

*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

JANUARY 2017

Volume 26 - Issue 1

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

Planning for the Future of the Cranes and the Platte River

by Rowe Sanctuary staff

Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary was established in 1975 and is now a world-class destination for people from around the world to witness America's greatest migration on the Platte River in Nebraska. The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program has deemed the sanctuary the gold standard by which habitat complexes on the Platte River should be built. Each spring, visitors from all 50 states and over 60 countries migrate to Rowe Sanctuary where we then engage them with this amazing natural treasure and the work that Audubon is doing to protect, improve, and expand habitat on the Platte River. Our work on the Platte from the headwaters to the mouth revolves around habitat for Sandhill Cranes, Whooping Cranes, Least Terns, and Piping Plovers.

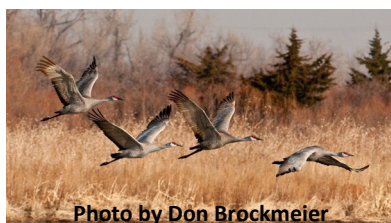


Photo by Don Brockmeier

As the demand has grown for people to experience this migration at Rowe Sanctuary, it has become clear that in order for Audubon to ensure that this Sanctuary continues to be a

world-class natural landmark and continues to create positive outcomes for the Platte River and the birds that rely on it, we need a vision connected to National Audubon's strategic plan that looks 50 years into the future. The staff, Stewardship Board, and supporters have a vision that continues to align perfectly with Audubon's plan regarding water, conservation, engaging people, and advocacy for our natural environment. Audubon's strategic plan is guiding the necessary improvements outlined in this document in order to move us forward in a cohesive and thoughtful manner.

Please join Wachiska and Rowe Sanctuary staff on **Thursday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m.** to learn about this 50-year vision and plan for the Platte River and Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary. This free public presentation will take place at a new location—the **Unitarian Church at 6300 A Street**, in Lincoln, where there is convenient free parking in the church parking lot just outside the door. There are no steps outside or inside the building, making accessibility easy for those using wheelchairs or aids. Please make note of this new location which Wachiska will be trying out for several months.

Calendar

January 2017

- 9 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
(NOTE new date from now on)
- 10 Donor Development Committee, Wachiska office, 3:00 p.m.
- 12 General Meeting, "Planning for the Future for Cranes & the Platte," by Rowe Sanctuary staff, Unitarian Church, 6300 A St, 7:00 p.m. (NOTE change of meeting place)
- 15 Field Trip to Ida Grove, IA, to see owls, 9:15 a.m. (page 2)
- 16 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 17 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m. (NOTE new date from now on)
- 26 Legislation Committee, DaVinci's, 11th & G sts, 6:00 p.m.
- 26 Population/Environment Committee, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.

No Education Committee meeting in January

NEW MEETING LOCATION!

After months of discussion and input from our membership, we are pleased to announce that our monthly general meeting is moving to a more central, much more accessible location.

Beginning with this January meeting, Wachiska will be holding general meetings with speaker and refreshments still beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the

Unitarian Church of Lincoln

6300 A Street

(immediately east of Pius High School)

No Stairs! Close-to-the-door parking! Lots of room to mingle!

We are trying this on a six-month trial basis. Many thanks to Union College for graciously providing meeting space for the past 25+ years.



Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Don Poggensee's Mysterious Northern Saw-whet Owls

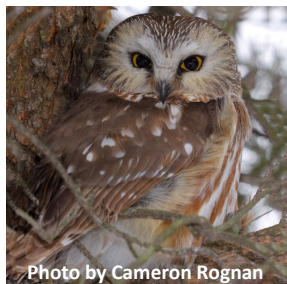


Photo by Cameron Rognan

Elfin-sized owls with wide eyes arrive like clockwork every winter in Ida Grove, Iowa, where Don Poggensee faithfully tracks their movements. In late October, we received this intriguing report from Don describing a mysterious pattern he's observed in their behavior: "Today our first-of-the-season Saw-whet Owl has

appeared. This is our 27th or 28th year of seeing the little Saw-whets here in Moorehead Park. By my records, this is one day earlier than any during the past years. Another interesting fact is that the last three first-of-the-year Saw-whets all were in the same tree or very close nearby. One was November 1, another was October 31, and this year it was October 30. They all seem to be first-year birds, with no bands on their legs. We have banded here now for the past three years. My question is: how and why the very same tree or within feet of the same tree, each of the last three years, with the first-of-the-year birds???" This question remains unanswered so far, but if you'd like to try your luck at seeing one of these wee eight-inch owls, bundle up for winter temperatures and grab your camera. They can be extremely photogenic when located on their day roosts in mid-sized conifers, and Don is a master at finding them if they're present.

We'll meet at **9:15 a.m. on Sunday, January 15**, on the south side of the State Capitol in Lincoln, 15th and H streets across from the governor's mansion. Participants can either carpool or caravan the 150 miles to our destination. Anyone preferring to join the group at Moorehead Park can meet there around 12:00 noon. We'll plan to swing by Owego Wetlands and check for Short-eared Owls on our early evening return trip home, but folks can head back sooner if they prefer. Bring binoculars and scope if you have them. There is no fee and the public is welcome. If you have questions, call John at 402-475-7275.

What Happened to the Holiday Party?

by Arlys Reitan

After several months of planning and preparing for our annual holiday potluck, silent auction, and special presentation by Joel Sartore, *National Geographic* photographer, author, speaker, and teacher, we learned 90 minutes before leaving to set up that a water pipe had burst at the church where this was to take place. Due to some fast dialing on several cell phones, it was soon decided that we would need to cancel. Stay tuned for what is hoped to be a rescheduling of the program—hopefully by next December anyway.

Prairie Pines Winter Woodland and Wildlife Walk

by Sue Kohles

Join us for a woodland walk at Prairie Pines Nature Preserve on Sunday, January 22, at 1:30 p.m.

Nature experience and enjoyment is available year around! Join us to experience the winter landscape with family and friends on a walk through the woodlands without leaves. Look around for wildlife tracks with Nebraska Game and Parks staff and discover Nebraska's winter birds with Wachiska birders. Grab your coat and hat and boots, too, as we hope for snow! Warm refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to the public.

Prairie Pines is located at 3100 North 112th Street in northeast Lincoln. If you have questions or concerns about the weather, contact Sue at 402-525-7653. This event is sponsored by the Prairie Pines Pals non-profit organization. To learn more about Prairie Pines, visit the website at prairiepines.org.

Enjoying Nature in our Winter Climate

Following are ideas for making the most of Nebraska's long winters. If you have other ideas for accomplishing this, send them to Arlys in the Wachiska office for possible inclusion in an upcoming newsletter.

If squirrels are robbing the seed from the feeder you intended for the birds to enjoy, consider adding a squirrel baffle or investing in a squirrel-proof bird feeder. Another alternative is to use safflower or Nutra-Saff safflower seed in the bird feeder that squirrels raid most often. Squirrels do not care for its bitter taste. Grackles, the large black birds that seem to overpower the bird feeders at times, do not care much for safflower either. Yet it will attract most of your favorite backyard birds and can be used in any type of bird feeder.

Water for birds, especially during the winter months, is essential for their survival. Although they have numerous food sources, open water in the winter can become difficult to locate. So having an open source of water in the winter will attract more birds than bird seed alone. There is an assortment of thermostatically-controlled bird bath heaters and heated bird baths on the market that use less energy than a 60-watt light bulb. Fresh water does more for birds than just meet their nutritional intake. Clean feathers provide better insulation during cold nights.



Consider planting some habitat in your yard. Hedges and shrubs will not only offer protection from bitter winter winds, but a place for birds to nest and provide a natural food source.



From the Board ...

by Roxanne Smith, Director at Large

John Ruskin, Victorian-era philosopher, said, "Do not seek pleasure everywhere but always be prepared to find it." Those of us who enjoy the pleasure and beauty birds bring to the world don't have to worry about seeking pleasure everywhere, we are able to find it everywhere. Finding pleasure in birdwatching doesn't require the exact identification of each and every bird viewed.



Roxanne Smith

Walking on campus on two occasions in December I had the unexpected pleasure of being serenaded by birds. On the first occasion, as the sun was setting I heard robins singing—at least it sounded like robins, but they were nowhere to be seen, and I took pleasure from their song and the thought that they were enjoying one more beautiful autumn day.

Another day on campus, I could hear the chirping of little brown birds, sparrows? chickadees? Dozens were gathered together in the leafless shrubs hopping from branch to branch calling to each other and to me. The joyous gathering of sound and motion was no less delightful because I didn't know their name. Some birds I do know—the red birds living in the shrubs in my backyard are cardinals. As our first snow fell in December the female cardinal was moving through the shrubs looking for food. It was a joy to watch her hopping through the leaf litter. I waited for the male to join her, the bright red against brown branches with the white snow falling. Birds fill our days with brief moments of pleasure. Those who have had the thrill of hearing one of the peregrines, the female falcon or the male tiercel, calling above the Capitol know that brief moment of pleasure which comes from sensing the untamed wild around us.

Birds fill our lives with pleasure and meaning, they are a part of our identity, and often tell our stories. The Peregrines at the Capitol tell the story of the successful recovery of a species and its ability to thrive in an altered and urban environment. Other birds onsite tell the story of our history, our natural world, and our beliefs. The designers of the Capitol incorporated birds throughout the artwork and symbolism of the building, both interior and exterior.

Wachiska requested a birding adventure/field trip at the Capitol, providing me the opportunity to seek out the many ways birds are represented in the building. To provide others with the opportunity to discover and enjoy the beauty of both the Capitol and birds, I have created a bird scavenger hunt now available on our Capitol website at <http://capitol.nebraska.gov/index.php/education>. I hope it will provide families and birders the chance to have a pleasurable bird adventure at the Capitol.

Roxanne is a tour guide at Nebraska's State Capitol. She joined Wachiska's Board as a director at large in 2015. Roxanne was also a director of the Lower Platte South NRD for several years.

Know Your Turkey Vultures!

Here are some fun and interesting facts about "buzzards" from a back issue of the newsletter of the Wild Bird Habitat Stores.

Turkey Vultures are one of the only birds in North America with a sense of smell. They rely both on keen eyesight and a powerful sense of smell to search out food. The part of their brain that is responsible for processing smells is particularly large compared to other birds. Its heightened ability to detect odors allows it to find dead animals below a forest canopy.

Contrary to popular belief, circling vultures do not necessarily indicate the presence of a dead animal. Circling vultures may be gaining altitude for long flights, searching for food, or playing.

These birds soar on thermals of warm, rising air, allowing them to conserve their energy in flight. After rising on the thermal, they glide as far as possible before they need to gain altitude again. This is also the method used during fall migration when they move to southern regions. They also rely on thermals of warm air to remain aloft while scanning the ground for food.

You will certainly see vultures in the air over a carcass, but in the case of small carcasses, the descent is rapid. As for larger carcasses, while remaining on the lookout for food, vultures are equally attuned to their fellow vultures. They will note when others' behavior indicates the discovery of a food source and will flock to the area. Often the entire group will remain aloft until sufficient birds have arrived to dispose of the carcass in a timely fashion.

The Turkey Vulture maintains stability and lift at low altitudes by holding its wings up in a slight dihedral (V-shape) and teetering from side to side while flying. It flies low to the ground to pick up the scent of dead animals.

Turkey Vultures do not circle dying animals as movies depict.

A group of vultures has many collective nouns including a "cast," "committee," "meal," "vortex," and a "wake" of vultures.

Where to View Turkey Vultures in Lincoln

From mid-March to mid-October, if you drive down Highway 2 in Lincoln near 33rd Street, you are likely to witness Turkey Vultures leaving their roost in the morning or returning in late afternoon. The roost is located near the east end of Tierra Park. From the Rock Island Trail, you will see vultures on the power lines and in nearby trees. This is a spectacular sight with as many as 70 birds gathering. Do not take dogs, stay on the trail, and do not disturb these birds. Tierra Park along Beal Slough runs from 40th Street to 27th Street just south of Highway 2. Remember when watching the vultures or any other species to follow the ABA's Code of Conduct for Bird Watching printed on page 6.

Chapter Vice President to be Stu Luttich

by Richard Peterson



Stu Luttich

Wachiska's new vice president for 2017 is Stu Luttich. He has been the chair of Wachiska's Conservation Committee for the last three years.

Stu was born about 12 miles southeast of Geneva, Nebraska, on a farm where his father raised livestock. After graduating from Geneva High School, he worked as a welder and operating engineer before attending Fairbury Junior College and in 1966 received his B.S. degree in wildlife management

from Utah State University-Logan. In 1969, Stu received a M.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research was on the ecology and population dynamics of the Red-tailed Hawk in Alberta, Canada. His various jobs before, between, and after his formal schooling have taken him to many locations around the U.S., Mexico, and beyond, including stints in Arizona, Louisiana, Nevada, Washington, Southern California, and Antarctica. We are fortunate to have an experienced wildlife biologist as our vice president.

After graduate school, Stu was a school principal and science teacher in Zap, North Dakota. Then he got a job in Canada's Newfoundland Province-Labrador Territory where he spent 21 years as a regional wildlife biologist studying caribou. The work resulted in the book entitled "The Return of Caribou to Ungava." He retired from that position in 1995 and moved back to Geneva, while continuing with temporary positions elsewhere.

Stu was first a member of National Audubon Society and when he learned of the local chapter, he joined Wachiska in the late 1990s. He lives in Geneva but continues to own the home quarter section of land which is managed for native and restored prairie with the remainder rented for row-crop agriculture. He feeds birds, having two platform feeders, a number of suet feeders, and a thistle tube for finches. He has an attachment to the Gewacke Prairie, southeast of Geneva, and has seen that property go from an easement to one that Wachiska now owns.

His current reading interests revolve around the politics of the conservation movement. He views the years ahead, especially the next four, as a stressful time and considers it a pivotal moment for the conservation of our natural resources. Stu believes there will be increased efforts to undo the strides we've made in the past, e.g., dismantling our national parks, monuments, forests, and wildlife refuges that have been set aside for everyone to enjoy. He strongly believes that you can ignore politics, but politics will not ignore you.

Bill Gustafson Joins Wachiska Board

as Treasurer

by Richard Peterson

Bill Gustafson was elected as the new treasurer for 2017. A relative newcomer to Wachiska, he is not new to volunteering to further conservation efforts here in Nebraska. The two of us met and had a chat at The Mill off Prescott Avenue.

Born in Wakefield in northeast Nebraska, Bill was reared with two brothers and a sister on a farm where his parents raised cattle, hogs, corn, and soybeans. After graduating from Wakefield High School, Bill received his B.S. degree in mathematics in 1974 from the University of Nebraska. He then went to work with Cushman Motor Works in Lincoln in their accounting department doing financial and management reporting. After 28 years, he retired—or semi-retired—as he has been active in various accounting and bookkeeping jobs ever since. He currently works part-time for F&F Oil Company in Lincoln.

Upon retirement, Bill has been involved in a number of volunteer activities. He has been a volunteer accountant with Lincoln Friends of Chamber Music. In 2011, he completed the Master Naturalist program. He has volunteered with The Nature Conservancy with seed harvest and helping to remove invasive species at TNC's Platte River prairies. He has also been active with the Tri-county Burn Association and participated in a number of their annual burns. In addition, Bill has worked with the Lincoln Children's Zoo and has been involved with Salt Creek Tiger Beetle studies carried out by UNL. For years this busy volunteer has been a frequent donor at the Nebraska Community Blood Bank. On top of all this, he has traveled with the Lincoln Public Schools Foundation to Antarctica and Argentina in 2012 and to Morocco in 2015.



Bill Gustafson

Bill and his wife, Donna, live in Lincoln where Donna is a computer specialist with the Lincoln Public Library system. He enjoys classic rock music which includes the Rolling Stones and other groups. His likes in reading include both fiction and nonfiction especially the works of Sandoz, Neihardt, Roach, and O'Brien. He has been a skier and snow boarder for over 15 years making trips to Colorado and Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Bill has also been a fisherman and hunter through the years. He follows Husker football, baseball, and women's basketball. When Bill and Donna eat out, you might run into them at The Single Barrel on North 10th Street enjoying the music, burgers, or BBQ.

We welcome Stu and Bill as new chapter officers for the coming year!!

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

Climate Change and Natural Systems in Nebraska

The above topic was the subject of one of the panel discussions at the 2016 Nebraska Conservation Summit December 7 at Creighton University organized by the Nebraska League of Conservation Voters. Participants in the panel were Mace Hack with The Nature Conservancy; Rick Schneider, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; and Sarah Sortum, family member and owner of Switzer Ranch and Calamus Outfitters near Burwell. Calamus Outfitters offers recreation on the Calamus River and observation of prairie-chicken booming in March and April.

Rick Schneider, program manager for the Nebraska Natural Heritage Program, compared the effects we are seeing now because of climate change to the effects following of the last ice age which peaked 18,000 to 20,000 years ago. At that time, species moved north in a warming world. They moved gradually, following the climate to which they were adapted. Many studies have found that a number of species have similarly shifted their ranges northward in recent decades. We are bound to lose some species that are at the southern end of their range here in Nebraska, while we will gain species from states to the south of us. For example, Northern Redbelly Dace is a fish species restricted to cool water streams from Nebraska into Canada.

A modeling study in Wisconsin found that the Dace would lose 100 percent of its suitable habitat in that state within 50 years due to warming of the water. Conversely, armadillos which historically occurred to the south of Nebraska have been moving into the state in recent years. Some of the new arrivals to Nebraska are likely to be invasive species, pests, and pathogens. Another insight from change after the Ice Age is that species respond individually to climate change, with species moving northward at different rates and times. Thus, one of the expected effects of the rapid warming we are now experiencing is the dis-aggregation of biological communities which will reassemble in novel communities. The habitat fragmentation we already see will inhibit the ability of many species to cope with climate change by shifting their ranges.

There are recent, well-documented changes in timing of annual cycles of many species; for example, the seasonal timing of greening up and flowering of plants, the emergence of insects, the initiation of migration and nesting of birds. The map of plant hardiness zones has recently been revised, with zones shifting northward. We are seeing the uncoupling of ecological relationships for the species that depend on other species, for example, for food or pollination. Warming is occurring faster at the poles than in the tropics, so the timing of a particular bird species' northward migration may become out of synch with the peak of its Arctic food source, thus reducing reproductive success.

Invasive species, pests, and pathogens are also affected by warming. The destruction of western forests by the Mountain Pine Beetle in recent years illustrates this. Previously, outbreaks killed some trees and then died down; in the last decade, destruction has been unprecedented, decimating 50 million acres of forest. Colder, longer winters in the past killed beetle larvae, but milder winters have favored greater survival and more generations in the growing season. In addition, the warmer and drier summers have stressed the pine trees, making them less able to resist the beetle.

"We have technical solutions for reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change," Schneider concluded. "We just need the political will to implement them fully." He recommended two publications: National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service <https://www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/> and Climate Smart Conservation from the National Wildlife Federation <http://www.nwf.org/What-We-Do/Energy-and-Climate/Climate-Smart-Conservation.aspx>.

Mace Hack reported that "climate change is the largest challenge we face for nature and for people—to our food supply and for our health." The ways to save nature intersect with the ways to save people.

Sarah Sortum said her family's diversification to include tourism as well as grazing was done to further their goal: "Our goal is to stay there." What can city people do? "Come visit!" Sarah concluded the panel with the hopeful appraisal, "Nebraskans are stubborn. That's going to work for us. We need space, nature."

Get to Know our Birds

The Snow Bunting is a bit larger than a sparrow, six inches, with a wingspan of 11.5 inches—rather large compared to other buntings. They weigh 1.0 to 1.5 ounces. This bird can be easily identified by the large white wing patches. In breeding plumage, the male is all white with a black back, wingtips, and tail feathers. He also has a black bill. The female is all white with more of a brownish black on the back, wings, and tail. Her bill is a yellowish orange. Buntings molt only once a year. In the fall, they molt into the non-breeding plumage. By spring, the outer tips of the feathers have worn off to reveal the breeding plumage underneath.

It's a fact: you can attract more birds during winter with open water than with bird feed alone. While birds have multiple food resources, water becomes scarce in frigid weather.

As temperatures plunge below freezing, birds have difficulty locating open water. Providing fresh water during winter months can be a beneficial addition to your winter bird feeding program, often attracting more birds than the seed in your feeders.

The above local bird information is provided by the Wild Bird Habitat Store's newsletter.

W.A.R.B.L.E.R

(Wachiska Audubon Readers' Bulletins, Letters, and Environmental Reports)

Dependable Cookie Bakers to the Ready

Once again Wachiska's bakers came through during all of last year. Would the following please stand up and take a bow: Judi Cook, Rachel Simpson, Carole Closter, Mitzi Wiggle, Audrey Rousek, Betty Safranek, Joe Francis, Linnea Fredrickson, and Cheryl Moncure.

Food and fellowship are a natural pairing, and fellowship is a vital part of our monthly gatherings. Thank you to these people who helped to provide our refreshments. Could you help during 2017 by baking 2-3 dozen cookies, bars, quick bread, or other goodies for our monthly meeting? It would be wonderful to give some of the regulars a break once in a while. Call Cheryl at 402-488-0036. You can pick the month that fits your schedule.

Earth Day 2017: Can YOU Help with Wachiska's Activity Planning Coming up this Spring?

First observed in 1970, April 22 is designated as Earth Day. The Population and Environment Committee meeting on January 26 will include working on plans for Lincoln's Earth Day activities. All are welcome and encouraged to come. Your contributions of ideas will be appreciated. We hope to see you at 7:00 p.m. in the Wachiska office, 4547 Calvert Street, on January 26.

Kenn Kaufman's New Column

Bird expert, author, environmentalist, and Audubon field editor Kenn Kaufman has a brand new bi-weekly column, "The Notebook," featuring his original artwork and essays. In his first piece, Kenn explains how the Chestnut-sided Warbler was John James Audubon's nemesis bird. In his most recent column, Kenn explores the question: Where will wandering Fulvous Whistling-Ducks end up next? Google "Ken Kaufman's Notebook" to follow these columns in future weeks.

FREE Bird ID Apps

Cornell Bird Labs offers two free apps that include a wizard to help you identify birds. Check these out on their website and start identifying the birds you see today!

Thought for this Month

"Every single story that nature tells is gorgeous."

— Natalie Angier

Birding Etiquette

The American Birding Association developed a Code of Birding Ethics which emphasizes showing respect for wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others while birding. Here are highlights from that code:

- Support protection of major bird habitats.
- Avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger when observing or filming them.
- Limit use of recordings in trying to attract birds.
- Stay back from nests, roosts, and feeding sites.
- Minimize the use of flash and use a telephoto lens for close-up photos.
- Share the presence of a rare bird only after evaluating the potential for stressing the bird by others nearby.
- Stay on trails and keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.
- Show respect for the law and follow laws governing the use of roads and public areas.
- Show respect for the rights of birds and of other people.
- Seek permission before entering private property for birding.
- Be courteous to other birders and non-birders.
- Share your knowledge and experience with beginning birders.
- If leading a group, keep the size small to minimize interference with others in the area.

Why Do Some Birds Migrate?

Ever wonder why some birds remain in Nebraska and northern regions during winter while others migrate to more southerly and tropical regions? Although people may think it has to do with the ability of some birds to endure cold temperatures, it is actually a phenomenon driven by food.

Most all birds that migrate feed on insects, fish, or aquatic animals or specific vegetation that is non-existent in northern areas during the winter months. For these birds to survive, they must move to a warmer climate where they can locate their required food resources. Birds remaining in colder climates during the winter months are those that are adapted to survive on seeds, berries, and nuts.

Did You Know this One?

The name Seedskadee originated with the Shoshone Indians, whose word "sisk-a-dee-agie" means "river of the prairie hen." Designated as a wildlife refuge in 1965, this varied landscape along the Green River is an important migration route for a variety of birds.

Public Officials

President Donald J. Trump

1600 Pennsylvania Ave 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

100 Centennial Mall N Rm 287, 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)

Contact information not yet available

Congressman Adrian Smith (3rd District)

416 Valley View Dr Ste 600, Scottsbluff NE 69361

Scottsbluff phone: 308-632-3333 Fax: 308-635-3049

Wash. DC phone: 202-225-6435 Fax: 202-225-0207

E-mail at website: <http://adriansmith.house.gov>

Capitol Hill Switchboard

888-436-8427 or 202-224-3121

Governor 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 208, Lincoln NE 68508-2828

Phone: 402-441-7511 Fax: 402-441-7120

E-mail: mayor@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln City Council

402-441-7515

E-mail: council@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln Journal Star

Letters to the editor, 926 P St, Lincoln NE 68508

E-mail: oped@journalstar.com

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

Members Recycle Cans for Wachiska

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

The new owners are continuing an account for Wachiska, so anyone can bring in cans and specify 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 them from virgin material.



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The Babbling Brook is printed on recycled and recyclable paper.



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WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2017

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Publicity/Public Relations.....	Jeanne Kern.....	402-423-0428

*Denotes Board member

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Executive Director Audubon Nebraska.....	Marian Langan	402-797-2301
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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**.