



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 43rd Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2016

NOVEMBER 2016

Volume 25 - Issue 11

General Meeting — Thursday, November 10, 7:00 p.m., Union College Dick Auditorium, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln

How Vanishing Grasslands Impact Birds of the Great Plains

by Dr. Dirac Twidwell, Assistant Professor, Rangeland Ecologist

Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The Great Plains of North America—to some, this iconic biome conjures up mental images of an ocean of grass spreading across the interior of the continent; to others, the Great Plains is best recognized as a sea of fire dancing with this ocean of grass. For those belonging to the latter group, the structure and function of grasslands have been inherently linked to fire since the last glacial maximum when climatic conditions provided a more favorable environment for woody plants. This imagery is indeed consistent with the accounts of early Euro-American settlers. Washington Irving (1832) remarked, “The grass is at times green and short and at other times tall and white... ..nothing but bare prairie, which becomes confused in the distance with the smoke of burning grass.”



It is now a well-established scientific conclusion that human use of fire gave rise to the Great Plains. For thousands of years, Plains Indians increased fire activity beyond that which would have resulted from lightning alone. The actions of previous inhabitants are responsible for a wide range of grassland-dependent ecosystem services that society continues to value in the Great Plains today. Unique plant and animal life abound. The Great Plains supports nearly 50 percent of U.S. beef production. The region is still rich in underground water resources. Yet the grasslands remaining today are experiencing a new and somewhat unexpected threat as a result of the lost coupling between humanity and fire—juniper invasion.

In the southern Great Plains, Ashe juniper and eastern red cedar have transformed expansive grassland areas to juniper woodlands which is linked to collapses in grassland birds, small mammals, and plant biodiversity. This is a leading reason for the decline of the lesser prairie-chicken and provides a cautionary warning for other grouse species in areas of juniper encroachment. My research demonstrates fire’s importance in conserving the remaining grasslands and restoring those converted to juniper woodlands. This research, along with the actions of landowners looking to use fire in new ways, reveals opportunities to be proactive in the face of juniper invasions.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, November 10**, at **7:00 p.m.** for this free public presentation in the Union College Dick Auditorium, 3800 South 48th Street in Lincoln. Free street parking is available as well as in the church parking lots. Look for Audubon signs on the doors. There is a ramp at the east entrance and an elevator inside. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Calendar

November

- 1 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 7 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 6:00 p.m.
- 10 General Meeting, “Vanishing Grasslands’ Implications for Birds,” with Dr. Dirac Twidwell, Union College, 7:00 p.m. (This is also the annual meeting with election of officers.)
- 12 Field Trip to PPNC, 9:00 a.m. (page 2)
- 14 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 17 Legislation Committee, DaVinci’s, 11th & G sts, 6:00 p.m. (note date change due to holiday)
- 21 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting

The November general meeting is also the annual meeting with election of officers. See page 2.



Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Back by Popular Demand—Birding 101 with Esa Jarvi

If you missed Birding 101 last fall, you can stop lamenting because Esa Jarvi has offered to present another fun and informative session this month. Esa's mini-course for birders includes clever and thoughtful tips for birders of all levels as well as many helpful suggestions for beginners. The Pioneers Park Nature Center bird feeding station will provide an assortment of subjects to get our bird list started. Then we'll set out on a morning exploration of the area's different habitats for fall and winter sparrows and whatever other surprises our hike offers. Grassland, woodland, and wetland species all have a chance of making an appearance on this outing.

We'll meet on **Saturday, November 12**, at **9:00 a.m.** at Lincoln's Pioneers Park Nature Center on the building's back porch facing the pond. The location is southwest of South Coddington and West Van Dorn streets. Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited number of extra binoculars and field guides will be available for anyone needing to use them. Wear shoes appropriate for hiking and consider the possibility of wet trail conditions if we hike near wetlands or if rain has occurred immediately prior to our field trip. There is no fee and the public is welcome. Our leader will show up rain or shine. If we have good weather, we will spend up to three hours, but you are free to leave at any time. Call John at 402-475-7275 with questions.

Birdseed Now Available

The following birdseed is available for purchase. Sales tax and shipping are included. Contact Arlys in the office ASAP if you can use any of this seed which we need to get out of the storeroom:

1 bag of Bushy Tail Treat, 20-lb. bag	\$31/bag
4 bags of Nyjer Thistle, 8-lb. bag	\$14/bag
21 High Energy Suet Cakes	\$2.50/cake
4 Berry Treat Suet Cakes	\$2.50/cake
21 No-Melt Suet Dough Suet Cakes	\$2.50/cake

Need Your Help

Wachiska's Backyard Garden Tour Committee is busy planning for next June's event; however, they request your help in submitting nominations of gardens to be considered. If you have a unique garden or know of others in the Lincoln area who do and are interested in participating, please email Anne Senkbeil at asenkbe@lps.org or call her at 402--423-6524. You can also email or leave a message at the Wachiska office, 402-486-4846.

Annual Meeting in November

Wachiska's November general meeting also serves as the annual meeting according to the chapter's bylaws. On November 10, the following slate of officers will be presented for 2017 by the nominating committee:

President – Gary Fehr
 Vice President – Stu Luttich
 Recording Secretary – Rachel Simpson
 Treasurer – Bill Gustafson

Before the vote takes place, nominations will be accepted from the floor with the condition that each nominee is currently a Wachiska member and has given consent to be nominated.

If you are interested in running for one of the above offices, chairing a standing committee, or serving as a director at large, call President Jessi Umberger at 402-580-3057 or the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846. Officers serve a one-year term which may be extended two times. Terms will begin January 1, 2017.

Lincoln Area Christmas Bird Count

by Lauren Dinan

In 1900, Dr. Frank Chapman proposed a new holiday tradition to help rather than hunt birds. A group of conservationists in the forming Audubon movement accepted his challenge. What began with 27 enthusiastic birders and a count of 89 species is now the longest-running citizen science project in the world. In 2014, the Audubon Christmas Bird Count broke records with 72,653 observers and more than 63 million birds tallied.

Calling all birders! Time is nearing for Audubon's 117th Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This Count is an incredible event where birdwatchers from across North America collect bird counts from both the field and yard feeders over a 24-hour period. Each year the Christmas Bird Count is held between December 14 and January 5. Data collected provide a snapshot of the status and distribution of various bird species and provide information that can be used to track long-term trends in bird populations. This data collection is available online and is used by many to better understand population trends of various bird species and to guide conservation efforts.

The CBC has become an annual holiday tradition for thousands of birders; it is easy to participate and is a fun and rewarding way to contribute to bird conservation annually. Join us for the Lincoln area Christmas Bird Count on **Saturday, December 17**, and help continue the annual holiday tradition of collecting vital bird data. Participants are needed at all birding levels. Arrangements can be made to pair up novice observers with more knowledgeable birders. To participate either as a field or feeder counter, please contact Lauren Dinan at ngpc.nongamebird.temp@nebraska.gov.

Note: Any rescheduling due to inclement weather will be communicated via email.

Wachiska's Prairie Discovery Days

by Sue Kohles, Education Committee Chair

The prairie ecosystem at Wachiska's Dieken and Knott Prairies was a bit more active in September. These prairies were the sites of the 2016 Wachiska Prairie Discovery Days which provided a prairie experience for 228 culturally diverse fourth graders from four area schools.

Wachiska's Education Committee plans and facilitates the educational events annually with a tremendous crew of volunteers sharing their time and talents to help kids understand the prairie habitat and its importance to diverse species.

This year, children participated in hands-on interactive sessions that introduced them to the living and non-living cooperators of the prairie. Activities involved an introduction to prairie soils and plants, prairie bird communication, prairie writing and art. Interwoven throughout the activities was the intent to convey the understanding of interconnectivity and conservation. Many of these students had never been to such a place to hear, smell, feel, or interact with the prairie ecosystem.



In addition to the interactive sessions, Nebraska Humanities Council speakers funded by Wachiska provided presentations about Nebraska history. These included the portrayal of the stories of real female settlers to Nebraska in the 1860s, including that of one woman and her family who participated in the Underground Railroad to help Africans forced into slavery to

escape to Canada via Nebraska. Other students witnessed a presentation by biology professor Bill Beachly about the importance of Nebraska's prairies and how the character of the geological, biological, and historical environment has changed.



Participating schools were Syracuse Elementary, Yutan Elementary, DC West Elementary from Valley, and Benson West Elementary in Omaha.

Amidst the sometimes challenge to manage behavior of the children of today, the benefits of experience in nature were noticeable and notable to this writer. The experience should not be understated. Our efforts are encouraged by comments such as those heard from one rough-and-tumble young man to his buddy while netting for insects, "Hey, we can grow up and do this!" or the words of one girl, noted to be minimally engaged at the beginning of the day, who stated when it was time to get back on the bus, "I don't want to go."

The multi-dimensional benefits of contact with nature and the enhancement of learning in nature are well researched and evidenced. Prairie Discovery Days provided qualitative reinforcement of those benefits. It is hoped that future prairie conservation will also benefit.

Volunteers helping were Barbara DiBernard, Bruce Mellberg, John Carlini, Ross Scott, Shari Schwartz, Sue Kohles, Tim Knott, and Tim Olin. Special thanks goes to Kimmel Orchard in Nebraska City for donating apples as a snack for the students.

Gayfeather Gathering

by Elizabeth Nelson

As part of Wachiska's ongoing fundraising efforts, 25 or more people gathered to harvest gayfeather seed on a fine October Sunday afternoon. We don't have specifics yet on amounts of seed harvested, but we had a lovely day and filled many large sacks with an abundance of gayfeather seed. Thanks to all who participated and to Ernie Rousek for leading the pack!



Seven Rare Prairies Still Available. How Do We Proceed?

by Tim Knott and Linda R. Brown

Over 20 years ago Wachiska Audubon established a conservation goal that has guided our chapter ever since. That goal is to protect some of the few remaining native tallgrass prairies in Southeastern Nebraska. Specifically, our goal has been to protect a native prairie in each of the 17 counties in our membership area. Twenty years ago we could see that virgin prairies were disappearing at a slow but steady rate in spite of being the rarest of all habitat types. They are still disappearing. When landowners of an older generation retire or pass away, they are often replaced by a younger generation with less attachment to the land, and often with debt or taxes to pay.

The goal set 20 years ago is still a good goal, perhaps the best one we can have as a chapter. By protecting tallgrass prairies, we are not only protecting rare prairie plants, but also grassland birds, mammals, and the tremendous variety of insects and microscopic creatures that depend on native grasslands to survive. But, Wachiska has had to hit the pause button. Since January 2011, we have protected only one totally new prairie, the Marie Pesek Memorial Prairie dedicated in 2014. Even though we are contacted several times each year by landowners wanting our help in preserving their prairies, we have had to tell them we are taking a "go slow" approach. The reason is that caring for the prairies we own, as well as monitoring the 24 prairies for which we hold conservation easements, takes considerable dollars and volunteer hours. The land we own has to be maintained, burned, and sometimes reseeded. To retain our grazing tenants, we must keep up the fences and water

tanks. Wachiska cannot continue to take on new responsibilities without first establishing a solid economic foundation to meet our existing responsibilities. Currently, we depend solely on annual donations and volunteers to do these things. We must plan for the next 50 years.

In late 2015, Wachiska established the Prairie Management Fund #710146 at the Lincoln Community Foundation. As of October 1 of this year, we have over \$125,000 in that fund with the goal to reach \$1 million. When fully funded, the interest from the fund could be used to supplement our volunteer efforts by paying for a part-time prairie manager, grant writer, or volunteer coordinator.

As 2016 comes to a close, please consider making a gift to the Wachiska Audubon Society Prairie Management Fund. You can support this effort with current gifts or pledge a future gift. Future gifts pledged in the form of a bequest in your will could empower hiring staff sooner. A substantial donation from your current assets can help meet this goal and perhaps allow Wachiska to consider acquiring area prairies in Southeast Nebraska that still need protection. Every year that we are "on hold" means we forego opportunities that may never come again. We need to be actively pursuing the few tallgrass properties that still exist. Your support is needed for the Wachiska Prairie Management Fund.

Please consider making a current or future gift by using the form below. Let us know if you have additional questions. Thank you!

Gift Pledge Form ————cut on line and return to the Wachiska Audubon Society———

_____ I am giving \$_____ to the Wachiska Prairie Management Fund. My check is enclosed. Make your check payable to the **Wachiska Audubon Prairie Management Fund #710146.** Mail to Wachiska Audubon Society, 4547 Calvert Street, Suite 10, Lincoln NE 68506, or to the Lincoln Community Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 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.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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

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.



From the Board ...

by *Richard Peterson*
Director at Large

Amazon River Trip

Last month I returned from a trip to Peru where I spent six days and nights on the Amazon River. Some of the time was spent exploring the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve which is over 8,000 square miles or about the size of New Jersey. It is home to over 530 species of birds, 132 species of mammals, 58 species of amphibians, and 259 species of fish, plus uncounted others yet to be identified. On either side of the reserve were the Marañon and Ucayali rivers which converge to create the headwaters of the Amazon as it begins its 2,000+mile-long, winding journey to the Atlantic Ocean.

The headwaters are 110 miles west of the city of Iquitos where our flight from Lima had touched down. Iquitos is home to half a million people and is the largest city in the world not accessible by road. You either fly in or you paddle. Iquitos had been the center of the rubber boom in the late 1800s when the area's indigenous peoples were conscripted to work.

There were 20 of us who, prior to arrival, had our yellow fever vaccinations and were taking pills to prevent malaria. On ship we slept in our private air-conditioned room and had our meals buffet-style in the dining room. There was a lounge with a bar topside where we could relax, gather for briefings, and get information on the next day's activities. Alongside, the ship carried two 12-person motorized skiffs that could be lowered and used for excursions to search out birds and other wildlife in the reserve and along the tributaries. Three of the four excursions began at sunrise, the fourth was at night. We also had short walking trips on land above the flood plain and another on what was now exposed below the flood high water mark. Although the rainy season was over, it still rained a part of most every day. Blue skies then returned but the hot and heavy air remained.

Our guide was a certified area naturalist with 30 years of experience on the river. He knew where to look and with a laser pointer made finding and seeing what he saw easier. Binoculars, long sleeve shirts and pants, a broad brimmed hat, and DEET were essential.

We saw the gray and the pink dolphins surfacing. We fished for piranha and saw a family of giant otters along a river bank. Pygmy marmosets were seen trying to stay out of sight, and at night the large bulldog bat swooped over the narrow tributary and our skiff searching for a meal. The noisy night monkey was seen in the day hiding in tree holes, plus a host of other creatures I had never seen but only heard about. We even swam in a secluded black water lagoon.



White-throated toucan

toucan (see photo), cobalt-winged parakeet, great black-hawk, and lesser yellow-headed vulture. As we plied the narrow waterways or walked, the sounds of the tropical rain forest were incredible, from howler monkeys in the distance to hawks screeching overhead, and insects and birds chirping and chattering—even the sound of mosquitoes looking for a meal. I would return in a heartbeat.

I saw 50 species of birds and missed another five or so because I wasn't able to get my binoculars up and focused on them in time. Some of the species I did see included blue-and-yellow macaw, black-tailed trogon, white-throated

Wachiska's Latest New Friends

by *Jami Nelson, Membership Chair*

The past couple of months the following people have become Friends of Wachiska with a local membership:

Amy Birky	Jo Brown
Duane Delozier	Bill & Donna Gustafson
Bob Koerner	Melissa Landis
Eugene Martin	Marilyn Maude
Gretel Mientka	John & Jean Slieter
Fran Vavra	Beau Wichtendahl

We encourage you to participate in some chapter activities and possibly find a spot that fulfills your particular interest in birds and the natural world.

Actions to Protect Birds Where We Live

Plant native plants. Native flora provides birds with food in the form of fruit and seeds and is home to tasty invertebrates like bugs and spiders.

Identify the non-native invasive plants in our region and work to remove them from your yard.

Let your yard get a little messy! Leave snags for nesting places and stack downed tree limbs to create a brush pile which is a great source of cover for birds during bad weather.

Close blinds at night and turn off lights you are not using. Some birds use constellations to guide them on their annual migrations. Bright lights from windows and sky lights can disrupt their steering senses.

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

Audubon and Climate Change in Washington State

“People who care about birds really understand the urgency of the situation,” says Gail Gatton, executive director of Audubon in Washington State. She spent a year meeting with and surveying the state’s 25 chapters about Initiative 732 on the November state ballot. Washington Audubon decided to support I-732 which calls for a revenue neutral carbon tax, with some of the funds collected going to low-income families. The results will be in when you read this report. Washington is the first state to vote on a revenue neutral carbon tax.

Gatton points out that their neighbor to the north, the Canadian province of British Columbia, has had a carbon tax since 2008, causing their carbon pollution to be reduced while their economy has done better than most other provinces. A dozen European countries have put a price on carbon pollution, along with Japan, South Africa, and others. The Washington State carbon tax ballot initiative was discussed by Clay Sell at the U.S. Energy Association meeting in October. Mr. Sell was a top energy official under President George W. Bush and works for a subsidiary of Hunt Consolidated. The Hunt fortune was founded on oil; Sell’s subsidiary is invested in clean energy. He considers the Washington initiative a possible prototype for federal action.

“The great challenge for the next administration using the bully pulpit will be to end this fiction, act upon the science and design a carbon pricing scheme that will provide the certainty and efficiency that energy investors desire,” Sell said. Many conservative and liberal economists support a carbon tax as transparent, effective, and market-friendly. (More info: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/columnist/2016/10/09/time-carbon-tax-former-bush-official-says-yes/91736254/>.)

Gail Gatton points out that climate change is the number one threat to birds. She says “The best way to fight climate change is from two sides—we need to conserve the places on the ground that birds depend on, and we also need to prevent additional climate change by cutting carbon pollution.” (More at <http://www.audubon.org/news/washington-state-could-pass-first-carbon-tax-nation>.)

Climate scientists and economists have long said that one of the best ways to fight climate change is to put a price on greenhouse gas emissions and raise that price over time, which would encourage the switch to cleaner energy sources, like solar and wind. The initiative’s approach is based on a carbon tax that British Columbia put in place in 2008. Ireland and Sweden also have such taxes.

Historic Agreement in New Mexico between Audubon and Four Tribes

Rio Grande River flows had stopped in some areas in New Mexico due to diversions and drought made worse by global warming. Audubon New Mexico has initiated unprecedented action to bring more water to the Middle Rio Grande where there are four Important Bird Areas which in the fall and winter sustain tens of thousands of sandhill cranes and migrating waterfowl.

Last summer, Audubon New Mexico reached out to the Middle Rio Grande pueblos offering to fund habitat restoration in exchange for release of some of the water allotted to tribes. Two pueblos, the Cochiti and Santa Ana, agreed. The pueblos of Sandia and Isleta went further—they donated the water. A Santa Fe golf club also donated water. This is the first time a non-governmental organization is releasing water to replenish the Middle Rio Grande.

Tribal governor Isaac Lujan said, “With ever increasing demands put on the river, Sandia offers this water as a dedication to the inherent value the river has to all people and the habitat it supports.” Audubon Freshwater Program Manager Sharon Wirth commented, “To be working with someone who is really just all about the river for the inherent value of the river . . . there’s something really beautiful about that.” (More at <http://www.audubon.org/news/more-260-million-gallons-water-began-flowing-parched-rio-grande-month>.)

SEED: The Untold Story

Lincoln’s Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center will be showing *SEED: The Untold Story* November 11-17. This award-winning documentary details the dramatic loss of seed diversity and the future of our food. From the filmmakers behind *Queen of the Sun: What Are the Bees Telling Us?* and *The Real Dirt on Farmer John*, the film features Vandana Shiva, Dr. Jane Goodall, Andrew Kimbrell, and Winona LaDuke.

Few things on Earth are as miraculous and vital as seeds which have been worshipped and treasured since the dawn of humankind. This film follows passionate seed keepers protecting our 12,000-year-old food legacy. In the last century, 94 percent of our seed varieties have disappeared. As biotech chemical companies control the majority of our seeds, farmers, scientists, lawyers, and indigenous seed keepers fight a David and Goliath battle to defend the future of our food. In a harrowing and heartening story, these reluctant heroes rekindle a lost connection to our most treasured resource and revive a culture connected to seeds.

Check the Ross schedule for show times.



Public Officials

President Barack Obama

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

Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (1st District)

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

Congressman Brad Ashford (2nd District)

7126 Pacific St, Omaha NE 68106
Omaha phone: 402-916-5678
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4155 Fax: 202-226-5452
Email at website: <http://ashford.house.gov>

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
Email 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
Email 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
Email: 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
Email: 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
Email: 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 _____

Home _____

Email _____

- ___ \$25 Individual/Friend
- ___ \$35 Family Friend
- ___ \$50 Black-capped Chickadee Friend
- ___ \$100 Northern Cardinal Friend
- ___ \$250 Western Meadowlark Friend
- ___ \$500 Bald Eagle Friend
- ___ \$1,000 Peregrine Falcon Friend

Select the level of support that is right for you and make your check payable to **Wachiska Audubon Society**. All funds 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 the 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 the National Audubon Society directly.



American Goldfinch family

Members Recycle Cans for Wachiska

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

The new owners have agreed to continue an account for Wachiska whereby anyone can bring in their aluminum cans and specify that the proceeds be credited to the Wachiska 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. Call the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846 if you have questions.

Recycling aluminum cans saves 95 percent of the energy used to make beverage cans from virgin materials.

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The Babbling Brook is printed on recycled and recyclable paper.



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WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2016

OFFICERS

President	*Jessi Umberger (Otoe).....	402-580-3057
Vice President	*Gary Fehr.....	402-570-4382
Recording Secretary	*Rachel Simpson.....	402-742-7991
Treasurer (acting)	*Arnold Mendenhall (Hickman).....	402-525-4884
Immediate Past President	*Elizabeth Nelson.....	402-770-3485

STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large.....	*Richard Peterson.....	402-489-2996
Director at Large.....	*Roxanne Smith	402-477-1319
Director at Large.....	*vacant	
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
	*Lana Novak.....	402-475-8693
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
Raptor Recovery.....	Betsy Finch (Elmwood).....	402-994-2009
Executive Director Audubon Nebraska.....	Marian Langan	402-797-2301
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Director.....	Glynnis Collins	402-797-2301
Facebook Coordinator	Benjamin Vogt.....	402-499-5851
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 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**.