



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 41st Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2014

MARCH 2014

Volume 23 - Issue 3

General Meeting—Thursday, March 13, 7:00 p.m., Dick Administration Building, Union College, Lincoln



Birding: A Lifelong Activity for the Curious

by Dan Wheeler and Dave Titterington

Birding and wildlife watching are two of the fastest growing recreational activities in the United States. Why do these have such wide appeal? How does this activity and interest relate to bigger environmental issues?

At Wachiska's March general meeting program we will have two presenters, **Dan Wheeler** and **Dave Titterington**. These two passionate birders will describe some of the reasons they enjoy birding and watching wildlife and will invite others to describe their own reasons for doing so. Dave and Dan will highlight some of their experiences in classes and on trips as well as describe some of the opportunities available. Those attending will also be asked to describe how they maintain their curiosity on this nature topic. The session will close with anticipation of some of our "old friends" who will be winging their way into Nebraska in the near future. Spring in Nebraska is a natural wonder to behold! This program should be of interest to all Wachiskans who are drawn to our chapter by birds.

Dan Wheeler grew up in West Virginia and was a counselor at Oglebay Nature Camps. He had the opportunity to learn bird songs, especially warblers, from professionals as well as serious lay people. His original goal was to be a professional

ornithologist, but he got sidetracked doing people work (professional development and leadership). Dan has always birded wherever he has traveled or lived. Since 1978, he has been a faculty member at both UNO and most recently at UNL. Dan and Dave have taught the OLLI birding course for four spring sessions and will be teaching it again this April.

Dave Titterington has lived in Lincoln since he was three years old. He graduated from Pius X High School. A few years ago he chaired the Nebraska Birding Trails and is a member at large on the steering committee of the Nebraska Bird Partnership. He is well known to most bird feeders in the Lincoln area as he and his wife, Linda, are the owners of Wild Bird Habitat Stores which were founded in 1993. Dave's business specializes in backyard bird feeding with an emphasis on bird conservation, environmental education, and outdoor birding recreation. Over the past 20 years Wild Bird Habitat has funded, sponsored, and participated in community projects related to promoting and sustaining Nebraska's rich birding heritage. The Wild Bird Habitat Stores have received numerous honors including the "Howard Wiegers-Journal Star Outstanding Conservationist," the Edna Shield's "Sharing Nature with Children Award," Wachiska Audubon's "Lyman's Award," and the Better Business Bureau's "Integrity Award."



Yellow Warbler

Please join Wachiska on **Thursday, March 13, at 7:00 p.m.** for this free public presentation in the Dick Administration auditorium on Union College campus, 3800 South 48th Street, in Lincoln. From 48th and Calvert streets, go one block south to the north end of campus. Due to construction on that end of campus, parking can be found along 48th Street, near the church on Prescott Avenue, or at the campus gym. Look for Audubon signs on the doors of the Dick Building. An on-site ramp and elevator are available. Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

Calendar

March

- 3 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 4 Finance Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 4 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 13 General Meeting, "**Birding: A Lifelong Activity for the Curious**," by Dan Wheeler and Dave Titterington, Union College Dick Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 16 Field trip to Rainwater Basin & crane viewing on the Platte River, 12:00 noon (page 2)
- 17 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 6:00 p.m.
- 27 Legislation Committee, DaVinci's, 11th & G, 6:00 p.m.
- 27 Candidate Forum, Tabitha, 7:00 p.m. (page 5)



Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

The Rain of Cranes Falls Mainly on the Plains

Is it possible to get your fill of sandhill cranes when a half million of them stop in your neighborhood every spring? Probably not, considering this astonishing spectacle is the largest gathering in the world of these regal birds. There will be plenty of opportunities to see them on their mid-February to mid-April stopover. You can spend the day exploring the Platte River area in central Nebraska, attend Audubon's Nebraska Crane Festival in Kearney March 21-23, or join Wachiska's March field trip for an afternoon of crane watching and birding in the area around Grand Island. We'll visit a Rainwater Basin wetland in search of migrant waterfowl and bird by car to view families of cranes calling and dancing in the fields. At dusk we'll watch the breathtaking flight of cranes to the Platte River and their convergence on the river roost.

Meet at **12:00 noon on Sunday, March 16**, on the south side of the State Capitol, 15th and H streets, across from the governor's mansion in Lincoln. Participants can either caravan or carpool for the hour-and-a-half drive to our target area. Bring binoculars and



Sandhill Crane

scope if you have them and beverages or snacks if you prefer not to purchase them on the road. Be prepared for cooler temperatures at sunset. There is no fee and the public is welcome. If you have questions call John at 402-475-7275.

Welcome New Audubon Members

by Joyce Vannier, Membership Chair

In the past month the following people have joined our group through a National Audubon Society membership:

Randall & Rheet Baker	Jim Lauerman
Katherine Brandenburg	Patricia Leach
Tom Brink	Randy Leber
Scott Bulfinch	Joe Lutjeharms
Caden Connelly	Tim Malone
James Davis	J T McGreer
Donna DeKalb	Lisa Michel
Van Duling	Virginia Miller
Carl & Janet Eskridge	David Morris
Teresa Freeman	Jane Reffett
Ferne Furrer	Larry Rose
Rose Gernert	Michael Schroeder
Kim Hachiya	Tami Schuldt & Susan Crawford
Elizabeth Jenches	Leonard Sloup
Scott Keene	Christina Usher
Mark Knuth	Foster Woodruff

Winter Lecture Series Continues

by Bob Stoddard

The overall topic for Lincoln's Winter Lecture Series this year is "Climate Change: Local, National, and International Responses." Note that these free lectures will be held at a new site this year: Hardin Hall Auditorium, 3310 Holdrege Street, on UNL's East Campus (former Kellogg Center). Parking is free on the north side of Hardin Hall.

The series continues on successive Sundays through March 16. Each event starts at 7:00 p.m. with a free lecture for an hour. After a 20-minute refreshment break, the audience is invited back to engage the speaker in a Q&A session that may last until 9:00 p.m. The series concludes with two sessions of panel discussion.

March 2

Melchiade Bukuru, Chief of UNCCD Liaison Office, United Nations Headquarters, New York, NY
Implications of Desertification on the Economic, Social, and Political Landscape in Sub-Saharan Africa

March 9

Panelists: Don Wilhite, Professor, Applied Climate Science, School of Natural Resources, UNL; Clint Rowe, Professor, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, UNL; Mike Hayes, Director, National Drought Mitigation Center, UNL
Effects of Climate Change in Our Region

March 16

Panelists: Ken Haar, Nebraska State Senator, District 21; Ann Bleed, Natural Resource Scientist, School of Natural Resources, UNL; Milo Mumgaard, Senior Policy Aide for Sustainability in Mayor's Office, City of Lincoln
Public Policy Issues of Climate Change in Our Region

These lectures are sponsored by the Unitarian Church of Lincoln, Humanities Nebraska, and the UNL School of Natural Resources.

Birds on Display in Nature

by Kevin Poague, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center

A call was received in the Wachiska office and forwarded to me in early February when Bill Bryant with the *Voice News* in Hickman asked for a bird ID. He spotted a bird a mile and a half northwest of Panama on Stagecoach Road on February 1. I got back to Bill with the following reply:

"Arlys Reitan forwarded your photos to me. The bird in your photos is a shrike! There are two kinds around here, the loggerhead shrike and the northern shrike. The birds look very similar, but they aren't here at the same time of year. Loggerheads nest here and migrate south for the winter, while the northern shrike is only seen here in the winter. So the bird in the photo is likely a northern shrike. It is a little larger than the loggerhead, slightly grayer, and the black mask on the face is narrower. They aren't all that common, so this was a good find."



From the Board ...

by Jessica Umberger, Vice President

3rd Annual Bird EnCOUNTER A Flying Success

The third annual Bird EnCOUNTER at Gere and Eiseley city libraries in Lincoln proved a success on February 8, as more than 300 children and parents braved the snow on a Saturday afternoon to visit a major educational event. Wachiska's population and environment committee again sponsored this event and partnered with these other groups mentioned below. Many volunteers including Wachiska members, Master Naturalists, and UNL students helped make this an exciting and enriching birding experience for the many families attending.

In the craft rooms, kids spread lard onto pine cones and rolled them in birdseed to create a snack in their own yards. Burlap sacks were filled with cut-up grass and yarn to be used as nesting materials. Families were encouraged to hang these projects in their yards and keep a close eye on who came to visit. Hawk silhouettes were made to bring attention to the large death and injury toll of bird/window crashes, and toilet paper tubes came to life as owls. *(Note: Thank you to all for your toilet paper tube donations over the past years; we have recently learned the libraries will not be allowing TP tube projects so they are not needed at this time.)* Alene Wiles and Paul Johnsgard shared their incredible drawing talents with young artists crowded around long tables; we had a few excited attendees bring their books for a prized Paul Johnsgard autograph.

Children learned about the Great Backyard Bird Count which was happening the following weekend. Brushing up on their birding skills, they searched for bird pictures in the library and hoped for a sighting of the black-capped chickadees or dark-eyed juncos seen in the early morning at both libraries. Master Naturalists instructed families in the use of real binoculars, including special child-sized ones furnished by Nebraska Game and Parks. Specialists from the Pioneers Park Nature Center turned heads throughout the library when their live owls gave hoots from the reading nooks, and kids flocked toward the birds. Seeing birds of prey up close was captivating to young and old visitors alike and is a wonderful way to gain interest in birding. This seeks to highlight the importance of birds as a component and indicator of a sustainable environment.

Many people checked out bird books on special displays and entered a raffle for prizes including a birdfeeder and Nutrasaff seed and an adventure pack including binoculars, a flashlight, and a whistle with a compass—prime tools for any youngsters new to birding.

We want to thank the library staff who welcomed us to their buildings and showed great enthusiasm with the children and adults who visited this special event. A huge thank you to our volunteers for sharing your passion and knowledge with future generations of birders.

Many thanks to Dave and Linda Titterington of Wild Bird Habitat Stores for their ideas and financial support, donation of raffle prizes and birdseed, plus the help with advertising on many levels. All Needs Computer and Mailing Services contributed

printing of posters and color flyers with bird photos. Please join with Wachiska Audubon by supporting these local businesses.



Future Birder

40th Anniversary of Rowe Sanctuary

Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary will celebrate 40 years of success in conserving the Platte River on Saturday, March 15. Anniversary activities will showcase the accomplishments and the people behind the work. Rowe Sanctuary would not be possible without the many years of dedication of Audubon chapter members across Nebraska. A special invitation is extended to those of you who have helped at any time during the last 40 years!

A special public anniversary celebration is planned from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. March 15 at the Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary. A special welcome will be given to all past, present, and future supporters, volunteers, chapter members, and staff members who have helped build this legacy. The reception begins at 2:00 with the formal program beginning at 2:30 p.m. Keynote speakers include Nebraska's first lady, Sally Ganem, and renowned ornithologist and author, Dr. Paul Johnsgard. This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments and tours of the Audubon Center will be provided.

The celebration will continue with a gourmet evening event at the Museum of Nebraska Art beginning at 6:30 p.m. The Iain Nicolson Audubon Center and Rowe Sanctuary Stewardship Board invite everyone to join them for special presentations by Michael Forsberg, noted wildlife photographer; Don Welch, poet; and a special personal video message from Jane Goodall. Gourmet hors d'oeuvres and fine wines will be provided, casual cocktail attire is suggested. The cost for the dinner is \$75 per person. To reserve your place, call 308-468-5282.



Photo by Don Brockmeier

Sandhill Cranes

The Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary is dedicated to the conservation of the Platte River and the birds that rely on it. Located along the Platte River south of Gibbon, Rowe Sanctuary is open year-round and features hands-on nature education

programs for children and adults. For details and directions, call 308-468-5282 or visit rowe.audubon.org.

Wachiska Recognized on the NAS Level

by Arlys Reitan, Editor

(Note: The following contains excerpts from a letter to chapter leaders around the country received this week from National Audubon's president, David Yarnold, who many will recall was the speaker at our 40th anniversary celebration last September.)

Dear Audubon leaders,

Audubon's power is in its chapters. You hold the key to saving birds, saving habitat, and creating a better future for this planet. The work you do is vital—and you all know how to get things done.

When I visited Wachiska Audubon in Nebraska for their 40th anniversary celebration last fall, that power was on full display. As part of the event, *National Geographic* photographer Joel Sartore was recognized with Wachiska's 2013 Earthkeeper Award. In accepting the award, he said "I know that whenever something needs fixing in Nebraska, Wachiska Audubon will get it done." It is a true testament to the power of chapters to make things happen on the ground.

Chapter-driven efforts are leading to some great successes on the national stage—our impact is being felt on issues such as eagles and wind power. Our fight to keep Shell Oil from drilling in the Arctic celebrated an incredible success this year when Shell announced they would not even try to drill in 2014. They are finally starting to see what we have been saying all along—there is no safe way to drill in that environment.

So, thank you all for the great—and important—work you do. And, if you ever get to Nebraska, I urge you to visit Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary during the sandhill crane migration. The birds should be traveling through in March and into April, and it is an experience not to be missed.

David Yarnold, President & CEO
National Audubon Society

Birdingpal – A Source Worth Checking Out

Birdingpal is a well-known website for traveling birdwatchers. With several thousand local birdwatching contacts around the world, the site might be of interest to Wachiska members (visit <http://www.birdingpal.org/>).

Many selected professional birdwatching guides from around the world are also listed. Tours can be designed to meet specific requirements. Such tours are attractively priced and available year round. Check out these sites also: <http://www.birdingpal.org/tours/> or <http://www.birdingpal.org/guides.htm>.

Plant Expert to Discuss Endangered Plant Conservation

Jim Locklear, director of conservation at Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha, will present a program on a new initiative to support endangered plant conservation in Nebraska and the Great Plains on Saturday, March 29, at 10:00 a.m. at Finke Gardens and Nursery, 500 North 66th Street, in Lincoln. Locklear will address research, seed banking, restoration, and outreach efforts in addition to the native plant habitat in Lincoln's Wilderness Park.

Locklear has worked in the field of public horticulture for 25 years, previously at the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Kansas, the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, and the Morton Arboretum in Illinois. He wrote the book *Phlox: A Natural History and Gardener's Guide*.

This program is co-sponsored by Finke Gardens and Nursery and Friends of Wilderness Park.

Contact Mary Roseberry-Brown for more information at mroseberrybrown@yahoo.com or 402-477-8282.

Eight Actions to Protect Birds where You Live

1. Reduce or eliminate pesticide and herbicide use. By using fewer chemicals in and around your home, you will help keep birds, pets, and your family healthier.
2. Plant native plants. Native flora provides birds with food in the form of fruit and seeds and is home to tasty invertebrates like bugs and spiders.
3. Identify the non-native invasive plants in your region and work to remove them from your yard. Do not bring any new invasives into your backyard habitat! Invasives don't provide as much good food or habitat as native do and can threaten healthy ecosystems.
4. Attract hummingbirds with sugar water made by combining four parts hot water to one part white sugar boiled for one to two minutes. Never use honey, artificial sweeteners, or food coloring. Clean hummingbird feeders with a solution of one part white vinegar to four parts water once a week.
5. Make your windows visible to birds to prevent crashes. Put up screens, close drapes and blinds when you leave the house, or stick multiple decals on the glass (decals need to be no more than two to four inches apart to be effective).
6. Let your yard get a little messy! Leave snags for nesting places and stack downed tree limbs to create a brush pile, a great source of cover for birds during bad weather.
7. Close blinds at night and turn off lights you aren't using. Some birds use constellations to guide them on their annual migrations; bright lights from windows and skylights can disrupt their steering senses.
8. Create or protect water sources in your yard. Birds need water to drink and bathe in. Keep birdbaths clean; change the water three times/week when mosquitoes are breeding.

For Pete's Sake

by Bob Den Hartog

Have you met Pete? Well, I'll tell you what—I met Pete while wandering a grassy stretch north of Lincoln last summer. Now if I could whisper something on paper, that's what I'd do for this next part . . . Pete's a bird. And, I'm not crazy. Honest! If I could only whisper with an exclamation point!!

Anyway, I don't really know a lot about Pete other than what he told me. You know, he didn't even say what kind of bird he was! So I'll just make something up. He looked kind of old and tired, so I think I'll go with the "saggy-breasted bug snatcher." Yep, that seems fitting to me.

Now that we've covered the formalities, let me tell you a little more about Pete. He's mostly black with some white on his back and wings. And he'd be upset if I didn't mention his snappy little patch of yellow on the back of his head. He says that's his lady catcher. (Wink. Wink.) Yes, he is certainly a handsome fellow! But I would have to disagree. It's not his looks; it's that crazy tune he whistles—sounds like someone whistling the *Lone Ranger* theme music backwards, underwater, with a mouthful of mashed potatoes. What?!?!? Ok then, for those in the audience of a certain age . . . he sounds like R2D2 from the *Star Wars* movies.

Funny story. Pete tells me that his kind didn't always has that special whistler. Oh no, that came by accident (insert blurring screen and strumming harps). Legend goes that once upon a time Pete's paternal ancestor was afflicted with a beak "problem." Now, keep in mind this is Pete's story, not mine. While out perusing the posies for a meal, the hapless avian protagonist (we'll call him Ed) somehow caught a monster bumble bee in his beak. It happened to be bum first. Since it was soooo big, the head and wings hung out the front. So that bee kept on buzzing. Oh man, how that fuzzy buzzy bumble bee bum must have tickled!! Ed whistled and rolled his tongue in a futile attempt to extricate the *Bombus*. Try as he may, that fuzzy buzzy bumble bee bum was stuck. It was getting late, so Ed decided to make his way back home whistling and rolling his tongue the whole way. Suddenly Ed noticed himself being surrounded by a squadron of lady birds falling under the spell of his whistling, rolling, buzzy, fuzzy . . . well, pecker. So it was from then on that all man birds would be equipped with such a whistler and tune. *Bombus* aside.

So where am I going with this? Oh yes—Pete asked me to mention that he would appreciate if we left a little grassland for him to sport his whistler, find an accommodating lady bird, and raise his family.

So . . . For Pete's sake, let's do that!!!!

(In case you haven't already figured it out, Pete is a musically-gifted grassland nesting bird called the bobolink. He is not a "saggy-breasted bug snatcher," although I have met a few of those, too.)

Candidate Forums for 2014 Gearing Up!

by Adam Hintz, President of Friends of Wilderness Park

Since 2002, Friends of Wilderness Park has hosted a Candidate Forum for every local election. These forums help connect the public with those who may represent us in the future in the Nebraska Legislature, Lower Platte South Natural Resources Board, City Council, County Commission Board, or Mayor's Office. The first of several of these forums this year will be for the 28th Legislative District on **Thursday, March 27, at 7:00 p.m.** at Tabitha Health Care, 4720 Randolph Street, in the Johnson Conference Room. The audience will ask questions of the candidates by writing them on a note card and the moderator will direct the questions to the candidates.

Additional forums for Nebraska Legislature and NRD Board elections are currently being organized. Those who are interested in civic engagement will enjoy these events.

Friends of Wilderness Park has worked hard this year to coordinate with neighborhood associations to help build support for the event. This first event will be co-sponsored by 11 local organizations including Witherbee, Irvingdale, Near South, Country Club, Indian Village, and Woods Park neighborhood associations, NeighborWorks Lincoln, Bluestem Sierra Club, Great Plains Trials Network, and Wachiska Audubon.

Thanks for Making the 2014 GBBC Successful!

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is over, and as of February 18, participants from around the world have submitted nearly 125,000 checklists reporting 3,919 species and more than 15 million individual birds. With more than a week left for people to submit their checklists from the count, we are on track to break our record of 134,000 checklists which was set last year. Thanks again for all of your help making the GBBC such a great success, and we hope you had fun counting!

(From the GBBC team at National Audubon Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Bird Studies Canada)

Your Help is Needed

by Sue Guild, Education Committee

Wachiska is looking ahead and needs eight volunteers for "Wild Adventures" at Pioneers Park Nature Center Saturday, April 19. We will sponsor two activities—assisting kids and their family use binoculars to watch birds in the Alexander Bird Garden and helping children use insect nets to capture bugs in grasses. There will be two shifts, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. For each shift we need two helpers in each activity.

If you can help with these fun activities, contact Bruce Mellberg at 402-570-3681 or brucergr@yahoo.com. Thank you!!

Thwarting Backyard Squirrels

(summarized from National Wildlife, 9/30/13, online)

It seems that when songbirds begin flocking to feeders in the fall, right behind them come the squirrels which always seem to double their efforts to get to the birdseed. Researchers say this is not the imagination. Tree squirrels do not hibernate. Instead, they use two strategies to survive cold weather. One is to gather and bury nuts for later use; the other is to fatten up during an autumn of gluttony.

As feeders know, squirrels frequently devour all the seed put out in a matter of hours, if not minutes. To deter them, some people place bird feeders in an open area with a metal baffle on the pole. Sometimes, however, a squirrel still gets on those feeders.

Any of them will visit a feeder if given the opportunity. Eight tree squirrel species (10, if you count flying squirrels) are found in North America, including eastern gray, western gray, fox, red, and Abert's (or tassel-eared) squirrels, but eastern grays seem to be the most successful at circumventing deterrents. One of the reasons seems to be that the species is very social. The animals have the ability to share knowledge among themselves. Eastern gray squirrels live in female-dominated family groups, often with three generations nesting together. Young squirrels learn how to work a feeder by watching their mothers or grandmothers.

All types of squirrels also have tremendous agility, in part because they can rotate their hind feet 180 degrees when descending a tree or pole. In addition, squirrels are very observant claims Kevin McGowan, an ornithologist at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in New York. He recalls one winter afternoon at his home when he saw squirrels on a feeder that was equipped with a baffle. McGowan realized the animals were jumping over from a snowman his kids had built.

Tips for Slowing Down Squirrels

Cylindrical baffles: They probably are your best line of defense says a researcher who uses stovepipe-shaped baffles on poles in his research. They should be at least six inches in diameter, 18 inches in length and five feet off the ground, and are best positioned on the pole under the feeders. Most squirrels can long jump about eight feet, so these feeder/baffle combinations must be placed in the open, well away from trees and decks.

Tilting baffles: These umbrella-shaped devices are placed above feeders, making them the best choice for yards with lots of trees. They should be at least 18 inches wide and work especially well when suspended from a three- to four-foot-long monofilament line. Place them above feeders that are hung from a horizontal line strung between two poles or two trees. Put plastic tubing (such as pieces of an old hose) around the line, so it will spin if a squirrel tries to perform a high-wire act.

Specialized feeders: Weight-activated birdfeeders drop down and block access to the seed when a squirrel steps on the perch. They can be effective, though some individuals learn to get to the food without tripping the cover. This type of feeder works well, especially for those wanting to feed flying squirrels, which are not heavy enough to trip it. If you are mostly interested in attracting small songbirds to your feeders, another possibility is to use a feeder surrounded by a wire cage. Any bird cardinal-sized or larger can't get in. A third option is a feeder that will spin when a squirrel lands on it. The animal can't hang on for long and is deposited safely on the ground. Specialized feeders can be purchased at garden centers or bird supply stores.

Safflower seeds: This grain is frequently advertised as being unappealing to squirrels, but researchers found that's not always the case because there seem to be regional differences. In studies, squirrels avoid safflower seed about 50 percent of the time; unfortunately, many bird species don't like safflower either, so it may make your feeder less desirable to them.

Spicing it up: Capsaicin, the substance that makes chili peppers hot, is sometimes added to birdseed mixes to discourage squirrels. It is not harmful to birds because avian nerve endings aren't shaped the same way as mammals. However, it should be used with care. Getting capsaicin in your eyes can be extremely unpleasant. Squirrels can build up a tolerance, though it does slow them down in the beginning without harming the animals.

Squirrel spookers: These clever devices can be used alone or with a baffle. They work by attaching a movable sleeve, held in place with a counterweight, to a feeder pole. When a squirrel steps on it, the sleeve slides down and the animal loses its footing. Then the apparatus moves back into place, waiting for the next challenger. Simpler spooking devices include putting a slinky on the pole or hanging DVDs near the feeders.



Divide and conquer: Another alternative is to set up a feeding station just for the squirrels, stocked with cracked corn or peanuts in the shell. If you have baffles on your birdfeeders and no baffle on these diversion feeders, you can usually solve the problem. However, you can run through a lot of food. If you have raccoons or opossums in your yard, this option is not a good idea.

Things not to do: Don't put grease or petroleum jelly on the feeder pole. Imagine if that substance was on you. It can coat the fur of a squirrel or get in the feathers of a bird. Also, don't hang mothballs. They are a registered pesticide and should be used only as directed.

Every yard is different. It will take some trial and error to figure out what works best for you, which usually involves some combination of deterrents. But no matter what, have fun exploring your options. Part of the enjoyment of feeding birds is matching wits with squirrels.

Public Officials

President Barack Obama

1600 Pennsylvania Av NW, Washington DC 20500-0001
Comment line: 202-456-1111
Phone: 202-456-1414 Fax: 202-456-2461
E-mail at website: <http://whitehouse.gov/contact/>

Senator Mike Johanns

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

Senator Deb Fischer

440 N 8th St Ste 120, Lincoln NE 68508
Lincoln phone: 402-441-4600 Fax: 402-476-8753
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-6551 Fax: 202-228-0012
E-mail at website: <http://fischer.senate.gov/>

Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (1st District)

301 S 13th St Ste 100, Lincoln NE 68508-2537
Lincoln phone: 402-438-1598
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4806 Fax: 202-225-5686
E-mail at website: <http://fortenberry.house.gov/>

Congressman Lee Terry (2nd District)

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

Congressman Adrian Smith (3rd District)

416 Valley View Dr Ste 600, Scottsbluff NE 69361
Scottsbluff phone: 308-632-3333 Fax: 308-635-3049
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-6435 Fax: 202-225-0207
E-mail at website: <http://adriansmith.house.gov/>

Capitol Hill Switchboard

888-436-8427 or 202-224-3121

Governor Dave Heineman

Capitol Bldg, PO Box 94848, Lincoln NE 68509-4848
Phone: 402-471-2244 Fax: 402-471-6031
E-mail: dave.heineman@nebraska.gov

State Senator

District _____ State Capitol

PO Box 94604

Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

State Capitol Switchboard 402-471-2311

Lancaster County Commissioners

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10th St Rm 110, Lincoln NE 68508
Phone: 402-441-7447 Fax: 402-441-6301
E-mail: commish@lancaster.ne.gov

Mayor Chris Beutler

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10th St Rm 208, Lincoln NE 68508-2828
Phone: 402-441-7511 Fax: 402-441-7120
E-mail: mayor@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln City Council

402-441-7515
E-mail: council@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln Journal Star

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

Membership

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

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

Friends of Wachiska (local membership)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Recruited by _____

E-mail _____

_____ \$20 Individual/Friend

_____ \$50 Sustainer

_____ \$30 Families

_____ \$100 Patron

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

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

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

OR

National Membership in National Audubon Society

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Recruited by _____

E-mail _____

Enclose introductory membership fee of \$20.

Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society** and mail to:

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

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Volunteers Needed Now

Ways to help your chapter:

1. Call the office and offer to make a few phone calls each month to line up cookie donors for general meetings. The list of donors is established—you just need to schedule the month needed.
2. Consider contributing money to purchase birdseed for the feeders that volunteers fill weekly at Gere, Anderson, Walt, and Eiseley Libraries in Lincoln. Mark "Library Birdseed Project" on the memo line and send checks to the Wachiska office.
3. Recycle aluminum cans at A-Can Recycling Center, 3255 South 10th Street. Request proceeds to be credited to Wachiska.

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Lincoln NE 68506-5643



The Babbling Brook is printed on recycled and recyclable paper.



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office@wachiskaaudubon.org
www.wachiskaaudubon.org

WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2014

OFFICERS

President	*Elizabeth Nelson	402-770-3485
Vice-President	*Jessi Umberger	402-580-3057
Recording Secretary	*Bob Boyce	402-770-6865
Corresponding Secretary	*Joe Francis	402-489-7965
Treasurer	*Gary Fehr	402-570-4382
Immediate Past President	*Arnold Mendenhall (Hickman)	402-525-4884

STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large	*Mitch Renteria	402-483-7275
Director at Large	*Benjamin Vogt	402-499-5851
Director at Large	*vacant	
Conservation	*Heidi Hillhouse	402-470-7350
Education	*Lauren Dinan	308-390-3961
Field Trips	John Carlini	402-475-7275
	*Ken Reitan	402-423-3540
Fundraising	vacant	
Hospitality	Cheryl Moncure	402-488-0036
Legislation	Bruce Kennedy (Malcolm)	402-796-2114
	*Sam Truax	402-325-9012
Membership	Joyce Vannier	402-489-4611
	*Lana Novak	402-475-8693
Monthly Programs/General Meetings	Arlys Reitan	WAS office 402-486-4846
Newsletter Editor	Arlys Reitan	WAS office 402-486-4846
Population/Environment	*Colleen Babcock	308-850-0445
Program Coordinator	Tim Knott	402-483-5656
Publicity/Public Relations	Jeanne Kern	402-423-0428

*Denotes Board member

OTHER ASSOCIATES

Bird Questions	vacant	
NAS Regional Board Member	Michele Crist (Boise, ID)	208-863-1918
Newsletter Layout	Linda Sullivan	402-580-8515
Raptor Recovery	Betsy Finch (Elmwood)	402-994-2009
Executive Director Audubon Nebraska	Marian Langan	402-797-2301
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Director	Roger Furrer	402-797-2301
Webmaster	Dan Staehr	402-440-5869

NEBirds Website

Check out the email discussion at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NEBirds/> to learn of the latest sightings and interesting tales of Nebraska's most avid birders and those interested in Nebraska birds and their ecology. Information changes daily—and even more often when excitement arises. Offerings of recent sightings, questions, and new photos are all welcome.

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

A Gift to the Future

A bequest to Wachiska Audubon Society is a gift to future generations enabling our natural heritage to continue. For wills, trusts, and gifts, our legal name is **Wachiska Audubon Society**. Our Federal Tax ID number is **51-0229888**.