



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 49th Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2022

NOVEMBER 2022

Volume 31 - Issue 11

Wachiska Program and Annual Meeting — Thursday, November 10, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also via YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/llBYO8lVh70> (no registration required)

## Reconciliation Rising - Confronting our Past, Reimagining our Future

by Theresa Pella and Mark Brohman

There are two agenda items for Wachiska's annual meeting that membership will be voting on—election of the 2023 Board and constitution and bylaws updates. Voting will be limited to members present in person. Bios of the board candidates are on pages 4 and 5. Constitution and bylaws changes were summarized in the October 2022 newsletter ([https://www.wachiskaaudubon.org/files/ugd/cd9e45\\_36fabe9cebf1418db8fe74ff30bd9698.pdf](https://www.wachiskaaudubon.org/files/ugd/cd9e45_36fabe9cebf1418db8fe74ff30bd9698.pdf)).

Prior to the meeting, the November program will be given by Margaret Jacobs, chancellor's professor of history and director of the Center for Great Plains Studies and Kevin Abourezk, a Native journalist. Margaret and Kevin are project co-directors of Reconciliation Rising. This is a multimedia project showcasing the lives and work of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the U.S. who are engaged in honestly confronting painful and traumatic histories, promoting meaningful and respectful dialogue between Natives and non-Natives, and creating pathways to reconciliation.

In September 2021, the Wachiska Board adopted the National Audubon Society's Statement on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion as the chapter's own. Part of the statement is "honoring and celebrating the equally remarkable diversity of the human species." That led the Board to decide it was time to know and appreciate what the indigenous word "Wachiska" means (see the June 2022 newsletter for more information).



Research ultimately led to meeting Margaret and Kevin and an opportunity to share Wachiska prairies with the Otoe-Missouria who once called this region home. In June, a delegation of the Tribe, Margaret, Kevin, and Wachiska members visited Dieken Prairie. In September, Tribe and Wachiska members visited Knott Prairie, located just three miles from an ancestral village location.

Margaret and Kevin were invited to share with all Wachiska members, friends, and the public other activities and additional information about the Reconciliation Rising project at the chapter's November Board meeting. This will be followed by a conversation about how our organizations may partner, grow, and learn from each other.

**Margaret Jacobs** studies the history of the American West in comparison with Australia and Canada with a focus on women and gender as well as children and family. She is also director of the Center for Great Plains Studies. The Center is an interdisciplinary educational and cultural hub that cultivates awareness of and engagement with the diverse people, cultures, and natural environments of the Great Plains. The region invites inquiry into the relationships between its natural environment and the cultures brought by its inhabitants, as scholars and residents work to preserve healthy ecosystems and build thriving human communities. *(continued on page 2, column 2)*

### Calendar

#### November

- 7 Education Committee, 6:00 p.m.
- 10 Annual Meeting/Election of Officers, Program, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A St., 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Field Trip to Pawnee State Rec Area, 9:00 a.m. (page 2)
- 14 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 15 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

December 18 Christmas Bird Count (page 2)

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, November 10, at 7:00 p.m.**, for this program and meeting. We are now meeting in person at the Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, in Lincoln. This free public presentation will also be live streamed on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/llBYO8lVh70>. Copy this link into your browser before the program begins. No registration will be necessary.

# Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman

Recently there have been a couple notable 50th anniversary celebrations. Omaha Audubon celebrated their 50th; Wilderness Park is celebrating their 50th; the Near South Neighborhood in Lincoln, where I live, is celebrating its 50th; the National Marine Sanctuary System turned 50; and the Clean Water Act has been around for 50 years. Next year Wachiska will celebrate its 50th anniversary. I recently attended the Friends of Wilderness Park annual meeting and walk through the park. They will celebrate their 25th anniversary next year. The Friends of Wilderness Park's origins are closely related to Wachiska and some of our members.



We shared our love of nature with elementary kids at four Nature Nights in the area. The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District held the evening events at Ashland School, Elmwood School, Prescott Elementary and Faith Lutheran School. We also participated in a Fun Night at Brownell Elementary. It is always fun to see the excitement on the kids' faces as they learn about nature or dig in the soil discovering all kinds of creatures. I want to thank everyone who helped with these events.

The last Second Saturday Seeds collection was conducted October 8, and an extra collection was held October 22. A big thank you to Beth Coufal and the many volunteers who collected seed with her the last few months. Seeds will be used by Prairie Legacy to establish prairies across Southeast Nebraska, and Wachiska will benefit from funds donated for the efforts.

I want to thank everyone who ordered birdseed or Audubon calendars last month and, hopefully, everyone will order seed again during our spring sale. The fall birdseed sale is one of our largest fund raisers. Thanks to the volunteers who helped with the sales. All of our events rely on volunteers, and Wachiska has so many great members who step up repeatedly.

Last month I was elected to the board of directors for the Chadron State College Foundation. I am humbled by the opportunity to serve the college and students across Nebraska and from all over the world. Too bad Chadron is at the opposite end of the state—I would love to involve some of their students in our activities. With some of our potential new Board members having close ties to the University of Nebraska, I am sure Wachiska will get more UNL students and recent graduates involved in our activities. Wachiska has several new Board members on the ballot. We are excited about getting a great group of nominees with new ideas and a variety of backgrounds. Their biographies are in this newsletter.

The migrations are coming to an end, but our over-wintering feathered friends are looking forward to your bird feeders and heated bird baths. Your actions can make all the difference in the world to these birds. Happy birding this winter.

*(continued from page 1)*

**Kevin Abourezk** is an award-winning journalist who spent 18 years as a reporter and editor for the *Lincoln Journal Star*, where he wrote thousands of stories and produced numerous news videos. A member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, he has spent his career documenting the lives, accomplishments, and tragedies of Native American people. In 2017, he joined [Indianz.com](http://Indianz.com), a Native American news website owned and operated by the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. He hosts a bi-weekly podcast for [Indianz.com](http://Indianz.com) called "Indian Times" that focuses on Native American news. He holds a BA in English from the University of South Dakota and a MA in professional journalism from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

## November Field Trip

by Todd Paddock

Let's look for birds at Pawnee State Recreation Area on **Sunday, November 13**, at **9:00 a.m.** There should be waterfowl as well as other birds. We'll meet at the parking lot of the boat ramp on the east shore of the lake. From Pawnee Lake State Recreation Road on the east side of the lake, go west onto the entrance road for Area 1, which has a wood sign stating, "Area 1: Boat Ramp, Swimming Beach." Then go left at the first "Y" and straight at the 2nd "Y" and follow the road to the south end of the boat ramp parking lot. Bring binoculars if you have them and dress for the weather. There is no fee, and the public is welcome as long as you are fully vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19. Call Todd at 507-458-9416 if you have any questions or wish to carpool.

## Christmas Bird Count

by Jason St. Sauver

SAVE THE DATE of Sunday, December 18, as this year's Lincoln Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Seward's CBC will be Saturday, December 17. It seems early, but it is always better to have the date on your calendar sooner than later. We hope you can help us count again this year—and invite friends, grandkids, etc. You can count a circle area on your own, with a team, or watch from your feeders or yard. It's never too early to sign up. The early-bird award goes to Ned Stringham for being the first to volunteer this year! Contact Jason at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center to sign up, <https://springcreek.audubon.org/events>; 402-797-2301; [scp@audubon.org](mailto:scp@audubon.org).

## Dark Skies Abound in the Sand Hills

*James E. Ducey, Valentine*

Dark skies abound above the great American Sandhills, and this reality was recently indicated with the newly designated Dark Sky Park at Merritt Reservoir State Recreation Area, as recognized by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA).

During a two-year process associated with about 82 pertinent lights, luminosity was decreased and light fixtures adapted to eliminate any upward shine, according to officials with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Some lights were removed.

There are many other spaces where stars and other cosmic realities are obvious during the dark hours and can be appreciated. Consider especially spaces near the public reservoir.

At Valentine National Wildlife Refuge, a public area of 71,526 acres, there is one night light at Hackberry Lake, which was the former headquarters, according to the refuge manager.

A contiguous tract of about 7,800 acres southwesterly of the confluence of the Snake River as it flows into the Niobrara River is owned by the Board of Educational Lands and Funds. There are no lights.

McKelvie Forest, which comprises 116,000 acres has one nightlight, according to U.S. Forest Service officials. The Steer Creek Campground during nights is always very dark beneath the twinkly Milky Way.

Near the north edge of the forest are two state wildlife management areas without lights. Anderson Bridge is a tiny bit of 137 acres along the Niobrara River. A relatively short distance west, and south of Nenzel, is Chat Canyon WMA of ca. 446 acres on both sides of the Niobrara valley. Then there is privately-owned property that provides an opportunity to enjoy the dark on a public road.

The Spikebox Ranch in central Cherry County owned by R.E. "Ted" Turner is sprawling space of ca. 142,000 acres with one regular nightlight at the bison pens, and maybe another one on occasion, according to the ranch manager.

At the western edge of Cherry County is the Fawn Lake Ranch, another Turner property. It comprises at least 64,000 acres or 100 square miles. There are three outside night lights, according to the ranch manager.

Compare this to the intensive multitude of outdoor lights in Lincoln, which has a city area of about 100 square miles. In the southwesterly sandhills is Crescent Lake NWR of ca. 45,000 acres in central Garden County. There are no outdoor lights on during the nights, according to a refuge biologist. There are 12 places where a light can be switched on if needed.

Elsewhere amidst the hills are ranches with minimal lights. A significant cattle and horse ranch in the upper extent of Calf Creek Valley has no outside night lights. West of Brownlee a similar ranch has 4-5 lights. A place along the South Loup River of more than 17,000 acres also has only 4-5 lights.

There is a "growing number of people who say the dark sky is an undervalued and underappreciated natural resource," according to the IDA.

## Power Up!

*by Lorrie Benson, Chair  
First-Plymouth Climate Action Team*

Power Up!, a two-part series exploring electricity generation at the community and home levels, will be offered by the Climate Action Team at First-Plymouth Congregational Church on November 3 and 10.

It's important to understand and reconsider how we generate electricity if we're to effectively address climate change.

The November 3 session will focus on "Electricity Generation and Public Policy." It will be a broad overview of electricity generation in Nebraska, particularly the Lincoln Electric System, including renewable sources, the regional Southwest Power Pool, and balancing cost, reliability, and sustainability, presented by Scott Benson, manager of resource and transmission planning, Lincoln Electric System.

Benson will be followed by a brief review of recent legislative efforts to restrict public utilities' responsiveness to their customer-owners presented by Ken Winston, a Lincoln attorney practicing environmental policy law. Similar legislation is expected in the upcoming session.

The November 10 session will focus on "Key Questions on Solar" for homes and smaller buildings. Topics will include how solar panels work, how they interact with grid electricity, and considerations for determining the economic return of solar photovoltaic systems, presented by John Hay, energy extension educator, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Hay will be followed by Marc Shkolnick, Lincoln Electric System, discussing availability of incentives and tips for making sure you hire a responsible solar contractor.

No registration is required. Programs will be 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. via Zoom only, using the link at [www.firstplymouth.org/CAT](http://www.firstplymouth.org/CAT).

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***"For man, Autumn is a time of harvest, of gathering together. For Nature, it is a time of sowing, of scattering abroad."***  
-- Edwin Way Teale

# Wachiska Audubon's 2023 Board Nominees

On November 10, Wachiska members and Friends will be asked to approve the 2023 Board slate of candidates. This year's nominating committee members are Kristal Stoner, Dwayne Wilson, Stu Luttich, Marilyn McNabb, and Theresa Pella. Executive Director Mark Brohman also participated in the group's discussions. The process included announcements seeking candidates during the August and September general meetings and notice in *The Babbling Brook*.

The brief bios below introduce you to the nominees—introduce yourself to them when you have an opportunity.

## **Theresa Pella** - President (2-year term)

Theresa is completing her second year as president of Wachiska Audubon. She has accepted the challenge to lead Wachiska as the organization builds on the past to embrace the future. She believes professional management is the right direction for Wachiska's success, and the next few years will be critical in the transition from a volunteer-driven organization. Theresa holds a BA in management and MA in legal studies. She retired in 2017 after 30 years in the public sector working in air quality policy and program areas. She is a certified Nebraska Master Naturalist, which is where she became interested in birds and their ecosystems. Theresa grew up on a farm near Tecumseh in Johnson County.

## **Andrea Faas** - Vice President (2-year term)

Andrea is the coordinator of the Pioneers Park Nature Center (PPNC) and has worked as a program administrator for the past eight years. The PPNC has 668 acres of prairie, wetland, and woodland habitat, two exhibit buildings, two historic buildings, a program building, and numerous outbuildings. PPNC serves 8,000 school children annually, has a nature preschool and a summer day camp program. She has worked in environmental and outdoor education for over 20 years with various agencies including the City of Lincoln, State of Nebraska, Stanislaus County, and nonprofits Fontenelle Forest and Nature Bridge. She is currently the board chair of the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program, an active member of the Association of Nature Center Administrators, and the liaison to the Friends of the Pioneers Park Nature Center. Her passion is to preserve natural landscapes and provide educational and recreational opportunities for people to explore and learn. In her free time Andrea enjoys spending time with her family, cycling, bird watching, and gardening.

## **April Stevenson** - Secretary (1-year term)

April is a lifelong resident of Lincoln but only a recent birder, thanks to Bruce Mellberg. She retired from Eagle Printing last year and keeps busy with Lincoln Friends of Chamber Music, Coro di Flauti, and Lincoln Civic Orchestra. April has served on many boards including the Lincoln Library Board, Open Harvest, University Place Art Center, and the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries. She also makes beaded jewelry for sale at Rowe Sanctuary, Crane Trust, Wild Bird Habitat, Lux Art Center, and MoJava.

## **Dylan Aufdenkamp** - Treasurer (1-year term)

Dylan is currently serving in his first year as the Board's treasurer. He grew up in O'Neill, Nebraska. Dylan is director of finance at CompanyCam, which was recently voted the fastest growing company in Lincoln. Prior to that, he worked at FiServ. Dylan graduated from the University of Lincoln with a BSBA in finance in 2014 and the Leadership Lincoln program in 2019.

## **Ann Briggs** - Director (2-year term)

Ann is interested in joining Wachiska Audubon's Board to help facilitate prairie conservation in Southeast Nebraska through community outreach and engagement. As a native Nebraskan, she has a deep appreciation of our unique prairie ecosystems. She holds a BS in fisheries and wildlife and an MS in human dimensions of natural resources, both from UNL. Ann works at the Nebraska Water Center as the public relations and engagement coordinator, focusing on communicating research and projects through digital and traditional media and coordinating events and outreach opportunities. As a current UNL employee, Ann is able to facilitate partnerships with the University and beyond to increase the reach of Wachiska Audubon's work.

## **Dakota Altman** - Director (2-year term)

Dakota joined the conservation committee earlier this year, contributing through field work and updating the website to provide more concise directions to Wachiska's prairies. He feels there is much need for the involvement of a young crowd into an organization like Wachiska. The hope would be that we can gain new perspectives and pass down knowledge from the wise prairie stewards who have been at the forefront of what Wachiska stands for. Dakota earned a BS in both wildlife ecology and conservation biology and currently is completing his graduate program in applied sciences under the working title of conservation storyteller. Since a very young age, he has always found the natural world to be a grand fascination not so easily contained. Summer vacations to the Western states made Dakota realize the beauty of Nebraska's often-overlooked ecosystems and wants to focus heavily on sharing that beauty and the conservation work being done to protect such valuable places.

**Mercy Manzanares** - Director (2-year term)

Mercy is an experienced environmental scientist with a habitat monitoring, ecological restoration, and management background for infrastructure projects. Her focus on threatened and endangered species consultation allows her to thoroughly understand project impacts on listed species, keeping projects in compliance with state and federal laws. Mercy is a leading expert on pollinators and the Monarch butterfly and has a variety of experiences with a diverse array of taxa and organizations. Her attention to detail, complemented by her creative ability to think conceptually, helps her design and implement adaptive project management practices. In addition, her strong interpersonal communication skills allow her to interact effectively with various audiences, from ranchers to roadway designers. Defined as a true multi-modal thinker, Mercy is able to be rational, intuitive, concrete, or theoretical, and relate to all kinds of minds. Her experience in the U.S. and abroad created a dynamic team member that is able to respond to project needs.

**Ethan Freese** - Director (2-year term)

Ethan was born and raised in Lincoln. He graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2018 with degrees in fisheries and wildlife and grassland ecology and management and completed a master of applied science degree at UNL in 2020. Currently, Ethan is working for the Platte Basin Timelapse project in the School of Natural Resources at UNL. He has been an active member of Wachiska’s conservation committee since 2019 and has been on the Board since 2021. Ethan has developed a deep appreciation for Nebraska prairies and enjoys helping others learn about these undervalued ecosystems.

**Kris Powers** - Director (1-year term)

Kris is completing her first year as a director at large. She graduated from Purdue University with a BSc in biology and spent most of her career as a laboratory technologist. Now semi-retired, Kris works as the natural areas field coordinator for the nematology group in the Department of Plant Pathology at UNL. The field work allows her the opportunity to explore many protected grassland parcels in Nebraska and neighboring states. The effect of climate change on and the nuances of habitat management for wildlife of these prairie parcels are of particular interest. It has been quite a learning experience to see from inside the organization how professionalized Wachiska has become, and Kris believe it makes for an effective organization, more able to weigh in on issues important to us all.

**Stu Luttich** - Director (1-year term)

Stu was born and reared on a farm between Ohio and Strang, Nebraska. He graduated from Utah State University-Logan with a BSc degree in wildlife management. Stu earned an MSc degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in wildlife ecology in 1969, with field research on the ecology and population dynamics on red-tailed hawks in central northern Alberta Canada. He was a wildlife research and management biologist for the Newfoundland-Labrador government, studying the ecology and population dynamics of the Labrador/Ungava and George River caribou populations. In his career, Stu has also studied elk, polar ice, northern goshawks, willow flycatchers, sage grouse, and Baird’s sparrows. Stu has been a committed conservation committee member since 2008. He is currently on the Board as past president, having served as chair in 2019-2020.

**Doug Campbell** - Director (1-year term)

Doug’s interest in the out-of-doors, especially prairies, began with visits to relatives’ farms and ranches and grew as he worked on a farm in Idaho. He grew up in Omaha and graduated from Washington University in St. Louis. Due to inspiration of Jack Kerouac’s writing, he hitchhiked throughout the U.S. and a chunk of Canada. He and his wife, Mary, also traveled almost a year visiting parks, forests, and wildlife refuges. Doug served with the U.S. Army Signal Corps in Germany. He worked in Chicago with Centers for Disease Control before coming to Lincoln to become bureau director with the State Department of Health. Doug is a volunteer and past Board member of Wachiska Audubon and Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center. He is a past board member of Sheldon Art Association, MEDICI (UNL Art Dept.), Lincoln Library Foundation, LUX Center for the Arts, StarTran, Friends of the Ross, Family Service, Public Art Lincoln, UNL State Museum, and First-Plymouth Church where he helped organize the sustainable committee. Doug believes Wachiska is comprised of talented and knowledgeable individuals and hopes the organization can involve more of its members.



**Faith to Forest**

*by Lorrie Benson*

The one-year Faith to Forest initiative is coming to a close. Lincoln area faith communities and individuals have raised money, planted trees, learned a lot about tree selection and care, and celebrated trees in worship and fellowship.

The effort has had the support of several groups, including Wachiska Audubon Society. We’re grateful for your interest and support!

And, it’s not too late to plant a tree; in fact, fall is generally the best time to plant. A caveat this year, with our current drought conditions, is to consider whether you’ll be able to water a tree as needed over the winter if we have a dry winter.

Choose a native or adapted species offered by one of the Faith to Forest nursery sponsors. The list of sponsors, along with advice on tree selection, planting, and care is on the Faith to Forest webpages at [www.firstplymouth.org/cattakeaction](http://www.firstplymouth.org/cattakeaction).

# Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

The Land Institute in Salina, Kansas, is in its 46th year of examining the relationships among people and our food, soils, agricultural practices, natural systems, plant genetics, and sustainability. This year, Wes Jackson, founder of the Land Institute, now in his 86th year, added to his half dozen major works by co-authoring a new book with the provocative title, *An Inconvenient Apocalypse: Environmental Collapse, Climate Crisis and the Fate of Humanity*. Wes has never shied away from taking issues just because they were big. Very, very big. Here's what his new book says about some of his favorite themes:

“...we are all caught in one big Ponzi scheme that started with agriculture. A Ponzi scheme is a con in which investors are paid not from the profits from successful investments or products but with money from a steady stream of new investors. ...human carbon seeking [is] ...a kind of Ponzi scheme, starting ten thousand years ago with agriculture. ...it began without fraudulent intent. ...[the first wheat farmers] had no way of knowing that they were creating the surpluses that would lead to empires, that those empires would exhaust soils around the world. ...or that eventually yearly eight billion people would be dependent on keeping that carbon-extraction scheme going.” (pp. 144-145)

“People have been drawing down the ecological capital of the ecosphere ever since agriculture, taking from Earth in ways that reduce options for future generations. ...the surpluses haven't been equitably distributed and not everyone has been enriched along the way. But now the human species has to face the consequences.” (p. 145)

Given the 10,000 years of “drawing down the ecological capital of Earth beyond replacement levels” and “the past two centuries of fossil fuel energy gluttony,” Wes writes, “Whether we like it or not—whether we can imagine it or not—the future will be fewer people consuming less.” (p. 139)

So is there hope? Here is Wes's answer:

“...we have no hope that eight billion people can live on Earth in anything like the current social, economic, and political systems. If that's the goal, then we counsel giving up. ... Let's say the new goal is getting to a world of two billion people who consume far less energy and resources. Do we have hope that our species can get there, with as little human suffering and as little ecological destruction as possible? Yes, we do. ...The possibility of a human future depends as much on coming to terms with the temptations of dense energy that are so hard to resist because of our nature. A collectively imposed cap on carbon seems to be. ...the only [approach]. ...that could work.” (pp. 140—141)

So what I hear Wes telling us is that if we want to work to reduce the increasingly destructive damage of climate change, we need

to address humans' habits of 1) overpopulation and 2) overconsumption. That's a tough assignment. A lot of us hoped better batteries would do the trick.

## Support Needed for RAWA Right Now!

by Marilyn McNabb

Audubon is bipartisan and works for biodiversity. Bipartisan support for biodiversity is a beautiful ideal—we'd like to see a lot more of it in Congress. So, it is especially good news that we can see the potential for bipartisan support for RAWA, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, S.2372. RAWA updates the Endangered Species Act with what has been learned since its passage almost a half century ago.

Introduced by Jeff Fortenberry (R) and Debbie Dingell (D), RAWA passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 231-190 in June. In the Senate, Deb Fischer is one of 16 Republicans and 25 Democrats who have signed up as a sponsor.

RAWA will fund programs to increase the recovery of species that are threatened or endangered, appropriating \$1.4 billion a year to states, local, and tribal efforts. ***It will send \$14 million annually to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.***

We suggest you email, call, or write Senator Fischer thanking her for her sponsorship of RAWA and asking her to push the bill forward for a vote very soon.

If you want to dig deeper, see the new Living Planet Report 2022 by the World Wildlife Fund ([worldwildlife.org](http://worldwildlife.org)). It finds that for the 32,000 populations it monitors, on average these populations are now 69 percent smaller than they were in 1970, mainly due to habitat destruction. But populations can recover!

National Audubon strongly supports RAWA.

## Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Upcoming Programs

Birds & Brews: Gabbin' 'bout Gobblers  
Monday, November 7, 6:30 p.m.

Third Tuesday Bird Outing  
Tuesday, November 15, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Holiday Open House  
Sunday, December 4, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Live music, delicious treats, homemade and recycled crafts, and more. Free admission, no reservations needed. Outdoor trails will be open for a winter walkabout on the tallgrass prairie.

More information on these and other programs can be found on our website, <https://springcreek.audubon.org/events>. Questions to 402-797-2301; [scp@audubon.org](mailto:scp@audubon.org).

## Public Officials

### **President Joe Biden**

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

### **Senator Ben Sasse**

1128 Lincoln Mall Ste 305, Lincoln NE 68508  
Lincoln phone: 402-476-1400 Fax: 402-476-0605  
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-4224 Fax: 202-224-5213  
E-mail at website: <http://sasse.senate.gov>

### **Senator Deb Fischer**

440 N 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 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 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, 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  
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