and horticultural land to include solar and wind farms. In Revenue Committee.

**LB503** establishes American Energy Friendly Counties in Nebraska and creates a grant program that could benefit renewable energy facilities. In Revenue Committee.

**LB540** would create the Nebraska Apiary Advisory Board. Pertains mostly to commercial honeybees, there could be some benefits to native bees. In Ag Committee.

**LB590** allows mitigation banks and in-lieu of fees for incidental taking of threatened and endangered species. On General File.

**LB595** by Senator Prokop creates the Research Excellence Cash Fund that supports research-based investments in data, data collection, and research, including the Mesonet System. In Natural Resources Committee.

**LB607** Senator Bostar adopts the Environmental Stewardship Batteries Act, the Extended Producer Responsibility Data Collection Act, and the Minimum Recycled Content Act. In Natural Resources Committee.

**LB638** directs the Department of Natural Resources to apply for a grant of \$25M from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund, to be paid out in five annual installments of \$5M, into the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Cash Fund. Senator Ibach has promised to look for other funding sources. In Ag Committee.

**LB652** would terminate the Board of Educational Lands and Funds on July 1, 2027, and provide for the sale of school lands. In Education Committee.

**LB663** changes provisions relating to conditional use or special exception determinations by county planning commissions and county boards. In Government, Military and Veteran Affairs Committee.

**LB673** would transfer \$500M from the Perkins County Canal Project Fund to the Water Sustainability Fund on or before June 30, 2025. In Appropriations Committee.

**LB674** would transfer \$250M from the Perkins County Canal Project Fund to the General Fund and \$250M to the Water Sustainability Fund. In Appropriations Committee.

**LB695** would require the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District to construct a dam, secure funding, and engage in flood control measures to protect Battle Creek, Nebraska. In Natural Resources Committee.

**There are also several Constitutional Amendments that if passed would then need to be voted on by the citizens.**

**LR22CA** is a Constitutional Amendment to provide the right to a clean and healthy natural environment and that the state and political subdivisions serve as trustees of the natural resources of Nebraska. Recently a couple of states have passed a similar amendment, including Montana. In Natural Resources Committee.

**LR28CA** would eliminate the Board of Educational Lands and Funds. See also LB652 above. In Education Committee. In Education Committee.

## Burrowing Owl

by Richard Peterson

The western burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia hypugaea*, ranges from southern Canada thru the Great Plains south to Central America. Ours here in Nebraska is one of 18 subspecies in the world. In 1904 they were, “a very common owl in the middle and western parts of the state, becoming rare eastward”. Today, this owl occurs primarily in the western third of the state, especially in the open country of the Panhandle where it's associated with prairie dog and ground squirrel colonies. They may also be found on golf courses, road cuts, and close-cut areas adjacent to airport runways.

These long-legged little owls stand 10” tall. The sexes are similar in appearance, but neither have no ear tufts like other owls. Sporting a white throat and eyebrows and yellow eyes. They are up to 12” long, weigh half a pound, and have a 20-24” wingspan. They can live 6-8 years.



Burrowing Owl

Burrows and nesting sites can be dug by the owl if the soil is soft and sandy, but they prefer taking over abandon or otherwise vacant burrows of other subterranean dwellers. They are known to place the feces of mammals, usually cattle, around the outside of their burrows; probably to attract dung beetles and other edibles. The burrow is often used to stockpile captured food items for use later.

They usually hunt during dusk and dawn on a diet of insects and small mammals. Included are grasshoppers, crickets, beetles, caterpillars and other arthropods. Voles, mice and small birds are not off limits; neither are frogs, toads and lizards if their habitat is nearby. Although they often live near ground squirrels they too are on the menu. Often, they sit high up on perches to spot prey, then swoop down or fly up to catch prey in flight. They also hover over fields and will chase prey on the ground if needed.

The mating and nesting season usually begins in late March well into April. Females lay an egg every couple of days or so

until a clutch of 4-12 eggs have accumulated. The nest is incubated by the female while the male brings her food. There is one brood a year in Nebraska. The young leave the nest at about 6 months. Although nests can be used several years in a row, owls that migrate are less likely to return to the same burrow. When disturbed near their burrow they give a quick alarm that mimics that of a rattlesnake. If that doesn't work, they may bob and swaying their upper body.

Burrowing owls are at risk of predation by badgers, coyotes, and snakes, as well as feral cats and dogs. It is often killed by vehicles when crossing roads. The reasons for declining populations are loss of habitat, pesticide use, and prairie dog eradication programs. What's to keep a “sportsman” out sniping prairie dogs from shooting an owl, “just for fun”. The burrowing owl is endangered in Canada and threatened in Mexico.

**The University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL)** is conducting a survey of Nebraska birders to help inform future conservation funding strategies. To participate, individuals must be at least 19 years old, reside in Nebraska, and identify as a birder. Your input will play a critical role in shaping conservation and funding decisions for the future. All data will be stored securely for at least three years in accordance with federal regulations. *If you have any questions about this study or your participation, please contact Ava Britton at [abritton9@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:abritton9@huskers.unl.edu) or 203-695-5385.* To participate here is the LINK:

[https://unlcorexmuw.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_2gYDz3ivkYZ45Uy](https://unlcorexmuw.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2gYDz3ivkYZ45Uy)

### Cookies and Treats

We want to express our gratitude to all who provide treats for monthly meetings! You won't find us turning down cookies, brownies, cupcakes or savories brought to the General Meeting/Speaker Series!

Let us know if you'd like to bring treats!



### Recycle for Wachiska

Alter Metal Recycling at 6100 N 70 ST will accept scrap metals and give proceeds to Wachiska. They accept aluminum cans, tin, brass, iron, copper, wire with plastic coating and extension cords, vehicle batteries, steel and iron. **Alter Metal Recycling open Mon-Fri, 8AM to 5PM. When you turn in your metal items, have them credit “Wachiska Audubon WAS000.”**



## Wachiska's Prairie Habitat Improvement Program

By Elizabeth Nelson

Wachiska Grant Administrator

For over 20 years Wachiska Audubon has been preserving tallgrass prairie. Our work is currently being supported by a collection of grant-funding partners, allowing us to tackle many prairie habitat improvement projects (PHIP) we could not afford to do solely on our own.

June 30, 2025, is the end of a 3-year, \$377,000 program which has invested in improving prairies, both those which are owned by Wachiska and prairies on which we hold the conservation easements. Of this total, just under \$59,000 was contributed from Wachiska funds, with over \$317,000 in grant funding coming from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET), Nebraska Game & Parks, USDA, and three Nebraska Resource Conservation Districts; Nemaha, Lower Platte South, and Lower Platte North.

This March, Wachiska received approval on a second three-year grant for \$358,000 of additional prairie improvement projects. Wachiska's contribution will be \$57,000 with the bulk of the funding coming from the same partners. Wachiska's contribution is funded by income we receive from haying and grazing contracts on the prairies we own and contributions to our Prairie Management Fund. Future partner funding remains provisional on NET funds continuing to be allocated to environmental conservation projects in Nebraska and Federal USDA grants.

### Focus of the Prairie Habitat Improvement Program 2022-2028

Wachiska's PHIP pursues several priorities during these grant periods. **Controlling invasive species** Prairies in the 21<sup>st</sup> century do not maintain themselves. Many of our prairies have suffered from infestations of smooth brome, garlic mustard, and reed canary grass along with invasive shrubs and trees, most significantly Eastern Red Cedar. We have been working diligently to eliminate these invasives, often needing to return to infested areas several times. Then we monitor to assure the natural return of native species and do select seeding or install plant plugs on areas needing additional remediation. **Prairie Landowner support** We work closely with the landowners of the 23 prairies which are privately owned and protected by Wachiska-held conservation easements. We work with landowners to help them control invasive species and improve prairie habitat. Our goal is to help landowners establish long-term management practices to keep their prairies healthy for decades to come. **Sign construction** Signs mark all 32 Wachiska prairies –14 which had deteriorated have been replaced over the past 2½ years. **Structural improvements** On Klapka-Mendenhall Prairie, our largest prairie, we use cattle grazing as an important part of our management program. To support this, we are installing new fencing, interior paddocks, and replacing watering tanks. We are using local contractors to cut invasive trees and shrubs and spray invasive weeds. Dam repairs are planned for 2025 or 2026. **Terracing and waterway repair** are planned for Wildcat-Rousek Prairie, along with perimeter fence replacement and Eastern Red Cedar cutting.

Wachiska works closely with the Nebraska Land Trust and Prairie Legacy, two organizations who provide us with in-the-field management, consultation, and planning. The Wachiska Conservation Committee volunteers provide many hours of volunteer planning, in-field work, and grant administration. We offer many thanks to the Wachiska volunteers, conservation partners, and funding partners who make this work possible. We could not do it alone!



New water tanks at Klapka Prairie

Tours of Klapka and Wildcat prairies are planned for this summer to showcase the work completed and the plants and birds which live in this protected habitat.

### Gifts to Wachiska

On behalf of  
Monique Bentzinger Poldberg  
and Lance Poldberg  
to honor the

70th Wedding Anniversary of  
Louis & Grace Bentzinger



A Birdfeeder and Birdhouse  
have been placed at  
Prairie Pines  
In Memory of  
Margalice Shætz  
and In Honor of  
Keith Shætz  
On behalf of their family.

### Birding for Everybody and Every Body!

Saturday, May 24, 5:00 PM  
Guided Birding at Indian Cave State Park  
led by Birdability Captain  
Cassandra Dean.

# Climate Change Update

by Chuck Francis,  
Education & Outreach Committee

## Sensible Solar Energy to Slow Global Warming, Help Birds

On 12 February 2025, the Bird Study Journal in U.K. published new research on the compatibility of large solar panel arrays with increased wildlife biodiversity on six farms in East Anglia. Using conventional bird-count techniques, researchers found that well designed panel arrays can enhance bird populations. Exciting news to us in Wachiska, as we ponder trade-offs with new energy sources and environment.

Researchers assessed bird diversity in three management systems on six farms: 1) 'simple habitat' areas with intense management, grass was cut or grazed with to low sward height by mowing or grazing, and no woody boundaries; 2) 'mixed habitat' with infrequent grazing, higher sward height, wildflowers, and hedgerows or trees around the arrays; and 3) nearby cultivated farms with no pastures or trees.

They walked 200 m transects across each area and counted birds on ground or flying, up to 200 m on either side of each transect. Thus the counts were for 2 hectare (5 acre) areas in each site. Counts were early in the morning when bird activity was greatest. Two visits were made, one early in the birds' breeding season and one late in the season.

In 38 transects they counted 830 birds from 44 species. Highest total number of birds was seen or heard in mixed habitat solar panel areas (35 birds/4 ha), compared to the simple habitat (17 birds/4 ha), and lowest around panels in cultivated areas (12 birds/4 ha). Abundance of species was also highest in mixed habitat (20 per 4 ha), with lower species number of species in simple habitat (10 per 4 ha) and in farmed ground (8 per 4 ha).

It was clear from these U.K. farms that mixed plants in biodiverse habitats had twice the total birds and twice the species than in either simple grassy habitat or nearby cultivated fields. Thus, careful placement of solar panels and thoughtful management of diverse habitat is attractive to bird species, compared to uniform cultivated lands on the close-by farms. Results contrast with popular opinions that land put into solar panels will always disturb the best avian habitat to maintain biodiverse wildlife populations.

Also in a citizen science project in Minnesota a decade ago, NRCS technicians trained farmers to recognize 8 species of frogs by their distinct croaking patterns. Farmers with land near streams and wetlands walked along these areas and identified many of the eight species. This convincing demonstration alerted land owners that maintaining diverse areas was beneficial for preserving habitat for species that helped manage harmful insects in their fields, similar to the diverse birds in solar panel areas in U.K. This type of experience is valuable to show how biodiverse areas on the

farm contribute to non-chemical pest management, including managed diversity under solar panels. This data collected by farmers and researchers add to experiment station information to demonstrate viable alternatives to current monocultures and chemical agriculture, and unique ways to provide energy for farming and household needs.

Reference: *Bird Study Journal*, 12 February 2025, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00063657.2025.2450392>

## Cedar Waxwings

By Mary Jensen/Bill Shaffer

This spring we have been lucky enough to have our yard serve as a gathering place for a good-size flock of cedar waxwings, beginning in early March. At one point I counted 70-80 of them clustered in the river birch & flowering crab trees in the front yard, although it's hard to get an accurate count because they seem to be constantly in motion. The bird bath has been very popular, and there is always a lot of friendly jostling as groups of as many as a dozen at a time fly down to grab a few quick sips before others swoop in to take their places. We're not seeing as many lately, and I suppose they will all eventually move on to their summer breeding grounds, but hopefully these beautiful birds will visit us again this fall when they migrate back through on their way south.



Cedar Waxwings. Photo by Mary Jensen/Bill Shaffer

## Call for Newsletter Submissions

If you'd like to contribute an article or photos to the *Babbling Brook*, we welcome submissions.

### Guidelines:

Please send photos as jpegs (300dpi) and articles as an attached word document via email ; no later than the 15th of each month to [office@wachiskaaudubon.org](mailto:office@wachiskaaudubon.org).

*\*We edit and curate to fit our newsletter format.*

We hope to inspire members who might like to contribute environmental observations or research.

## 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 Deb Fischer**

1248 O St Ste 1111, 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>

### **Senator Pete Ricketts**

1248 O St Ste 1000, 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://ricketts.senate.gov>

### **Congressman Mike Flood**

301 S 13<sup>th</sup> St Ste 100, Lincoln NE 68508 (1<sup>st</sup> District)  
Lincoln phone: 402-438-1598  
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4806 Fax: 202-225-5686  
E-mail at website: <http://flood.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 Jim Pillen**

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: [councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lincoln Journal Star**

Letters to the editor, 21<sup>st</sup> and N 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_ \$25 Individual/Friend
- \_\_\_ \$35 Family Friend
- \_\_\_ \$50 Black-capped Chickadee Friend
- \_\_\_ \$100 Northern Cardinal Friend
- \_\_\_ \$250 Western Meadowlark Friend
- \_\_\_ \$500 Bald Eagle Friend
- \_\_\_ \$1,000 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  
3100 N 112th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68527



**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, 3100 N 112th ST, Lincoln, NE 68527



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

## REMEMBERING WACHISKA'S HISTORY

Wachiska means “stream” or “creek” in the languages of Indigenous people of eastern Nebraska, the Omaha and Ponca.

The environmental stewardship efforts of the Wachiska Audubon Society take place on the past, present, and future homelands of the Pawnee, Ponca, Otoe-Missouria, and Omaha Peoples, as well as those of the relocated Ho-Chunk, Sac and Fox, and Ioway. We humbly join our efforts with theirs in honoring and stewarding this land of prairies, rivers, and streams.

## Wachiska Audubon Society

3100 N 112th Street  
 Lincoln, NE 68527  
 402-486-4846  
 office@WachiskaAudubon.org  
 www.WachiskaAudubon.org

If you missed a monthly program or want to view one again, Wachiska Audubon’s monthly programs are available on YouTube via the homepage at [www.WachiskaAudubon.org](http://www.WachiskaAudubon.org).

### WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2025

Executive Director ..... Mark Brohman  
 Office Administrator..... WJ Bantam

#### OFFICERS

President ..... \*Theresa Pella  
 Vice President ..... \*Andrea Faas  
 Secretary ..... \*April Stevenson  
 Treasurer/Finance..... \*Carol Bodeen

#### STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large ..... \*Dakota Altman  
 Director at Large ..... \*Ann Briggs  
 Director at Large ..... \*Doug Campbell  
 Director at Large ..... \*Ethan Freese  
 Director at Large ..... \*Stu Lutich  
 Director at Large ..... \*Tom Lynch  
 Director at Large ..... \*Roxanne Smith  
 Director at Large ..... \*Kris Powers  
 Conservation ..... \*Ross Scott  
 Education/Outreach..... \*Tim Knott  
 Membership..... Linda Brown

\*Denotes voting Board member

For contact information of officers and committee chairs, call or email the Wachiska office.

### GIVE TO LINCOLN: BIG IMPACT for WACHISKA!

**May 1-29, 2025**

Gifts given May 1-29 during GIVE TO LINCOLN greatly help us at Wachiska Audubon. Every donation given gets a proportional share of a \$650,000 challenge match fund provided by Lincoln Community Foundation and other sponsors!

#### HOW TO GIVE:

1. To give online with credit/debit card, scan our QR CODE or go to <https://givetolincoln.com/nonprofits/wachiska-audubon-society>
2. Or write a check to: *Lincoln Community Foundation*. In the memo of the check, please write: *Wachiska*. Mail your check to: **Lincoln Community Foundation , 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68508** Donations received May 1-Midnight May 29



**Wachiska Audubon Society’s financial records are available for examination in the office.**

### Mission Statement of the Wachiska Audubon Society

The mission of the Wachiska Audubon Society is to bring people together to preserve and restore tallgrass prairies and other natural ecosystems, promote birding, support native wildlife, provide nature education, and advocate for the sustainability of our natural community.

### 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**.

