



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 45th Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2018

MAY 2018

Volume 27 - Issue 5

General Meeting and Program — Thursday, May 10, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, Lincoln

Invasive Plants—Old, New, and Coming Soon

by *Dr. Robert Kaul, Professor Emeritus of Botany at UNL and currently Curator of Botany, UNL State Museum of Natural History*

A few native—red cedar, for example—and many non-native plants have become invasive over the past 150 years. “Invasive” applies not only to weeds but also to unwanted trees and shrubs that disrupt native or cultivated habitats. Very few cultivated kinds of plants have become invasive, but many deliberately or accidentally introduced kinds have found Nebraska to their liking.



Dr. Robert Kaul

Bindweed, which we see daily as a lawn and crop-field pest, is from Eurasia and has been a weedy invasive since at least 1874 and isn't likely to be controlled anytime soon. Tree-of-heaven has been in Nebraska since at least 1904, but only recently has it become truly invasive. By contrast, Oriental bittersweet has only recently come to Nebraska and has been rampantly spread by birds; it outcompetes our native bittersweet and can smother trees. During this presentation, we will see photographs of such

plants, maps of their distribution, and dates and places of their first discovery in Nebraska.

Dr. Robert Kaul, Professor Emeritus of Botany at UNL, is curator of botany in the UNL State Museum of Natural History. Kaul received his PhD at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

India strawberry is from Asia and is a rapidly spreading lawn weed known in Omaha since the 1960s but only recently spreading to Lincoln and mid-state. Birds eat the fruit and so disperse the plant. The flesh is white, the seeds are red, and the flowers are yellow—all the opposite of the true strawberries. The fruits are edible but are not at all tasty.



India Strawberry



Yellow Star Thistle

Yellow Star Thistle is from Eurasia and found along roadsides, in disturbed sites, grasslands, hay fields, and pastures in a couple of Southeast Nebraska counties. Seeds are often spread by vehicles or by transportation of livestock or contaminated soil. It is poisonous to horses, causing a nervous disorder called “chewing disease.”

Join Wachiska Audubon to learn more about non-native plants in Nebraska at our monthly meeting on **Thursday, May 10**, at **7:00 p.m.** at Lincoln's Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street. Bring family and friends to this free public presentation. This location offers easy access with no steps, is handicap accessible, and provides convenient free parking in the church lot with overflow parking across the street to the west in the Pius High School lot. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Calendar

May

- 10 General Meeting, “Nebraska’s Invasive Plants,” by Dr. Robert Kaul, Unitarian Church, 7:00 p.m.
- 12-13 BIRDATHON WEEKEND**
- 12 Field Trip to Platte River State Park, 8:00 a.m. (page 2)
- 13 Field Trip to Pawnee Lake SRA, 8:00 a.m. (page 2)
- 14 Newsletter submission deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 14 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 15 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 31 GIVE TO LINCOLN DAY** (page 4)



Field Trips

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Blue Ribbon Birding for Birdathon

Congratulations to all the birders who survived the seemingly endless winter this season! You deserve a blue ribbon, but Wachiska's annual Birdathon fundraiser offers an even better reward than a ribbon. Treat yourself to a weekend of wonderful bird arrivals during the peak of our long-awaited spring. Birdathon donors can base their pledges on the number of species tallied during this birdy weekend which offers a great incentive for birders to contribute their observations and assist in maximizing the number of species in the final count.

Two weekend field trips will feature different habitats varying from woods to waters within Wachiska's Southeast Nebraska region for anyone interested in a group adventure. Items suggested for field trips include water bottle, insect repellent, and binoculars if you have them. Birders with spotting scopes may want to bring them if they plan to scout Pawnee Lake. The public is welcome to join in the fun. Birders can also contribute their personal local birding list at office@wachiskaadubon.org for species observed on May 12 and 13 to be included on the Birdathon species list. Call John at 402-475-7275 with questions.

Woods - Platte River State Park, Saturday, May 12, 8:00 a.m.

The scenic river hills habitat resembles the great forests further east and attracts unique breeding birds along with stunning migrants. Our hike will follow the Stone Creek trail renowned for being the best place in Nebraska to find Louisiana waterthrushes and an excellent place for breeding summer and scarlet tanagers. We'll keep our eyes and ears peeled for other eastern delights such as tufted titmouse and Kentucky warbler. From I-80, turn south at exit #426 and follow S13E past South Bend to the park entrance. Meet in the parking lot by the observation tower and Scott Lodge restaurant. A state park vehicle entry permit is required, and a daily pass is available for \$6/vehicle.

Waters - Pawnee Lake State Recreation Area, Sunday, May 13, 8:00 a.m.

Lakes can be an excellent place to encounter a wide array of species, and we'll scout local hotspots to see if they hold any surprises. Egrets, shorebirds, and waterfowl could potentially make an appearance on the lake, and several short hikes along the lake's edge may turn up some interesting sparrows. After exploring Pawnee Lake, participants are welcome to continue as we progress to nearby Branched Oak Lake to seek out additional species. We'll meet on the northeast corner of Pawnee Lake at the Area 4 Lakeview Campground entrance booth located off Pawnee State Recreation Road (the equivalent of NW 112th Street). A state park vehicle entry permit is required, and a daily pass is available for \$6/vehicle.

Review of Winter's Field Trips

by Shari Schwartz

February's field trip featured a fresh blanket of kaleidoscopic sparkling snow. A small but determined group of six birders braved the cold to search for cedar tree-loving species at Branched Oak Lake State Recreation Area where we encountered a lovely cedar waxwing, several fox sparrows, yellow-rumped warblers, and a large gathering of robins feasting on cedar berries. Two rough-legged hawks made an appearance, with a light morph first seen gliding overhead; later, a dark morph was spied perching near the road. The last bird for the day was a merlin that allowed us a quick glimpse before skeddaddling across the frozen lake.



Rough-legged Hawk, light morph

The world's largest crane party drew 13 Wachiska birders to central Nebraska for the March field trip. Not only did we see a massive number of sandhill cranes, but we were treated to excellent views of two regal whooping cranes. The first whooper we saw had obligingly spent weeks foraging with a sandhill flock in a readily visible location to the delight of a steady stream of admirers. A visitor from Wisconsin who was sharing the scope decided to join our group when we informed her that we weren't content with seeing just a single whooper and were going to look for two more that had been reported in the area. A check of the second area yielded impressive numbers of sandhill cranes but no whooper, so we pressed on to a locale further west that had been reported earlier in the day. As luck would have it, when we arrived at the field where it had been foraging earlier, there stood our second whooping crane rarity of the day with its glorious gleaming white plumage popping off the page amidst the sandhill sea of gray.

Yampa Valley Crane Festival Coming – Plan Ahead

The Colorado Crane Conservation Coalition, Inc. has announced details for the 7th annual Yampa Valley Crane Festival August 30 – September 2 in Steamboat Springs and Hayden, Colorado. The festival will feature over 50 exciting individual events. Highlights will include guided crane viewing by Paul Tebbel, former director of Nebraska's Rowe Sanctuary. Keynote speaker will be Anne Lacy, coordinator of crane research for the International Crane Foundation and author of the New York Times best-selling book, *The Genius of Birds*. Lectures, field trips, and activities geared for children and families will be numerous.

Up-to-date information about the Yampa Valley Crane Festival can be found at www.coloradocranes.org. Email questions to Ashley Steed at coloradocranes.org.

No. 125

by Richard Peterson

The last bird I added to my life list on my trip to Costa Rica was the yellow-thighed finch. I learned, however, that in spite of its name, it is not really a finch at all but rather a member of the Emberizidae family, which includes buntings, juncos, and towhees.



Yellow-thighed Finch

My trip was winding down—all but over, really. I'd checked out of my room and had put my bags outside my door ready for pickup. I had finished my sit-down breakfast with the other early risers. So, I decided to sit outside on a bench with binoculars in hand, watch a platform feeder, and bask in the slow-rising, warm morning sun as it filled the valley. I watched and waited to board our bus back to San Jose. It provided a quiet time to reflect on my trip. The last day of trips, at least for me, are full of mixed feelings—

anxious to get home but sad to leave behind the new and exotic.

The feeder was in the large landscaped garden surrounding the hotel. The platform was stocked with day-old cooked rice and beans, overripe bananas and other fruit, and assorted edibles past their due date. A good feeder to watch. The previous day, in fact, I'd seen an acorn woodpecker at the same feeder.

Then I saw it—a small gray bird flew in, landed on the feeder and began poking around looking for a meal. It turned out to be the last of the new and exotic for this trip.

The yellow-thighed finch, *Pselliophorus tibialis* (Lawrence, 1864) is endemic to the upper elevations of Costa Rica south into western Panama. No, this little fellow is not endangered but, in fact, is quite common in the Central Cordillera between 4,600 feet and the timberline where it actively forages in mature forests, second growth, forest edges, and gardens. It feeds at all levels from the treetops down to the ground, eating insects, spiders, berries, and even flower nectar. Sometimes, either in pairs or family groups, it is part of mixed-species feeding flocks.

This, by and large, nondescript, sooty-slate gray, junco-like bird was quite bland looking. OK, you might see a slight olive tinge to the breast and belly. How different from the bright and distinctive bodies of many of the other birds I'd seen on the trip. Bland, except for one part of its plumage—a very obvious, bright yellow cotton ball of puffy feathers on each thigh. The yellow almost glowed. Something you would miss if the bird were hunkered down in vegetation or high up in a tree. What is the adaptive function of those very obvious balls of yellow feathers, I wondered. I know what you're thinking. No, I thought that, too. Both males and females, however, are similar in appearance. I'll leave it to others to sort out the why. I still miss No. 125.

Nebraska Wildflower Week Next Month

by Beth Coufal

Wachiska Audubon will be participating in Nebraska Wildflower Week in June by hosting a tour of the Berg West Prairie next month. This prairie is small but packed with spring-blooming wildflowers. Mark your calendars now. If you would like to see the anemone and penstemon, meet at the Wachiska office at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 9, to carpool/caravan. You can also meet up with us at 9:00 a.m. at Love's Truck Stop by Syracuse. We will be at the prairie from about 9:30 until 11:00 a.m.

I would like to thank everyone who helped to collect seeds from Dieken and Berg prairies in 2017. We were able to sell the seeds for over \$1,200. This is in addition to the annual fall gayfeather harvest that Ernie hosts.

Seed collecting for 2018 will be on the following Saturdays: August 18, September 15, and October 20. If it is raining on these dates, we will reschedule for one week later. We will be collecting at Knott and Dieken prairies, and maybe Berg West. If you can join us, meet at the Wachiska office at 7:30 a.m. in August and September, and at 11:00 a.m. in October. Bring buckets, gloves, and clippers if you have them. If you have questions or would like a reminder via e-mail, please contact me at bethngaryc@windstream.net.

Office Volunteer Needed

by Jami Nelson, Membership Chair

Do you want to get more involved in Wachiska Audubon, and do you have a few spare hours each month? If so, we are looking for someone who is precise, conscientious, and dependable to help with data input to our computer member files. Wachiska's membership and donor lists continue to grow, so we could use an extra pair of hands to help keep our records accurate and up-to-date. If you happen to be familiar with using an ACCESS database, that would be very helpful, but if not, we'll train you! Please call Arlys who will connect you with one of the data entry people. Thanks for being willing to jump in and help!

Could You Provide a Ride to Meetings?

by Arlys Reitan, Office Administrator

From time to time I learn of members who are no longer attending our monthly general meetings and programs because they don't have transportation at night. Currently this is the case of a long-time member who is retired and can't drive after dark. He lives near the Cathedral of the Risen Christ, 33rd Street and Sheridan Boulevard. If you can provide a ride, please contact me in the office via phone or email and I can introduce you. Thank you for your consideration.

Wachiska's 30th Birdathon Underway

by Tim Knott, Coordinator

Our chapter's 30th annual Birdathon fundraiser is going into high gear this month. People are sending in their donations at a good rate, and Give to Lincoln Day, another opportunity to donate to the Birdathon, is gearing up, also. Wachiska is lucky to have so many reliable friends and supporters who are willing to donate. It's a good thing because Wachiska depends on their donations. A few



Peru State's Dr. Sara Crook with Syracuse fourth graders at Dieken Prairie

of the covered activities are shown in these photos. Have you made your contribution yet? Everyone's support is needed and appreciated, no matter how big or small. Our donors make our programs possible.

You can contribute by returning your check payable to Wachiska Audubon in the remittance envelope that came with your

Birdathon letter in early April. You can also donate online as part of **Give to Lincoln Day, May 31**. This year you can donate online throughout the month of May. The more people who donate in this way, the larger our portion of the \$400,000 matching fund. Give to Lincoln Day, organized by the Lincoln Community Foundation, makes it possible for Lincoln area nonprofits to benefit from online donations during May. It is a big part of our Birdathon income. To participate, go to the Give to Lincoln Day website, find Wachiska's page, and donate by credit card or debit card.



Ross Scott overseeing one of our prescribed burns in early February



Raptor Center volunteers Elaine Bachel & Janet Stander with hawks and owls for McPhee School students

As an alternative, you now can participate any time in May by bringing in or mailing a check to our office. We must receive all checks **by 2:00 p.m. on May 31**. Using this method, make your check payable to Lincoln Community Foundation and put Wachiska Audubon Society on the memo line. We will deliver all to the Lincoln Community Foundation office on May 31 to be eligible for the shared funds. Thank you to everyone.

Don't forget our Birdathon hikes led by Shari and John on May 12 and 13. See page two for destinations and details.

2018 is the Year of the Bird

(from National Audubon Society's website)

We never need a reason to celebrate birds here at Audubon, but in 2018 we're making an *especially* big deal of them. That's because not only is it the **100th anniversary of the signing of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)**—a pivotal piece of legislation that continues to save countless birds' lives—but birds are also facing many new and serious threats, including attacks on the MBTA itself. So it's with great excitement that we've teamed up with National Geographic, BirdLife International, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to officially make 2018 the Year of the Bird.

What exactly is Year of the Bird? Throughout the year, all of us partners, along with more than 150 other participating groups, are celebrating birds across all of our channels—magazines, television, social media, and more. To make Year of the Bird a true success, we need you. Each month we're asking people to take simple actions that will help birds, so make sure you get NAS's monthly action newsletters by clicking the "count me in" link on the National Audubon website. You can find more ways to #birdyourworld at the official Year of the Bird website.

April's Featured Action: Speak Up for Migratory Birds

One hundred years ago, our country's most important bird protection law was signed. Since then, the MBTA has saved countless birds' lives from human threats. Back then, hunters and poachers were the biggest concerns. Today, industrial hazards such as oil pits and power lines endanger birds every day. Thanks to the MBTA, industries must work to prevent bird deaths caused by their activities and equipment. Despite all of the MBTA's success, though, the Trump Administration and some in Congress are trying to weaken the law by giving a free pass to industries. From nefarious language in bills to a damaging new interpretation of the Act, the MBTA is under attack. So, as migrants return to your yard this spring, don't just help them with bird seed and water. [Speak up for birds by showing your support for a strong MBTA](#). Refer to the Public Officials' contact information on page 7. To read more about the MBTA, its history, and the dangers industrial traps pose to birds, check out National Audubon's website.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Star City Shores, 4375 South 33rd Street in South Lincoln, will be the site Saturday, May 5, for the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department's next collection of household hazardous waste materials. Drop off items between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. The next public collection will be in September.

Google "Lincoln Nebraska hazardous waste sites" where there are 12 pages of tips, lists of what and what not to bring to recycle or properly dispose of, names and addresses of other places that accept all kinds of things from clothes to tires to Styrofoam packing peanuts, motor oil, sporting equipment, records/CDs, you name it. This was one of the most interesting and well organized sites on the Internet.



From the Board ...

by Gary Fehr
President

Immerse Yourself in Nature Often!

Those who know me are aware of my transitional path away from a long career as a software engineer and toward the (financially questionable) prospect of organic farming. While my desire to immerse myself more directly in the rhythms of Nature has helped keep my goal secure since its genesis years ago, I would like to reflect for a few moments on why it's important to maintain a close connection to the natural world. I believe one can make a case that, far more than being a refreshing diversion, connection to Nature is crucial for maintaining not only our own physical and mental well-being but that of the planet, also. It is interesting to frame that discussion in terms of subjective vs objective knowledge about the natural world.

Following a long period of prehistory, civilization and technology arose. We in the Western world find ourselves in a centuries-old love affair with the Objective. We trust so-called facts, quantities, and laws as our means to enlightenment. Our Objective understanding of the universe is put on a pedestal and overshadows its more unruly Subjective cousin, with its non-repeatable, qualitative, and downright messy realms of personal experience. Crisp charts, tables, and numbers capture our attention and drive inquiry and industry. Remarkably, we often assume quarks and strings in quantum theory to be more "real" than our own experience of a blue sky or a meadowlark's song.

I am not advocating we abandon Objective inquiry, but the Subjective realm is precisely what we have to thank for who we are. Emerging from a long evolutionary context, the messy complexity of the natural world is why we find ourselves endowed with the remarkable senses we have, our internal physiology (symbiotic with a vast natural microflora), and even our mental patterns of activity. We needed these to survive. Sensory and observational powers, tuned and shaped by the environment, are what help any creature—our prehistoric selves included—to locate food, recognize danger, act within predator/prey relationships, etc. To distance ourselves from this biological heritage diminishes our senses, atrophies our minds, and lures us into the trap of treating the natural world as extraneous, something to tame or conquer rather than literally the lifeblood that brought us into being and sustains us even today, despite our sterilized and isolated modern lifestyle.

We are human because of our interdependent relationship with Nature, not in contrast to it. We ignore that interdependence at our peril. Our mental and physical selves will not thrive in the same way as when directly engaged in the richness of Nature.



Gary Fehr

more than being a refreshing diversion, connection to Nature is crucial for maintaining not only our own physical and mental well-being but that of the planet, also. It is interesting to frame that discussion in terms of subjective vs objective knowledge about the natural world.

Equally dangerous, if not more so, our numbing isolation cultivates an apathy and indifference to protecting this Nature, and policies relating to the environment derived from human-centric concerns replace policies inspired by personal dialogues with the Earth.

Immerse yourself in Nature often! Honor the Subjective knowledge and the importance of this very special type of knowing, which keeps us grounded in who we are as humans and informs how we should respond to protecting Nature.

Gary is chapter president of Wachiska this year. He owns Green School Farms and works part-time as a software engineer for Arbor Day Foundation. His passion is regenerative agricultural practices that contribute to a healthier environment.

Check out our new website:
WachiskaAudubon.org

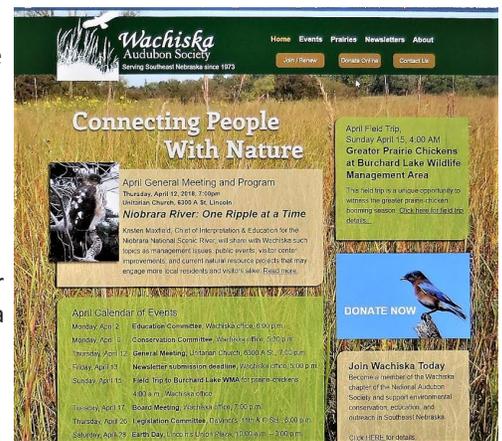
Wachiska is excited to introduce our new website. Many thanks to the website construction team of Gary Fehr, Roxanne Smith, and Elizabeth Nelson for building this site along with a big round of applause for retiring web manager Dan Staehr who designed and managed our previous site for over a decade and helped us transfer to our new site and also to Linda Sullivan for spending additional time to make this transition possible.

The website outlines the history and mission of Wachiska, details upcoming meetings and field trips, and includes information about the prairies Wachiska owns or holds easements on. A library of past *Babbling Brook* newsletters archives a treasure trove of interesting articles.

The new site is chocked full of beautiful photos of birds, flowers, and prairies—all taken by Wachiska members. Many thanks to Bruce Wendorff, Linda Brown, Paul Johnsgard, Tim Knott, Stu Luttich, John Carlini, and Elizabeth Nelson for their photographic contributions.

Several areas of the website are still under construction. In coming months we will be adding an online giving page and an electronic portal for Friends of Wachiska to renew or begin a membership.

If you have suggestions for improvements to the website, or would like to contribute photos for consideration for future updates, please send your ideas or photos to Elizabeth at ENelson555@gmail.com.



Wachiska's New Home Page

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

Contact Your Congressman

When you read headlines like “Arctic has warmest winter on record” (*Lincoln Journal Star* 3/7/18), do you feel frustrated? The quickest way to bounce back is to contact Congressman Jeff Fortenberry, using information conveniently included in every issue of *The Babbling Brook*.

It’s enough to say you think Congress needs to be addressing the urgent problem of climate change. If you want to be more specific, there’s the new bill that National Audubon encourages us to support titled “The Challenges and Prizes for Climate Act of 2018,” HR 5031. National Audubon President David Yarnold said about the bill: “Our changing climate is the biggest threat facing America’s birds and people. We don’t have time to waste, and we can’t let the perfect be the enemy of the good. It’s time to start with meaningful solutions like this legislation.” Yarnold also praised the bill for its bipartisan approach. It was initiated by a Republican (John Faso, NY) and a Democrat (Dan Lapinski, IL), and additional sponsors have been added so as to keep that balance. The bill would set up a contest to reward solutions to climate change in five areas: carbon capture, energy efficiency, energy storage, climate resiliency, and data analytics to inform the public. The price tag on the bill is \$10 million. For Congress, that’s peanuts.

Congressman Fortenberry has been a staunch and consistent supporter of clean energy but more cautious about taking initiative on climate change. He has not joined the bipartisan House Climate Solutions Caucus, an informal group of 72 House members, half Democrats and half Republicans. If he hears from enough people, we think there is a good chance he would add his name to the Challenges and Prizes for Climate Act of 2018 as a sponsor. That would be a small but real step forward.

For a century, scientists believed that carbon dioxide was the only human-produced greenhouse gas. But in 1975, climate scientist V. Ramanathan, nicknamed “Ram,” determined that CFCs, chlorofluorocarbons, the gases that had previously been associated with the destruction of the ozone layer, were also powerful drivers of climate change. He has contributed a number of such discoveries during his career at NASA, the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, and currently the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego. Ram is a member of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, and his authority is recognized worldwide. In February, he lectured at Creighton University. His talk can be found at <https://bluecast.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=1f582cf6-722a-483a-ab11-a88800faee64&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=ceb0fb45-1e54-416a-b5cb-60d5d1cd3a38>.

Ram pulled few punches. “Climate change, he said, “can reach crisis levels in a few decades. Policymakers need to inform people that climate change is a survival threat. He said “scientists have quietly accepted the idea that climate change is an existential threat, but they don’t talk about it. It’s not too late to avoid catastrophe, and there are numerous solutions existing now. There is still time to put them into effect.” Ram also pointed out that the two places that have gone farthest in transforming themselves, Sweden and California, have strong economies. When he was asked what one person can do, he replied “Write to your congressman!”

Lincoln Area Citizen Science Project

You can become part of a local citizen science project and help facilitate research on foxes and coyotes in the Lincoln area. Report your sightings to go.unl.edu/Lincoln-fox-project. When adding a new observation, you will need to create an account. When possible, include a photo with your observation. If you don’t want to create an account, email the locations of the sightings (along with your photos if you have them) to lincolnfoxproject@gmail.com.

Be a Friend to Pollinators

(from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA)

- Provide food and habitat for pollinators to help them thrive. Use pollinator-friendly plants in your landscape. Shrubs and trees such as dogwood, blueberry, cherry, plum, willow, and poplar provide pollen and/or nectar in early spring when food is scarce.
- Choose a mixture of plants for spring, summer, and fall. Different flower colors, shapes, and scents will attract a variety of pollinators.
- Reduce or eliminate pesticide use in your landscape or incorporate plants that attract beneficial insects for pest control. If you use pesticides, do so sparingly and responsibly.
- Accept some plant damage on plants meant to provide habitat for butterfly and moth larvae.
- Provide clean water for pollinators, using a shallow dish, bowl, or birdbath with half-submerged stones for perches.
- Leave dead tree trunks in your landscape for wood-nesting bees and beetles.
- Support land conservation in your community by helping create and maintain community gardens and green spaces to ensure that pollinators have appropriate habitat.
- Learn more online or contact the Cooperative Extension Service office (www.nifa.usda.gov/Extension/index.html) or U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service office (www.nrcs.usda.gov) for choosing plants for particular pollinators.

Public Officials

President Donald Trump

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

Senator Ben Sasse

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

Senator Deb Fischer

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

Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (1st District)

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

Congressman Don Bacon (2nd 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 (3rd 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 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 301, 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

Join now! Become a Friend of Wachiska Audubon Society!

This local chapter membership provides you with voting privileges and access to all our events, programs, and committees, **plus 100 percent of your membership donation goes directly to the Wachiska chapter. In addition, Friend members receive our monthly newsletter, *The Babbling Brook*, in their choice of print or electronic form.**

Friends of Wachiska (local membership)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

- ___ \$25 Individual/Friend
- ___ \$35 Family Friend
- ___ \$50 Black-capped Chickadee Friend
- ___ \$100 Northern Cardinal Friend
- ___ \$250 Western Meadowlark Friend
- ___ \$500 Bald Eagle Friend
- ___ \$1000 Peregrine Falcon Friend

Select the level of support that is right for you and make your check payable to **Wachiska Audubon Society**. All funds remain with our local chapter and are tax deductible. Mail to:

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

___ **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.



American Goldfinch Family

SAVE THE DATE

Father's Day Garden Tour

Wachiska's 29th annual Backyard Garden Tour fundraiser is again scheduled for Father's Day, Sunday, June 17, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Featured gardens will be in South Lincoln and will honor Beattie Elementary School as the public space. Volunteers are needed to greet visitors at each site. Contact Anne Senkbeil at 402-423-6524 or asenkbe@lps.org if you can help for a couple of hours. Addresses and garden descriptions will be included in next month's newsletter.



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WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2018

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Vice President.....*Stu Lutich (Geneva).....402-759-3597
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Facebook Coordinator.....Benjamin Vogt.....402-499-5851
Raptor Recovery.....Betsy Finch (Elmwood).....402-994-2009
Interim Executive Director Audubon Nebraska.....Bill Taddicken.....308-468-5282
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Director.....Glynnis Collins.....402-797-2301

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. Posts change 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.