



**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

**JULY 2017**

**Volume 26 - Issue 7**

**General Meeting and Program —Thursday, July 13, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, Lincoln**

## Antarctic Penguins

### Tales of Fossil Giants, Mid-winter Eggs, and Adaptations to Climate Change

by David Harwood, Department of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Who doesn't love penguins? Their cute walking waddle, tuxedo coat, speedy underwater "flight," and story of hardship and endurance are presented in the documentary film, "March of the Penguins." Today, many species of penguin occupy Earth's southern high latitude islands, coastline, oceans, and sea-ice fringe, adapted to life in this remote region. Antarctic biologists study penguins' deep-diving habits and examine population dynamics to monitor adaptations to our warming world.



**Dr. David Harwood**

Early Antarctic exploration during the Heroic Era of the early 1900s discovered fossil bones of six-foot penguins and led to the realization that Emperor Penguins breed and hatch their offspring during the middle of the cold, dark austral winter. Prevailing scientific theories at the time considered penguins to be an early stem group of the birds and thus sought out their unhatched eggs to study potential relationships with reptiles. The resultant journey of three intrepid explorers to conduct a long-distance traverse to the Emperor Penguin rookery during the dark, horrifically-cold, mid-winter to collect unhatched eggs for ontogenetic studies was described in Apsley Cherry-Garrard's book, *The Worst Journey in the World*.

Ecologists and environmental scientists study penguin populations and habits to monitor changes in the Antarctic environment and ecosystems as the Antarctic region responds to a warming planet. As a geologist and paleontologist, **David Harwood** has a deep-time perspective of past climate changes, recorded in ice cores and sedimentary rock cores, that is instructive in understanding the possible rates and size of future changes. David was the lead U.S. scientist for the international ANDRILL (Antarctic Geological Drilling) Program.

As Wachiska's July speaker, Dr. Harwood will touch on the topics presented above, share his personal perspectives as an Antarctic scientist, and hopes to increase the awareness that climate changes occurring today are outside of normal rates and sizes of natural cycles. He has visited Antarctica more than 10 times since his first visit in 1983 as a graduate student.



**Emperor Penguins**

Originally from Ohio, David has been a professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for more than 25 years. He teaches a popular general studies course, "Frontiers of Antarctic Geoscience," each semester. He also leads a 16-day

inquiry-based geoscience field course for educators during the summer, camping around Wyoming, South Dakota, and Nebraska where teachers discover the geological history of the Rocky Mountains first-hand. Harwood looks forward to the opportunity to present to Wachiska members and enhance their understanding of Antarctic penguins and climate change issues.

Join Wachiska Audubon on **Thursday, July 13, at 7:00 p.m.** for this free public presentation 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 church requires no steps to climb. There is plenty of space inside for mingling while enjoying refreshments and conversation after the program.

### Calendar

#### July

- 3 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 6:00 p.m.
- 9 Field Trip to Iowa State Forest, 6:00 a.m. (page 2)
- 10 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 13 General Meeting, "Antarctic Penguins," by Dr. David Harwood, Unitarian Church, 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 18 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.



## Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

### Summer Road Trip to Iowa's State Forest

An island chain of state forests peppers the map with patches of habitat that hopscotch across south-central Iowa to the eastern river forests. If you're in the mood for a summer road trip to a new area, a journey to the Stephens State Forest Thousand Acres Unit might be of interest to you. Our destination is located south of Des Moines and has been a recent hotspot with Iowa birders. July can be a challenging month for birding, but we're hoping to encounter some of the great species that were reported to have been territorially singing at this unit as recently as early June. The goodies we'll be targeting are Prairie Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Pine Warbler, and Blue-winged Warbler. We plan to spend most of the day in that area, but participants can return anytime.



Prairie Warbler



Yellow-breasted Chat

Meet on **Sunday, July 9, at 6:00 a.m.** on the south side of the State Capitol in Lincoln at 15th and H streets, across from the governor's mansion. Participants can either caravan or carpool for the estimated 200-mile drive from Lincoln. Recommended items to bring include any food or beverages that you prefer not to purchase en route, sun protection, insect repellent, 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.

### June Field Trip Report

by John Carlini and Shari Schwartz

June's field trip landed on one of the hottest days of the season but didn't stop eight hearty birders from exploring the preserve in the Loess Hills by Glenwood, Iowa. A south wind helped keep the temperatures bearable and the mosquitos away.

Unfortunately, the two White-eyed Vireos that were singing on territory at the park refused to make an appearance, but a pair of Great-crested Flycatchers afforded excellent views of that flashy species. Later, along the grassland border, Northern Bobwhites put on a



Great-crested Flycatcher



Northern Bobwhite

comical territorial show that started with counter singing and ultimately led to one male chasing the other on foot to his respective side of the path. The victor then perched proudly for all to see on a brush pile.

## Second Saturdays and Nature Rendezvous at Prairie Pines Nature Preserve

by Sue Kohles, Prairie Pines Partners Coordinator

Prairie Pines Nature Preserve located at 3100 North 112<sup>th</sup> Street in Lincoln will be open to the public the second Saturday of each month from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Kinetic Brew coffee and smoothies will be available for purchase 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Virginia's Garden. The public is invited to explore Prairie Pines trails and come for special events on some Second Saturdays.

The July 8 Second Saturday will have a Nature Rendezvous focusing on children and families from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Various nature exploring activities will be available along the Prairie Pines trails. Activities will involve nature-based science, engineering, exercise, and art that utilize components of nature. Kids can conquer the Nature Ninja course, make tree cookie jewelry, or learn about plants and pollinators. Wachiska's Education Committee will provide an activity about wildlife; Community Crops will help kids learn about growing plants at their garden site. Attendees are encouraged to stay for a picnic with food available for purchase from Rolling Fire Pizza offering wood-fired pizza made from local ingredients.

The August 12 Second Saturday will feature KZUM's Bob Henrickson and Bertine Loop from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The weekly KZUM radio gardening show "How's It Growing?" ends its 2017 season in Virginia's Garden. These local celebrities will answer questions about all things gardening and tour the Prairie Pines arboretum. Local musicians "Ace & Dan" plan to provide home-grown music from noon to 2:00 p.m.

Please visit [prairiepines.org](http://prairiepines.org) to learn about Prairie Pines and future events. Second Saturdays are sponsored by the Prairie Pines Partners nonprofit organization and the Nebraska Forest Service. Children must be accompanied by adults at all Prairie Pines events. Visitors are encouraged to dress appropriately for a natural and wild landscape.

## 450 People Attended Backyard Garden Tour

by Arlys Reitan

Wachiska's Garden Tour committee and participants will remember Father's Day 2017 as a gorgeous day that brought 450 visitors to our 28th annual Backyard Garden Tour. The schedule was tight this year for those who hoped to make it to all seven residential gardens and the featured city park and the urban gardening project. Visitors were found scurrying from site to site; others spent a significant share of their afternoon strolling through just a few gardens. It was clearly a "proceed-at-your-own-pace" event. Thanks again to committee co-chairs Anne and Lynn Senkbeil who, along with their dozen or so committee people, work on this project all year long. They report this fundraiser brought in \$3,273 for the chapter this year. Those interested in having their yards on the tour next year or wishing to nominate a garden, should call Senkbeils at 402-423-6524. Thanks everybody!!



## From the Board ...

by Bill Gustafson  
Treasurer

### Citizen Science for All to Participate

Citizen Science participation provides a broader view of our environment. Many opportunities are available—you may have already participated.

Audubon's Christmas Bird Count is the nation's longest-running citizen science bird project. Begun over 100 years ago, the program has seen an increase in participation, providing valuable information, especially trends, over the years.

A current project involves the spotted skunk which is rare in Nebraska. A confirmed sighting south of Valentine in February was possible due to a team of volunteers reviewing pictures from trail cameras to determine range and population.

One learns to appreciate the environment by participating in a citizen science project. Last year I took part in a Salt Creek Tiger Beetle reintroduction project. Larvae were found north of Lincoln in late 2015. Teams monitored the reintroduction the next spring and summer. Sites were checked every two weeks for activity of the burrows until no more was found. I am not an entomologist but was able to report the information.

Currently, as part of Nebraska's 150th anniversary, there is a project to document 150 or more bird species between March 1 and December 31 of this year. Photos are required. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Check [www.inaturalist.org/projects/150-birds-for-150-years](http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/150-birds-for-150-years).

Another project requiring about one hour is the Swift Night Out. In late summer, Chimney Swifts congregate in communal roosts in preparation for fall migration. The counts have been going on for over 15 years—I'm not sure results have been reported for Nebraska or Lincoln. Comments from the organizers can be found at [www.chimnyswifts.org](http://www.chimnyswifts.org) and include: "Here is how it works: Keep your eyes to the skies at dusk in late July and watch for areas where swifts are feeding. Look for a tall shaft, chimney, or similar structure where Chimney Swifts (central to East Coast) or Vaux's Swift (Pacific Coast) go to roost in your area. On one night (Friday, Saturday, or Sunday) over the second weekend of August and/or September, observe the roost about 30 minutes before sunset and estimate the number of swifts entering. After the last swift enters the structure, fill out online reporting form."

It would be interesting to compare the August and September count for the same location. Is there an increase or have most swifts already migrated by the second weekend of September?

There are many opportunities to be a citizen scientist. Go out, document your observations, and report the numbers. This information may be used to quantify current situations and trends over time.

## KXL Pipeline Is a Threat to Whooping Cranes

by Ken Winston

Paul Johnsgard is a world-renowned ornithologist and author and one of the world's leading experts on Whooping Cranes. So when he says the proposed Keystone XL (KXL) pipeline presents a threat to the iconic and endangered Whooping Cranes, people caring about protecting the natural world should pay attention.

Dr. Johnsgard submitted written testimony on behalf of the Bold Alliance and the Sierra Club in the Public Service Commission (PSC) proceeding regarding TransCanada's application seeking approval of their proposed route for the KXL pipeline through Nebraska. Dr. Johnsgard's testimony laid out his concerns about the threats posed by their proposed route.

The primary danger to Whooping Cranes from KXL are the 68 miles of new transmission lines proposed for the purpose of providing power to pumping stations for the pipeline, many of which lie within the crane migration corridor. Dr. Johnsgard's statement provides a clear and succinct message about risks involved. "Of all the known threats to Whooping Cranes, collisions with power lines are the primary cause of mortality."

Johnsgard's years of experience and research lead to the following conclusion: "Given the proposed route in the crane migration corridor and the increased risk of collisions from the number of planned power lines, the loss of Whooping Cranes over the 50-year lifespan of the proposed project is likely." Dr. Johnsgard further points out the risk this poses to the survival of Whooping Cranes as a species. "The loss of even a few, and even one, breeding adult could jeopardize the continued existence of this protected species. This is an unacceptable risk to this iconic species."

Dr. Johnsgard eloquently states the case for protecting Whooping Cranes: "I fervently hope that Whooping Cranes will survive and grow and thrive as a species far into the future. Loss of the Whooping Cranes as a species would be a huge loss to humanity as a whole and to biological diversity on this planet. It would be a devastating blow to the millions of people who care about this beautiful and majestic bird. It would be an incredible loss to scientists, conservationists, and bird-lovers. It would also mean that millions of dollars and countless hours spent by scientists and conservationists to bring this iconic species back from the brink of extinction would have been wasted. We need to reduce threats to this magnificent bird, not increase them."

Dr. Johnsgard concluded by asking the PSC to deny the application for a proposed route of the Keystone XL pipeline. We encourage you to join Dr. Johnsgard and others concerned about protecting the endangered Whooping Crane by submitting a comment to the PSC through their online comment form at [http://www.psc.nebraska.gov/admin/admin\\_forms/pipeline.html](http://www.psc.nebraska.gov/admin/admin_forms/pipeline.html). A public hearing was scheduled for late June at the Divots Conference Center in Norfolk.

# Bird Species Identified During Birdathon 2017

*by Ken Reitan, Species Compiler*

Birdathon 2017 was observed the weekend of May 13-14 during which **148 bird species** were found compared to 163 last spring and 139 the previous year. Field trips to Platte River State Park and Lincoln's Saline Wetlands Nature Center provided sightings of many of these birds. In addition, several observers identified species seen in their own yards during this same period.

Ken Reitan discovered the Olive-sided Flycatcher north of the 14th Street entrance to Wilderness Park. It is noted that this species was reported to be nearly threatened a few years ago.

The following bird species were reported by John Carlini, Shari Schwartz, Elizabeth Cisne, Carolyn Rieke, Larry Einemann, Susan Quinn, Larry Falk, Linda Brown, Michelle Johnson, Lana Novak, Tim Knott, Ken Reitan, and many others:



**Olive-sided Flycatcher**

Snow Goose	Upland Sandpiper	Western Kingbird	Yellow Warbler
Greater White-fronted Goose	Hudsonian Godwit	Eastern Kingbird	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Canada Goose	Spotted Sandpiper	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Blackpoll Warbler
Wood Duck	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Bell's Vireo	American Redstart
Gadwall	Least Sandpiper	Yellow-throated Vireo	Louisiana Waterthrush
American Wigeon	White-rumped Sandpiper	Warbling Vireo	Kentucky Warbler
Mallard	Baird's Sandpiper	Red-eyed Vireo	Common Yellowthroat
Blue-winged Teal	Pectoral Sandpiper	Blue Jay	Summer Tanager
Northern Shoveler	Stilt Sandpiper	American Crow	Scarlet Tanager
Canvasback	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Horned Lark	Eastern Towhee
Green-winged Teal	Short-billed Dowitcher	Purple Martin	Chipping Sparrow
Lesser Scaup	Long-billed Dowitcher	Tree Swallow	Clay-colored Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Wilson's Phalarope	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Field Sparrow
Ring-necked Pheasant	Franklin's Gull	Bank Swallow	Lark Sparrow
Wild Turkey	Ring-billed Gull	Cliff Swallow	Savannah Sparrow
Northern Bobwhite	Caspian Tern	Barn Swallow	Grasshopper Sparrow
Pied-billed Grebe	Black Tern	Black-capped Chickadee	Song Sparrow
American White Pelican	Forster's Tern	Tufted Titmouse	Lincoln's Sparrow
Neotropic Cormorant	Rock Pigeon	White-breasted Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Eurasian Collared-Dove	House Wren	Harris's Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Mourning Dove	Sedge Wren	Northern Cardinal
Black-crowned Night Heron	Barred Owl	Carolina Wren	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Snowy Egret	Whip-poor-will	Marsh Wren	Indigo Bunting
Turkey Vulture	Chimney Swift	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Dickcissel
Bald Eagle	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Eastern Bluebird	Bobolink
Broad-winged Hawk	Belted Kingfisher	Swainson's Thrush	Red-winged Blackbird
Red-tailed Hawk	Red-headed Woodpecker	Wood Thrush	Eastern Meadowlark
Peregrine Falcon	Red-bellied Woodpecker	American Robin	Western Meadowlark
American Coot	Downy Woodpecker	Gray Catbird	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Black-bellied Plover	Hairy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher	Common Grackle
Black-necked Stilt	Northern Flicker	European Starling	Great-tailed Grackle
Semipalmated Plover	Eastern Wood-pewee	Cedar Waxwing	Brown-headed Cowbird
Killdeer	Willow Flycatcher	Prothonotary Warbler	Orchard Oriole
Willet	Least Flycatcher	Tennessee Warbler	Baltimore Oriole
Greater Yellowlegs	Eastern Phoebe	Orange-crowned Warbler	House Finch
Lesser Yellowlegs	Great Crested Flycatcher	Nashville Warbler	American Goldfinch
Solitary Sandpiper	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Northern Parula	House Sparrow



## Birdathon 2017 – Good Progress So Far

*by Tim Knott, Campaign Chair*

Wachiska's annual Birdathon fund drive is moving ahead at a respectable pace. With the decision to combine our Birdathon with our Give to Lincoln Day campaign efforts, more people are donating and making larger contributions during May. Ernie Rousek's donation of his income from the gayfeather seed harvest also helps increase our total appreciably. (See Ernie's article below.)

Wachiska is a bigger organization now with more activities and more responsibilities, so we need your contributions, too. If you haven't donated yet, please send your gift to the office or call for a donation envelope. Thanks to everyone for your past support and current consideration this year.

## Gayfeather Seed Harvest Results

*by Ernie Rousek, Conservation Committee*

As many of you know, I sold my 80 acres in Seward County in May 2016. This included the five acres of thickspike gayfeather, the seeds being harvested by Wachiska members for a number of years and then sold to the Stock Seed Farms near Murdock.

I offered the new owners \$500/year for the next six years for the right to harvest this seed. Last fall his tenant, a neighboring farmer, thought the gayfeather field was to be mowed along with the adjoining prairie, and mowed about one-half of that field before being stopped. This error greatly reduced the amount of harvested seed.

Due to the demand for seeds of flowering prairie plants, we have been receiving higher and higher prices for our seed. In the spring of 2016, Stocks raised their previous price of \$70/pound to \$80/pound which is what they paid us in the spring of 2016 for the 2015 harvest. This money was donated to Wachiska for additional income last year through the Lincoln Community Foundation's Give to Lincoln Day campaign.

This spring the price offered for our last fall's seed jumped to \$100/pound. There were 48 pounds of pure live seed for which Wachiska received a check for \$4,312 in May. There was a separate check for \$500 for the land rental. By again directing these funds to Wachiska's Give to Lincoln Day account, an additional \$474 was received from the challenge match provided by the Lincoln Community Foundation.

There will be a full acreage of seed to harvest this coming October. This will be an opportunity to make a considerable amount of money for Wachiska if enough seed harvesters show up. I hope we can count on the help of many volunteers. We'll let you know when you can help when harvest time gets closer. Thank you to everyone for your past volunteer help. Remember to watch this newsletter for an announcement this fall when the gayfeather seed will again be ready to harvest. Then line up your family and friends to help with this easy and fun activity.

## Education Committee Makes It Happen

*by Sue Kohles, Education Committee Chair*

Wachiska's Education Committee and a Nebraska Game and Parks Watchable Wildlife grant helped expand the understanding of raptors for over 85 students at Lincoln's Everett and McPhee schools during April. An in-school presentation by Fontenelle Forest Raptor Recovery was provided for a diverse group of



**Raptor Recovery Presentation  
at McPhee Elementary**

kindergarten through fifth graders in the Lincoln Public Schools Community Learning Center after school program. Raptor Recovery brought a live Screech Owl and a Harris's Hawk for students to see. They spoke to students about characteristics of raptors and the work Raptor Recovery does to help orphaned and injured raptors. Over the following weeks, students were taken to the Raptor Recovery Rehabilitation site near Elmwood to see firsthand how injured birds are found, treated, and rehabilitated. They were able to see and learn about birds that could not be released back into the wild and which now live at the site and are part of the education program.

Coming up in September are the annual Prairie Discovery Days at Wachiska's Dieken Prairie near Unadilla and Knott Prairie near Yutan. Fourth-graders from four schools spend a half-day on the prairie learning about its importance and history as part of their Nebraska studies. Approximately 275 students will be involved this year participating in activities about prairie soils and plants, birds, prairie art, and writing. Speakers from the Nebraska Humanities Council are part of the program. The focus of speaker topics this year seeks to include a more diverse perspective of those involved and impacted by settlement of Nebraska and the Great Plains. Discovery Days will take place on three days. Two days at Knott Prairie will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and a one-day event at Dieken Prairie from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. Tentative dates are September 13, 14, 18, 19, or 25. Please consider helping the Education Committee to continue this important contribution to understanding the prairie and its diversity by volunteering your time to help.

A small Education Committee crew and a few Wachiska volunteers make activities such as those above possible. We are strongly in need of more help to continue our efforts, particularly with children, to fulfill the Wachiska vision: "A community where the experience and love of nature is shared that life may flourish in all its natural diversity." Consider joining the committee and/or volunteering for the upcoming Prairie Discovery Days in September. Contact Sue at 402-525-7653 or [turnaleaf@windstream.net](mailto:turnaleaf@windstream.net) if you can help. Working with children is incredibly rewarding and immensely important for the sustainability of the natural world we share. Please consider being part of that experience.

# Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

I taped a newspaper photo of Marian Langan near my computer screen. She's laughing. I look at it and wonder how she saw so many possibilities and then made them happen—how she got so many different kinds of things done. One answer evident to anybody around her: She worked hard and put in long days. Marian was always aiming at something—or a whole array of things. But also basic to her style was her humor. We will all need to adopt a lot of Marian's resilience for the remaining time in office of the president who several times a week finds yet another environmental standard to weaken or abolish, and has now pulled the U.S. out of the Paris Climate Agreement.

The president explained he was elected to represent Pittsburgh, not Paris, and in response, the mayors of those cities produced a beautiful opinion essay calling for consideration of the future well-being of every city in the world (*New York Times*, June 7). The mayor of Pittsburgh wrote, "The experience of Pittsburgh in the three decades since the collapse of the steel industry reveals how a commitment to science, research, and green technology can transform our cities. . . . Investments in smart infrastructure, bike sharing programs, new mass transit options, and building efficiency mean Pittsburgh is on track to meet our goal of slashing greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent by 2023. . . . Pittsburgh will be 100 percent powered by renewable energy by 2035."

After the withdrawal announcement, a list of U.S. mayors who agreed to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement multiplied, starting at 61 on June 1 and rising to 298 two weeks later. Democrats and Republicans both got on board. Signing on were mayors of nine of the 10 largest cities: New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Diego, Dallas, and San Jose, along with places on the front lines that you might predict—Miami—and many you might not. The list is on the web at Climate Mayors.

National Audubon's coverage on its website pointed out it was predictable that Audubon and essentially all environmental organizations wanted the U.S. to remain in the agreement, but it was more surprising that the same position was taken by Apple, Morgan Stanley, Intel, Unilever, Microsoft, and many other major corporations, including Exxon and other oil and gas companies, and even some coal companies.

It also noted that after the U.S. formally exits, 143 countries representing 65 percent of the world's emissions will still be left in the accord, which is more than the 55 countries representing at least 55 percent of the world's carbon emissions that was set as the minimum for the Paris Agreement to enter into force.

In bearing the costs of transition to a sustainable global economy, our country is now officially a free rider. There is nothing honorable about being a free rider. Fortunately, the

mayors and some governors, led by California, understand that the atmosphere does not divide itself up according to political subdivisions or national borders.

If you go to the City of Lincoln's website, the mayor's office, you will find a way to send him an email. If you would like to see Mayor Beutler join in upholding the goals of the Paris accord, you can tell him. If he already has done it, you can thank him.

## Remembering a Prairie Pillar in Nebraska

by Arlys Reitan

One cannot be a prairie enthusiast in our parts without having known and worked with Marian Langan, executive director of Audubon Nebraska and vice president of National Audubon. Marian passed away June 3 after fighting cancer for the past year. She was 54 years old.

Marian was a life-long Nebraskan and proud of it. Growing up in Cedar Rapids, Nebraska, she was a registered nurse before attaining a M.S. degree in biology. She served as education coordinator at UNL's Morrill Hall before coming to Audubon 18 years ago to work with kids at the prairie through environmental education.



Marian Langan

Marian was instrumental in the creation of the education center at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center near Denton. She was an invited participant at the White House Summit on Environmental Education in 2012. Every time Wachiska's Board asked for facts or opinions pursuant to legal, financial, political, or fundraising matters, Marian would attend our meeting and suggest who to consult, how to proceed—asking what we hoped to accomplish. In a day or two we'd have a name, phone number, website, or personal contact at our disposal thanks to Marian's know-how.

As Marilyn McNabb eloquently stated in her opening paragraph (see Climate Change Update, first column this page), Marian got more accomplished in the time it takes many of us to just "get started." She worked hard and she worked fast. I recall the first time I encountered Marian. It was a February indoor field trip to the state museum over 20 years ago when Marian was assigned to be Wachiska's guide. She walked so briskly that I ran after her to remind her that there were 20 of us trying to keep up. She dutifully slowed down to our pace—we learned so much about Nebraska's natural history that day.

I think Marian was motivated by pure love of people, nature, and all things in the universe. She gained satisfaction from helping in whatever ways she could. The last time most of us talked with Marian was less than two months before her death when she was still able to attend and personally accept Wachiska's 2017 Earthkeeper Award. As the award states, it's bestowed for "tireless efforts toward significant environmental issues over an extended period of time."

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

### **Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (1<sup>st</sup> District)**

301 S 13<sup>th</sup> 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> District)**

13906 Gold Cir Ste 101, Omaha NE 68144  
Omaha phone: 888-221-7452  
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4155 Fax: 202-226-5452  
E-mail at website: <https://bacon.house.gov>

### **Congressman Adrian Smith (3<sup>rd</sup> District)**

416 Valley View Dr Ste 600, Scottsbluff NE 69361  
Scottsbluff phone: 308-632-3333 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 10<sup>th</sup> St Rm 110, Lincoln NE 68508  
Phone: 402-441-7447 Fax: 402-441-6301  
E-mail: [commish@lancaster.ne.gov](mailto:commish@lancaster.ne.gov)

### **Mayor Chris Beutler**

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10<sup>th</sup> St Rm 301, Lincoln NE 68508-2828  
Phone: 402-441-7511 Fax: 402-441-7120  
E-mail: [mayor@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:mayor@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lincoln City Council**

402-441-7515  
E-mail: [council@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:council@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lincoln Journal Star**

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

## **Join now! Become a Friend of Wachiska Audubon Society!**

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

### **Friends of Wachiska (local membership)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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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**

## Short Project for One Accurate Person

Are YOU that "one accurate person"? You are if you have simple computer skills that would suffice to enter data from Birdathon and Give to Lincoln Day donations in the chapter's database. About 15 minutes of instruction will enable someone with nominal data entry skills to perform this 3-4 hour task. Accuracy and dependability are the skills needed. Call Arlys in the Wachiska office, 402-486-4846 to discuss this project. You can arrange to come in as often as needed or stay as long each time as your schedule permits. It is hoped this job can be completed by the end of July or by mid-August.



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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

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## 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**.