



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 44th Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2017

OCTOBER 2017

Volume 26 - Issue 10

General Meeting and Program—Thursday, October 12, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, Lincoln

Red Cedar Impacts on Wildlife Communities

with Dr. Craig Allen, School of Natural Resources, UNL

This month's program will feature Professor **Craig Allen** of UNL who will discuss his research on wildlife and resilience. His work is focused on understanding links between land use or land cover change, biological invasions, and extinctions. His special interest deals with invasive species in Nebraska. Beyond the narrow issues of species adaptation, Dr. Allen is interested in how invasions can affect the resilience of ecosystems. In our program, he will use the case of red cedar invasion in Nebraska to illustrate a number of issues.

In recent publications, Dr. Allen has studied how the dynamics of invasive species affect the broader landscape. Craig's broader interests involve changes in ecosystems services from natural and human-influenced environments. In demonstrating this breadth of research, in a recent article he and colleagues noted that 85 percent of people in the U.S. are urban residents. They explored how resilience and sustainability are achieved in some midsize cities and considered the factors promoting or inhibiting this process. They have studied the many functions of agriculture to produce crops and livestock.

Dr. Allen currently is Leader of the U.S. Geological Survey in the Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit at UNL. He was

born in Berkeley, grew up in Madison, Wisconsin, and lived in England and the Netherlands. He has been with the University of Florida and Clemson University before coming to UNL in 2004. Craig is also on the Board of Directors for the Resilience Alliance.



Dr. Craig Allen

Join Wachiska Audubon **on Thursday, October 12, at 7:00 p.m.** for this free public lecture and discussion at the Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, in Lincoln. Park in the church lot; there is overflow parking in the Pius High lot across the street to the west. Close, easy access to the building requires no steps to climb. There is plenty of space inside for mingling while enjoying refreshments and conversation after the program.

Calendar

October

- 2 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 6:00 p.m.
- 9 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 11 **Fall Birdseed Sale order deadline** (pages 3-4)
- 12 General Meeting, "Red Cedar Impacts on Wildlife," Unitarian Church, 6300 A St., 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Order deadline for 2018 Audubon calendars (page 8)
- 15 Field trip to Marsh Wren Community Wetlands, 2:30 p.m. (page 2)
- 16 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 17 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Lunch & Learn, Unitarian Church, 11:30 a.m. (pages 6-7)
- 20-21 Birdseed pick up, 14th and Arapahoe** (pages 3-4)
- 22 Gayfeather seed harvest at Ernie's, 12:00 noon (page 2)
- 26 Legislation Committee, DaVinci's, 11th & G sts, 6:00 p.m.

Interested in a January Trip to Malawi?

Several people have shown interest in articles published in this newsletter the past two months asking readers if they would be interested in taking a birding trip to Malawi in January 2018. We need a minimum of eight participants in order to offer this 10-day nature-viewing trip to Southern Malawi (refer to those issues or the website). You have told us this offer is extremely reasonable in terms of cost, sites to be included in the safari, time of year, etc. If you or someone you know is interested, you must contact Nancy Hamer ASAP at travelwachiska@gmail.com or 402-499-1306.

Note that both Fall Birdseed Sale and 2018 Audubon calendar order deadlines are this month.



Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Discover Marsh Wren Community Wetlands

Birders and hikers now have access to another rare saline wetland on the north edge of Lincoln. Marsh Wren Community Wetlands, stewarded by the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, is one of the latest salt marsh treasures to be protected and undergo restoration efforts funded partially by a Nebraska Environmental Trust grant through the City of Lincoln.

After many decades of human impact, the limited number of acres of remaining saline wetlands in Lancaster and Saunders counties gives our salt marsh habitat the dubious distinction of Nebraska's most imperiled natural community. The salt marshes of the Salt Creek area and its tributaries never were abundant in Nebraska, however. An article in an 1862 issue of *Scientific American* estimated four salt basins near Lincoln covered 16,000 acres. In 1990, a Nebraska Game and Parks Commission inventory estimated only 1,200 acres of those saline wetlands were still remaining. Our October field trip will be an exploration of this newly opened salt marsh to get an overview of the property and also scout for migrating sparrows.

We'll meet at **2:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 15**, in the parking lot on the north side of Cracker Barrel in Lincoln which is located on North 27th Street next to I-80. Our hike will follow an old road, but anyone wanting to chase sparrows off the beaten path may want to dress for taller vegetation. Other recommended items to bring include a water bottle, insect repellent, and binoculars if you have them. There is no fee and the public is welcome. If you have questions, call John at 402-475-7275.

Gayfeather Harvest Help Needed

by Ernie Rousek, Conservation Committee

For several years Wachiskans have harvested gayfeather seeds from my field in Seward County to raise funds for the chapter.

Our gayfeather harvest this year will be on **Sunday, October 22, starting at 12:00 noon**; however, you can come later. There is a good crop of seed this fall, and Wachiska can make a great deal of money but only if we get the help of many volunteers.

To get to the harvest field, go west on "O" Street out of Lincoln to West 168th Street (one mile past Pleasant Dale roundabout). At the Pleasant Dale Cemetery, turn north about 200 yards to the blue 915 sign. Bring leather gloves and a plastic bucket. I'll have extra buckets and drinking water. Hope to see a good crowd. In case of rain, the date will be a week later.

(Editor's Note: This is not difficult work and it goes fast, so bring family and friends. Scouts and high school seniors can receive credit. As in every year, many thanks to Ernie for his generosity.)

Wachiska's Latest New Friends

by Jami Nelson, Membership Chair

Wachiska is happy to welcome the following new members to our chapter. These are new local memberships between April and August or are people who have rejoined after an absence:

Betty Bates	Alan & Nancy Meyer
Claude & Nadine Frerichs	Mascha Miedaner
David & Michelle Hemsath	Robert & Phyllis Narveson
Nancy Johnson	JoEllen Polzien
Sherri Joyner	Hal & Betty Anne Thaut
Arnold & Agnes Mendenhall	

If you believe your name has been left off the list, please notify the Wachiska office and we'll check our records. We encourage you to participate in some chapter activities related to your interest in birds and the natural world. There are opportunities to participate in field trips, monthly programs, and special events, as well as volunteering on one of our committees.

If you are reading this issue of *The Babbling Brook* but are not currently a member of Wachiska, you can become a Friend of Wachiska by completing the form on page 5 and mailing it with your check to the Wachiska office. All funds generated from this Friends category remain with our local chapter. Only Friends of Wachiska receive *The Babbling Brook* every month in your choice of format: by US mail or by email, if you provide us with your email address. **National Audubon members who are not Friends of Wachiska now receive the newsletter only three times per year.** We hope you will join us as a Friend of Wachiska. Everyone is welcome at all chapter events, and we're always happy to see new faces. Thanks to everyone who currently supports our chapter.

Members Recycle Cans for Wachiska

Thanks to all Wachiska members and friends who continue recycling aluminum cans at A-Can Recycling Center, 3255 South 10th Street, in Lincoln.

The new owners have set up an account for Wachiska whereby anyone can bring in their cans and specify that the proceeds should be credited to the Wachiska Audubon account.

Stop in Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Please call the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846 if you have questions.

Recycling aluminum cans saves 95 percent of the energy used to make aluminum cans from virgin materials. Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for over two hours.

There is a tree in Athens, Georgia, that is recognized by the city as owning itself. According to legend, in the 1800s, William Jackson deeded the white oak to itself. The original tree fell during the 1940s, and a sapling grown from one of its acorns stands in its place.



Wachiska Audubon Fall 2017 Birdseed Sale Order Form

	Bag Size	Bag Code	Price Each	Quantity	Total Cost
ALL PRICES INCLUDE SALES TAX					
SEEDS	Standard Audubon Mix	40 lb bag	ST40	\$ 30.00	\$
	Classic Audubon Mix	20 lb bag	CL20	\$ 20.00	\$
		40 lb bag	CL40	\$ 34.00	\$
	Attraction Audubon Mix	35 lb bag	AT35	\$ 45.00	\$
	Woodpecker Gourmet	20 lb bag	WO20	\$ 40.00	\$
	Bushy Tail Treat	20 lb bag	BT20	\$ 34.00	\$
SEEDS	Millet, White (98%)	50 lb bag	MI50	\$ 21.00	\$
	Peanuts, shelled rejects	20 lb bag	PR20	\$ 36.00	\$
	Safflower Seed	20 lb bag	SA20	\$ 23.00	\$
		50 lb bag	SA50	\$ 52.00	\$
	Sunflower Hearts, coarse	20 lb bag	HC20	\$ 34.00	\$
		50 lb bag	HC50	\$ 75.00	\$
	Sunflower Hearts, fine	20 lb bag	HF20	\$ 34.00	\$
Sunflower Seed, black oil	25 lb bag	SB25	\$ 19.00	\$	
SUET CAKES	High Energy Treat, 11.75 oz. cake		EN-C	\$ 2.50	\$
	NEW - Berry Treat, 11 oz. cake		BT-C	\$ 2.50	\$
Total number of bags and cost (All prices INCLUDE sales tax)					\$
Tax Deductible Donation to support Wachiska's education & conservation activities					\$
Total Enclosed. Make check payable to Wachiska Audubon Society.					\$

Name (Print) _____ Email address _____ Phone Number _____

This form and your check must be postmarked by Wednesday, October 11, 2017.
 Mail to: Wachiska Audubon Society Birdseed Sale - 4547 Calvert St, Suite 10, Lincoln NE 68506-5643

ORDER PICK UP DATES - MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

PLEASE—Plan to pick up your order during one of these times.

Friday, October 20
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 21
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Noon)

I plan to pick up my order on:

(check one)

Friday

Saturday

Pickup location: 14th & Arapahoe Streets (between Van Dorn & Hwy 2)

Wachiska Audubon Fall 2017 Birdseed Sale & Fundraiser

Wachiska's Birdseed Sales are an important part of our fundraising and offer you a great deal on birdseed!

Our prices are very competitive. The great majority of Wachiska's budget for education and conservation programs comes from donations and fundraising, and our twice-a-year birdseed sales are two of our major fundraisers. If you feed birds regularly, or want to give it a try, please buy from Wachiska. Our new convenient pickup location in SW Lincoln makes it easier than ever to get you birdseed. We depend on your purchases, and so do our feathered friends! Thank you!

FEED MIXES

Standard Audubon Mix – white millet, sunflower seed, cracked corn, peanuts, oat groats

Classic Audubon Mix – sunflower seed and hearts, white millet, cracked corn, safflower seed, peanuts, oat groats

Attraction Audubon Mix – sunflower seed and hearts, safflower seed, peanuts, raisins, protein pellets

Woodpecker Gourmet – 75% nuts (almonds, peanuts, walnuts), pumpkin seed, corn, black oil sunflower seed and hearts, safflower seed

Bushy Tail Treat – peanuts, sunflower seed, whole corn, raisins, pumpkin seed, feed pellets. Treat your favorite backyard squirrels and keep them away from the bird feeders!

SUET CAKES

High Energy Treat – sunflower seeds, millet, cracked corn; enjoyed by most wild birds

NEW! Berry Treat – a wonderful winter treat

SEEDS

White Millet (98%) – popular with cardinals, mourning doves, house finches, juncos, sparrows

Peanuts (shelled) – attractive for woodpeckers and blue jays

Safflower Seed – good for house finches, chickadees, cardinals, wood peckers – NOT FAVORED by squirrels and grackles

Sunflower Hearts – highly prized by birds and leave less mess—use coarse hearts for feeders with large openings that might allow fine hearts to drop out

Black Oil Sunflower Seed – favored by most seed-eating birds; high oil content for more energy

Additional copies of this flyer and the order form are available on our website:

www.WachiskaAudubon.org.

ORDER PICK UP DATES - MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

Friday, October 20
3:00 -6:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 21
9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Noon)

**Pick up site is:
N.W. corner of 14th &
Arapahoe streets
(between Van Dorn &
Hwy 2) in Lincoln.**

Look for Signs

PLEASE—Plan to pick up your order during one of these times. Orders that are not picked up cause a lot of extra work for our volunteers whose help we greatly appreciate! If it is totally impossible for you to pick up your seed, please email Arlys at office@wachiskaaudubon.org to make alternate pick up arrangements.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to assist, please contact Lana Novak, 402-570-1273.

The form below is printed annually as required by the USPS.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)		
1. Publication Title WACHISKA AUDUBON SOCIETY/BABBLING BROOK (THE)	2. Publication Number 9 6 3 8 -	3. Filing Date 9/24/2017
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8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) 4547 CALVERT ST STE 10 LINCOLN, NE 68506-5643		
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Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) ARLYS REITAN 4547 CALVERT ST STE 10 LINCOLN, NE 68506-5643		
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Full Name WACHISKA AUDUBON SOCIETY	Complete Mailing Address 4547 CALVERT ST STE 10, LINCOLN, NE 68506-5643	
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None		
Full Name	Complete Mailing Address	
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months <input type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)		

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4 (see instructions page 4)) PSN: 7530-01-000-9931 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.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 monthly newsletter each month. If you wish to join NAS or receive *Audubon* magazine, please contact National Audubon Society directly.



American Goldfinch family

13. Publication Title WACHISKA AUDUBON SOCIETY/BABBLING BROOK (THE)	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below AUG 2017	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	467	322
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	97	61
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	323	211
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	0	0
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	420	272
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	8	7
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	25	26
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	0	0
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	0	0
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))	32	33
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	452	305
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))	14	17
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	467	322
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)	90.6%	89.2%
* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.		
16. Electronic Copy Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies	120	120
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	540	392
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	573	425
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16a divided by 16c × 100)	94.2%	92.2%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.		

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership
 If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the Oct 2017 issue of this publication. Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
Arlys Reitan ARLYS REITAN, EDITOR 9/24/2017

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

You're Invited to a Lunch & Learn

Join us to learn more about Wachiska's Prairie Preservation efforts and how your charitable gifts can help protect our endangered tallgrass prairies.

- Paul Johnsgard will be our featured speaker.
- Lunch will include Linda Brown's delicious homemade pies!



Prairie Preservation Lunch & Learn

Thursday, October 19, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, Lincoln

\$25 donation is requested

RSVP required to Linda Brown

402-318-1522 (cell); 402-489-2381 (home)

lindar1brown@gmail.com

There are many ways to support Wachiska's tallgrass prairie protection mission

Established over 40 years ago, Wachiska Audubon has been a leader in many education, outreach, and preservation efforts. Our mission is three-fold: We connect adults and children with the natural world through birdwatching and nature-related programs, we advocate for the protection of our natural world, and we preserve native tallgrass prairies. Our pursuit of this third prong has resulted in protecting nearly 1,000 acres of tallgrass prairie through direct ownership of nine prairies and monitoring of 23 conservation easements. However, enormous management requirements are handled completely by volunteers. While we are seeking to expand the prairies we protect, we also need to ensure we have the financial foundation to meet these responsibilities in the future.

Currently we have over \$220,000 in our Prairie Management and Prairie Defense Funds. We are well on our way towards our goal of having an investment fund, from which the annual proceeds would pay for a part-time person to help with prairie preservation activities under the supervision of Wachiska's Conservation Committee.

We invite you to attend the Lunch & Learn (see above) to find out more about Wachiska's Prairie Preservation Program and how you can help. If you are unable to attend, here's a brief overview of a number of ways to give. You can also request an information packet.

What is the best way for you to give? ([See Gift Pledge Form on top of page 7.](#))

- **Make a cash donation** in one lump sum or choose to make automatic monthly contributions through the Lincoln Community Foundation's easy-giving program.
- **Memorials** – Remember a loved one or commemorate a milestone event with a gift to the Wachiska Prairie Management Fund in that person's name.
- **IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)** can be given directly to the Wachiska Prairie Management Fund and the donor avoids taxes on that distribution.
- **Gifting stocks, bonds, or mutual funds** helps protect prairie and may provide you with significant financial benefits by eliminating capital gains, estate or income taxes.
- **Charitable IRA Rollover** where individuals 70.5 and older can transfer up to \$100,000 of IRA assets to the Wachiska Prairie Management Fund tax free.
- **Give in the future** by naming the Wachiska Prairie Management Fund in your will or trust or as a beneficiary on life insurance policies, IRAs, or investment accounts.

Wachiska's Prairie Management Fund is held at the Lincoln Community Foundation which has knowledgeable professionals who can assist you with the details for any type of gift.

This is the time of year when many people plan their year-end charitable giving or review their estate plans. We hope you will consider giving to the Wachiska Audubon Society Prairie Management Fund as you make your charitable giving decisions. Please use the Gift Pledge Form on the top of page 7. If you have questions about various ways to give, contact your attorney, financial planner, the Lincoln Community Foundation, or the Wachiska Donor Development Committee Chair, Elizabeth Nelson, 402-770-3485; enelson555@gmail.com.

Gift Pledge Form — cut out and return to Wachiska Audubon or the Lincoln Community Foundation

I am giving \$_____ to the Wachiska Prairie Management Fund. My check is enclosed.

Make your check payable to **Wachiska Prairie Management Fund #710146** and mail to Wachiska Audubon Society, 4547 Calvert St, Ste 10, Lincoln NE 68506 or to

Lincoln Community Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall S, Ste 100, Lincoln NE 68508.

I **pledge** to give \$_____ per month/quarter/year for the next three years.*

I **pledge** a bequest from my estate.* This is easy to arrange, will not alter your current financial situation, and can be changed at any time.

*If you select one of the Pledge options, we will contact you to arrange the details.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Your gift is tax deductible and you will receive a letter confirming your gift. Wachiska Audubon Society was chartered in 1973 as an independent chapter of the National Audubon Society. Wachiska is a qualified 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization, TIN 51-0229888.

Resplendent Quetzal

by Richard Peterson

Having recently returned from a trip to Costa Rica, I thought I'd share a bit about what I did and one of the birds we saw. This was my ninth trip with Overseas Adventure Travel, and this one was nature oriented. The trip focused on the country's national parks and tropical forests. Our trip leader was a naturalist and was rarely in the field without his spotting scope.

We traveled to Corcovado National Park in the southwest corner of the country and to the Monteverde Cloud Forest in the northwest. We also visited Manuel Antonio National Park on the Pacific Coast and the Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge near the Nicaraguan border. I saw 125 species of birds along with various mammals, butterflies, flowering plants, and reptiles. Our last stay was along the Savegre River in the montane cloud forest of the San Gerardo de Dota region. It was there that we searched for the elusive resplendent quetzal.

The quetzal is in the trogon family. The male is 15 inches long with an added 24-inch tail streamer. Their body is green (showing iridescence from green-gold to blue-violet) and they have a red breast. Its large eyes adapt to the dim light of the forest. The quetzal is the national bird of Guatemala, lends its name to that country's currency, and figured in Mayan religion and costume. It is nearly threatened and on the IUCN Red List (2013) due to habitat loss.

Costa Rica represents one of the last strongholds of the quetzal between Chiapas in southern Mexico south to western Panama. It is a specialized fruit eater but mixes its diet with insects, frogs, and lizards. When in season, they prefer wild avocados. The wild

avocado is about the size of a large olive and is swallowed whole. The pulp is digested and the pit is regurgitated at a later time and place, helping disperse the seed for the next generation of trees. Our first task was to locate the trees to make sure ripe fruit was still available. Although it was at the end of the season, a number of trees were still loaded with fruit.

When it rains or the forest is densely clouded, the quetzal, as well as other birds, is less active and hunkers down waiting for the sun to break through. So with a wake-up call at 5:00 a.m., we were up and soon in the field searching. Our group of 10 early risers was fortunate to see four quetzals, two of each sex. Other groups with their spotting experts out the previous day had seen none. The day we left, which was forecasted to be bright and sunny, promised to be a good viewing day. With tour groups on a timetable, it can be hit or miss in what wildlife is seen, even though each day is structured around the search. Seeing the resplendent quetzal topped off a great birdwatching trip to Costa Rica.

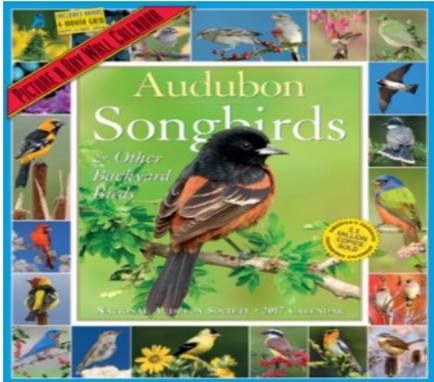
Prairie Pines Speaker to Celebrate Indigenous Peoples

by Sue Kohles

Jerome Kills Small, Lakota educator, speaker, and storyteller, will give two presentations at Prairie Pines, 3100 North 112th Street, Lincoln, on Saturday morning, October 14. "Children Stories, Animal Stories, Traditional Lakota Stories" and the "Seven Sacred Rites of the Lakota" will be presented. For details, go to prairiepines.org/events.

Time to Order 2018 Audubon Calendars

There are 6 calendars to choose from this time. All are \$16 which includes tax and shipping to the Wachiska office. Payment is due when you pick them up. Check our website and then let Arlys know your choices by **October 13**.



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

**Birdseed Sale
Order Form Inside**

WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2017

OFFICERS

President.....	*Gary Fehr.....	402-570-4382
Vice President.....	*Stu Luttich (Geneva).....	402-759-3597
Recording Secretary	*Rachel Simpson.....	402-742-7991
Treasurer	*Bill Gustafson.....	402-488-1585
Immediate Past President.....	*Jessi Umberger (Otoe).....	402-580-3057

STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large.....	*Lana Novak	402-475-8693
Director at Large.....	*Richard Peterson	402-489-2996
Director at Large.....	*Roxanne Smith	402-477-1319
Conservation.....	*Stu Luttich (Geneva)	402-759-3597
Education	Sue Kohles (Palmyra).....	402-780-5558
	*Tim Knott.....	402-483-5656
Field Trips.....	John Carlini	402-475-7275
	*Ken Reitan	402-423-3540
Hospitality.....	Cheryl Moncure.....	402-488-0036
Legislation	Bruce Kennedy (Malcolm).....	402-796-2114
	*Sam Truax	402-325-9012
Membership	*Jami Nelson	402-488-1598
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
Publicity/Public Relations.....	Jeanne Kern	402-423-0428

*Denotes Board member

OTHER ASSOCIATES

Bird Questions	Kevin Poague	402-797-2301
Facebook Coordinator	Benjamin Vogt	402-499-5851
Raptor Recovery	Betsy Finch (Elmwood).....	402-994-2009
Interim Executive Director Audubon Nebraska	Bill Taddicken	308-468-5282
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Director	Glynnis Collins	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. 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**.

