

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 41st Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2014

FEBRUARY 2014

Volume 23 - Issue 2

General Meeting—Thursday, February 13, 7:00 p.m., Dick Administration Building, Union College, Lincoln

Did a Giant Asteroid Kill the Dinosaurs?

by Dr. Greg Snow, Professor of Physics and Astronomy, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Editor's Note: This month we are examining a topic that should prove fascinating to all who are in wonder of the natural world at any level—a topic w-a-y before our time . . .

Greg Snow has a fascination for “the olden days—way back when.” One of Dr. Snow’s hobbies is to learn about the extinction of the dinosaurs and other mass extinctions in the history of the Earth. In this presentation, he will probe the theory that an asteroid or comet the size of Mt. Everest struck Mexico’s Yucatán Peninsula 65 million years ago, creating a dust cloud that altered the Earth’s climate and killed the dinosaurs and 70 percent of all other living species. Evidence supporting the impact theory will be presented. Snow will also review other dinosaur extinction theories which range from believable to preposterous, and he will discuss his perspective on this lively scientific debate. Dr. Snow is a member of the UNL Speaker’s Bureau, offering talks on many topics of interest to just about every interest.

Gregory Snow founded the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s High Energy Physics group in 1993 when he joined the Nebraska

faculty as an associate professor. Snow’s interest in high-energy physics and particle accelerators began as an undergraduate at Princeton, where he performed senior thesis research at the Brookhaven Laboratory with Val Fitch, a Nobel Prize winner in physics. As a graduate student at Rockefeller University in New York, Snow performed his Ph.D. work at Fermilab in Batavia, Illinois. As a postdoctoral fellow at Rockefeller and as an assistant professor at the University of Michigan, Snow continued his “commute-to-the-laboratory” lifestyle, performing experiments at the CERN Laboratory in Geneva, Switzerland. Snow came to Nebraska to settle near his home state of Wyoming. He and his colleagues are leading members of major experiments at Fermilab and CERN.



Dr. Greg Snow

Please join Greg Snow and Wachiska on **Thursday, February 13**, at **7:00 p.m.** for this free public presentation in the Dick Administration auditorium on Union College campus, 3800 South 48th Street, in Lincoln. From 48th and Calvert streets, go one block south to the north end of campus. Due to construction on that end of campus, parking can be found along 48th Street, near the church on Prescott Avenue, or at the campus gym. Look for Audubon signs on the doors of the Dick Building. An on-site ramp and elevator are available. Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

Wachiska Volunteers Receive Recognition

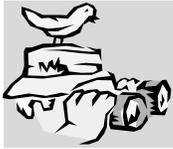
Four chapter volunteers have completed at least one year of service on Wachiska’s Board or in another leadership capacity to qualify to receive their brass name tag at year end. A BIG THANK YOU to each of these folks:

- Cheryl Moncure – Hospitality Committee chair
- Linda Sullivan – IT guru and newsletter layout
- Sam Truax – Legislation Committee Board rep
- Benjamin Vogt – Board member at large

Calendar

February

- 1 Birdseed Distribution, Midwest Roofing, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
- 3 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 4 Finance Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 4 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 8 **Bird EnCOUNTER, Gere & Eiseley Libraries, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.** (page 2)
- 13 General Meeting, “Did a Giant Asteroid Kill the Dinosaurs?,” by Dr. Greg Snow, Union College Dick Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 16 Field trip to Schilling WMA, 1:00 p.m. (page 2)
- 17 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 6:00 p.m.
- 27 Legislation Committee, DaVinci’s, 11th & G, 6:00 p.m.



Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Chilling at Schilling Wildlife Management Area

An afternoon hike to the Missouri River on the February field trip will give us an opportunity to stretch our legs and look for birds. We'll spend about an hour walking the open bottomlands of Schilling Wildlife Management Area's 1,500 acres on the east side of Plattsmouth where red-tailed hawks, bald eagles, and a variety of sparrows may be seen along the river valley. We'll also check the river for common goldeneyes and the trumpeter swans recently discovered by an observant Omaha birder. Anyone interested in birding Carter Lake in Omaha can continue on to watch for the trumpeter swans that have been arriving at sunset accompanied by a lone immature tundra swan.

Meet at **1:00 p.m. Sunday, February 16**, on the south side of the State Capitol in Lincoln, 15th and H Streets, across from the governor's mansion. Anyone wanting to join the group at Plattsmouth can meet at the entrance to Schilling WMA around 2:15 p.m. Bring binoculars and scope if you have them, shoes and warm gear for the outdoor hike, and a water bottle. The public is welcome and no entrance fee is required. If you have questions, call John at 402-475-7275.

Welcome Newest Members in 2014

by Joyce Vannier, Membership Chair

In the past month, these people have become Wachiskans by joining National Audubon:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Austin Butterfield | Brooke & Jared List |
| Mark Daharsh | Brittney Riley |
| Anne DeVries | Ben Rush |
| Christine Flynn | Julee Vincent |
| Larry Friesen | Lynda Vorisek |
| James Haudrich | Tommy Whalen |
| Don Jacobson | Mary Winquest |
| Bonnie Leners | Mike Yearley |

Folks electing to join the chapter locally as Friends of Wachiska are RodRick Ekwall, Robert & Ruth Lawrence, and Lynn Brehm & Karl Linderholm.

Transferring in from another chapter are Hanna Nancy Schuenight and Carolyn Williams.

Wachiska always invites new friends to attend an upcoming field trip or general membership meeting and program. We always have interesting and informative speakers and field trip guides. There are no additional fees; bring your friends. If you have questions, call the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846.

3rd Annual Bird EnCOUNTER is for the Birds . . . and the Kids

by Jessi Umberger, Population/Environment Committee

Wachiska's population/environment committee is again working with the Lincoln City Libraries, the Wild Bird Habitat Stores, and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to provide a practical, fun, and free family event, Lincoln Bird EnCOUNTER, on **Saturday, February 8**, from **1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** at Eiseley Branch Library, 1530 Superior Street in northwest Lincoln and Gere Branch Library, 2400 South 56th Street in southeast Lincoln.

Live raptors, kids' crafts, bird watching, fun games, bird photos, and more will be presented. If you can help, call the Wachiska office to volunteer.

Dollars Needed for Birdseed

As part of Wachiska's annual Bird EnCOUNTER held at two public libraries in Lincoln each February for families with young children, we have bird feeders at Gere, Anderson, Walt, and Eiseley libraries that volunteers keep full of birdseed in the fall, winter, and spring. There is an ongoing need for money to purchase this seed. Please consider contributing to our birdseed fund. Only monetary donations can be accepted because there is no place to store seed at Wachiska's office for any length of time. Make checks payable to Wachiska Audubon and note on the memo line "for library bird feeding project." Thank you!!

Great Backyard Bird Count is Easy for All

The Bird EnCOUNTER is happening one week before the annual Great Backyard Bird Count on February 14-17. Look online for information and to get involved in the GBBC at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>. You will be able to follow the count worldwide in real time at this site.

If you don't have Internet access or prefer to take part in the more conventional way, call or stop at either location of Wild Bird Habitat Stores to get a packet of information explaining the process for counting birds during the GBBC in mid-February. The stores' phone numbers are 402-420-2553 (south store in Alamo Plaza) or 402-464-4055 (north store on Orchard Street). Once you have the packet, you'll see how to record your findings and report them to be included with all the tallies from around the world. You can return your reports to either Wild Bird Habitat location or mail them in and they will do the reporting!

Wachiska Seeking Stock Broker

Wachiska has a variety of investments which support our prairie preservation and general operations. We are looking for a broker to help us develop and monitor a socially-responsible investment portfolio. We would prefer to work with a Wachiska member. If you are, or can recommend, a broker who fits this bill, please contact Wachiska's president, Elizabeth Nelson.



From the Board ...

by Bob Boyce, Recording Secretary

***An Eagle Named Freedom: My True Story of a Remarkable Friendship*, by Jeff Guidry**



Bob Boyce

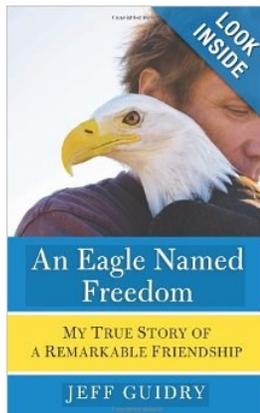
This is the story of Jeff Guidry, the author, and his deep friendship with an eagle named Freedom. Jeff tells an intensely personal story of his experiences with Freedom after she was injured—both wings broken—helping her recover, and how she in turn helped him recover when he had cancer.

But the book is much more than that simple story, moving as it is. It's a story of numbers of animal-human interactions, of trust, of mystery. Jeff tells of the beliefs of the Native American peoples of the Pacific Northwest, about animals and their close relationships with humans. He tells of the Sarvey Wildlife Care Center in Washington, where he was one of over 100 volunteers and where the veterinarians donate their services to heal injured animals of all kinds. When they can, they return them to the wild; when that's impossible, they find homes for them, sometimes where they can serve for wildlife education, as Freedom was.

Jeff talks about Sasha, a cougar at Sarvey, and Kaye, the director of Sarvey—both dominant females, so they couldn't be together! He tells about Crazy Bob Jones, their most dedicated volunteer, who would go where only a true animal would go, who loved the animals deeply and fiercely. He tells of Angelica, the black bear cub brought in who'd been separated from her mother. She and Jeff played together, and in a year, when she was big enough, they released her. He tells of Mr. Timms, the squirrel that lived with Jeff and his partner, Lynda.

When Jeff comes down with cancer, he has difficulty in facing it and undergoing the months of chemotherapy, but finds strength and solace in his times with Freedom—his best friend, an ally, a reminder of a real future. There are a lot of details about his treatments, but they help you understand how important Lynda and Freedom were to him.

Jeff tells wonderful stories, heart-warming stories. I know, that's a cliché, but it's true. The book is a pure joy to read. It's well written, with enough detail and personal information to make the people and animals real. It's funny and moving and inspiring. I highly recommend it.



Audubon's Nebraska Crane Festival Set for March

by Chris Thody, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center

Nebraska is home to one of the most spectacular wildlife migration phenomena in the world—the sandhill crane migration. Over 80 percent of the world's population of lesser sandhill cranes (approximately 500,000 - 600,000) use the Platte River and adjacent fields to rest and refuel before continuing north to their nesting grounds in the northern U.S., Canada, and Siberia.

Audubon Nebraska is pleased to announce its 44th annual celebration of the sandhill crane migration, Audubon's Nebraska Crane Festival (formerly known as the Rivers and Wildlife Celebration). The festival will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center in Kearney, March 20 - 23, and features a variety of birding excursions including guided half- and full-day trips to local birding hotspots, sunrise and sunset trips to crane-viewing blinds along the Platte River at Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary, and an overnight outing to see prairie grouse.

Main speakers include Gary Langham, chief scientist of the National Audubon Society; and Brian "Fox" Ellis of Foxtails International. Other presenters will give information on a variety of nature-related topics. Workshops on crane behavior and nature photography will be presented. The popular and family-oriented Wild Experience Room will return with hands-on activities for kids, a live raptor show, and a live snake show.

For registration and general festival information, visit nebraskacrane festival.org or call 402-797-2301. You can also visit us on Facebook. For crane-viewing information, visit rowe.audubon.org or call the Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary, 308-468-5282.

Finke Gardens Recycles for Wachiska

Luann Finke, owner of Finke Nurseries, has offered to post a suggestion on their Facebook page that people should consider recycling their aluminum cans and donating the proceeds to the Wachiska account set up at A-Can Recycling Center, 3255 South 10th Street, in Lincoln. Luann was arranging to drop off their "haul" at the site. If you know of a company or group that would be able to do this, please pass along this idea.

Check Received from A-Can Recycling

Wachiska has received a check for \$100 from A-Can Recycling Center for 206 pounds of aluminum cans collected and turned in by Wachiska friends in 2013. This amount has increased in the past two years. Thank you to everyone who is participating!

Lincoln's Christmas Bird Count Report

by Kevin Poague, Compiler

Cold, overcast weather greeted 31 birders who participated in the Christmas Bird Count for Lincoln on Saturday, December 14, 2013. They walked, drove, watched feeders, and tallied **64 species** in all (19,424 individual birds), compared to 79 species in 2012. This year's count produced the largest number of bald eagles, 9, and house finches, 375, ever for the Lincoln count. But colder temperatures this year kept open water to a minimum which led to half as many waterfowl species seen this year as last, plus no gulls. Many fewer robins were seen (1,433 in 2012 vs. 232 this year), as was the case with cedar waxwings (103 vs. 27), red-winged blackbirds (207 vs. 2), and Harris's sparrows (73 vs. 20). No warblers were recorded in 2013. Birds more common this year included Canada geese (11,996 this year vs. 2,885), and house finches (375 vs. 70). And some surprisingly similar totals between the two years: belted kingfisher (9 vs. 9), downy woodpeckers (100 vs. 98), hairy woodpeckers (15 vs. 14), blue jays (246 vs. 244), and eastern bluebirds (88 vs. 88).

Most common species were Canada goose, European starling, mallard, rock pigeon, house sparrow, and house finch.

There are always unexpected species seen each year; in 2013 they included spotted towhee, red-headed woodpecker, pied-billed grebe, brown thrasher, and long-eared owl.

Mary Bomberger Brown organized the following birders: Colleen Babcock, Bob Boyce, Anita Breckbill, Mary Bomberger Brown, Linda R. Brown, Pat Cole, Lynn Darling, Barbara DiBernard, Candice Doyle, Mark Doyle, Rick Eades, Larry Einemann, Pat Halderman, Ian Hoppe, Olivia Hoppe, Paula Hoppe, Paul Johnsgard, Tim Knott, Dan Leger, Dwain Leonhardt, Linda Maslowski, Pete Maslowski, Bruce Mellberg, Ryan Mesmer, Rosalind Morris, Marilyn Oborny, Linda Plock, Kevin Poague, Neva Pruess, Ken Reitan, Jennifer Smith, Ruth Stearns, Alison Stevens, April Stevenson, Ned Stringham, Moni Usasz, Carol Wagener, Bruce Wendorff, Dan Wheeler, Diana Wheeler.

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Snow Goose - 1 | Killdeer - 2 | Golden-crowned Kinglet - 10 |
| Cackling Goose - 32 | Rock Pigeon - 967 | Eastern Bluebird - 88 |
| Canada Goose - 11,996 | Eurasian Collared-Dove - 1 | American Robin - 232 |
| Pied-billed Grebe - 1 | Mourning Dove - 150 | Brown Thrasher - 1 |
| Gadwall - 6 | Great Horned Owl - 4 | European Starling - 1,557 |
| Mallard - 1,165 | Long-eared Owl - 1 | Cedar Waxwing - 27 |
| Northern Shoveler - 1 | Belted Kingfisher - 9 | Spotted Towhee - 1 |
| Am. Green-winged Teal - 8 | Red-headed Woodpecker - 1 | American Tree Sparrow - 354 |
| Common Goldeneye - 35 | Red-bellied Woodpecker - 57 | Song Sparrow - 4 |
| Wild Turkey - 36 | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 2 | White-throated Sparrow - 15 |
| Northern Bobwhite - 4 | Downy Woodpecker - 98 | Harris's Sparrow - 20 |
| Great Blue Heron - 11 | Hairy Woodpecker - 14 | White-crowned Sparrow - 3 |
| Bald Eagle - 9 | Northern Flicker - 13 | Dark-eyed Junco - 294 |
| Northern Harrier - 4 | (Yellow-shafted Flicker) - 18 | (Slate-colored Junco) - 215 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk - 5 | Northern Shrike - 1 | (Oregon Junco) - 2 |
| Cooper's Hawk - 3 | Blue Jay - 244 | Northern Cardinal - 132 |
| Accipiter sp. - 2 | American Crow - 51 | Red-winged Blackbird - 2 |
| Red-tailed Hawk - 36 | Horned Lark - 8 | Western Meadowlark - 54 |
| Rough-legged Hawk - 1 | Black-capped Chickadee - 101 | Meadowlark sp. - 9 |
| Buteo sp. - 6 | Tufted Titmouse - 1 | House Finch - 375 |
| American Kestrel - 8 | Red-breasted Nuthatch - 20 | Common Redpoll - 6 |
| Merlin - 1 | White-breasted Nuthatch - 87 | American Goldfinch - 211 |
| Falcon sp. - 1 | Brown Creeper - 14 | House Sparrow - 494 |
| American Coot - 81 | Carolina Wren - 1 | |



Spotted Towhee



Red-headed Woodpecker



Pied-billed Grebe



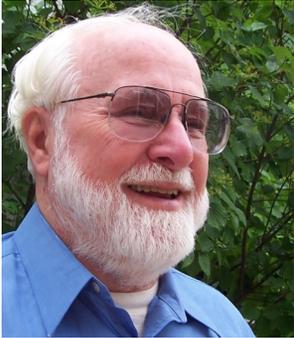
Brown Thrasher

City Bees, Country Bees

by Dan Schlitt

On these cold and snowy days it is nice to turn our thoughts to planning for spring and our gardens. Here is something to include in our thoughts.

The pollinators are in trouble—not only colony collapse of honeybees, but bumblebees, other bee species, and other insects that serve as pollinators. A blog post earlier this year suggests something we might do to help this important part of our environment.



Dan Schlitt

Writing in *Ecological Gardening*, Adrian Ayres Fisher, a Quaker from Oak Park, Illinois, starts by comparing her June urban backyard with a rural retreat property in Putnam County.

In her backyard in a 10' x 20' area a couple of bumblebees were on the spiderwort, and numerous bees of various species visited the coreopsis and other flowers. In contrast, later that afternoon at the property in the country—12 acres of grass, native trees, and old field/quasi-prairie areas—she found exactly two bees in a small patch of clover.

This country patch is surrounded by the triumphant industrial agriculture of today. The author writes, “I sat with the constant awareness that in those vast fields every single plant as far as the eye could see had doubtless been treated with, among other dangerous chemical products, fungicides and neonicotinoids, and so, virtually every plant in that landscape was toxic to bees. There are vanishingly few refuges.”

What Cities Have: Neglected Acreage and Contiguous Back and Front Yards

The author believes that cities have the potential to be our pollinator reserves. Industrial farming plows up ever more habitat. It is up to those in cities, towns, and suburbs to abandon our pristine-lawn aesthetic and make a place for bees to survive.

An advantage of our yards is that they are not economic production areas. They are more or less immune from the pressure of the grim market system, and we can use them for gardens and bee habitat. Our cities also have hundreds of acres of neglected land. These overgrown vacant lots, unmowed roadsides, and abandoned industrial yards may be covered with non-native weeds. But they can also serve as bee habitat. The unmowed parts of Lincoln's city parks can also harbor bees. We can't completely replace the invasive weeds with native plants, but they can still add to our resources.

Adrian Fisher concludes with:

“It is up to us, all of us who have small patches of land stuck together in blocks and neighborhoods, who talk to our neighbors, who putter around in our yards. We can grow flowers (especially natives), put in spring-blooming shrubs and trees (preferably native), create clover lawns, make sure our vegetable gardens include flower beds, leave some ground undisturbed, and resolve not to use insecticides. We can request our city governments and state legislatures to ban at least cosmetic use of neonicotinoids, as Oregon did after 50,000 bumble bees died this spring. And people who care about these things could do some guerrilla gardening. You could, in the fall, make seed bombs with seeds of native plants and scatter them in marginal, weedy areas; some of them might take hold. What you would end up with in this case would be a new, hybrid landscape, but it would serve a useful purpose.

Much education—and action—is needed. City dwellers unite! Go forth and plant flowers!”

Here are the URLs of two different places on the Internet where you can find the full article. I encourage you to read it: <http://www.ecologicalgardening.net/2013/07/city-bees-country-bees-part-2.html>

<http://www.resilience.org/stories/2013-07-09/city-bees-country-bees-part-2#>

GreenFaith Fellowship Program

by Kim Morrow, Minister of Sustainability
First-Plymouth Church

This environmental education and leadership training program for clergy and lay leaders from across the country is recruiting its next class of leaders. There will be a free webinar February 6 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. to explain the program which involves three retreats, an eco-theology writing process, and a religious-environmental leadership project. There's a great sense of community within each class and among the wider Fellowship community.

You can learn more about the Fellowship Program at <http://greenfaith.org/programs/fellowship> and access the application materials. Feel free to contact me at kim@firstplymouth.org or Fletcher Harper at revfharper@greenfaith.org.

Preserving Prairie Seeds for Posterity

by Ernie Rousek, Conservation Committee

The prairies of the U.S. are one of the most endangered ecosystems. It is estimated that only about .01 of one percent of the original tallgrass prairie area still exists. In this regard, the Dixon National Tallgrass Prairie Seed Bank, which is associated with the Chicago Botanic Garden, started in 2003 as a program to preserve prairie seeds. This is part of a worldwide program whose aim is to preserve seeds of most of the world's endangered plants.



Ernie Rousek

When prairie seeds are stored under cold, dry conditions they are expected to remain viable for 200 years. Some of these seeds are also used in propagating the more endangered species. This program is directed for the area from eastern Indiana to western Nebraska and from southern Missouri to Canada. This area is divided into 12 eco-regions with the aim of collecting seeds and herbarium specimens of 544 prairie species. These species are to be collected wherever they are endemic in each eco-region.

I became aware of this seed preservation program last spring when Arlys mentioned hearing about it. I was especially interested when I learned they were offering \$125 - \$130 for each species collected. I thought this could be an easy fundraiser for Wachiska with the possibility of collecting seeds from the five Wachiska-owned prairies. The seed bank manager in Chicago said they would very much like to get seed collected in Nebraska.

However, I found this to be a more involved process than I anticipated. The request was for 5,000 to 20,000 seeds per species, photos of the prairie including close-up shots of collected species, two dried specimen plants of each species, a DNA specimen, GPS location, elevation, soil type, color, texture and slope degrees, associated plants (all in Latin—no common names ever used), geology, estimated number of target plants, etc. I had piles of drying seeds on newspapers scattered over my basement floor as the request was to be aware of excessive sun heat during drying.

The time of harvest required making quite a few trips. While some species such as leadplant retain their seeds a long time after maturity, some such as the very attractive butterfly milkweed release their seeds from pods quickly upon ripening. The shipments of seeds and plants were by FEDEX and the seed bank paid all shipping fees.

I ended up with collections of 11 species from four Wachiska-owned prairies plus one from my own prairie: leadplant, New Jersey tea, scurfpea, purple prairie clover, white prairie clover, thickspike gayfeather, rough gayfeather, butterfly milkweed, compass plant, big bluestem, rigid goldenrod, and Canada

goldenrod. All but one of these species qualified for the \$130 price for a total of \$1,555 which was recently received.

This was a learning experience and made me further appreciate that starting 17 years ago, 28 owners of prairies in eastern Nebraska saw fit to allow Wachiska Audubon to put their prairies into conservation easements for permanent protection of plants like those mentioned.

The conservation committee extends an invitation to all Wachiska members with an interest in prairies and their ecosystems to come to our meetings and become involved with a very interesting and worthwhile effort.

Winter Lecture Series 2014

by Bob Stoddard

The overall topic for Lincoln's Winter Lecture Series this year is "Climate Change: Local, National, and International Responses." Note that these free lectures will be held at a new site this year: Hardin Hall Auditorium, 3310 Holdrege Street, on UNL's East Campus (former Kellogg Center). Parking is free on the north side of Hardin Hall.

The series began January 26 and continues on successive Sundays (except for Super Bowl Sunday, February 2), ending on March 16. Each event starts at 7:00 p.m. with a free lecture for about an hour. After a 20-minute refreshment break, the audience is invited back to engage the speaker in a Q&A session that may last until 9:00 p.m. The series concludes with two sessions of panel discussion.

Here is the February schedule; March programs will be listed next month.

February 9

Eileen Shea, Chief of the Climate Services Division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Asheville, NC
Responding to a Changing Climate: Challenges and Opportunities in Pacific Islands

February 16

Adriana Moreira, Senior Environmental Specialist at the World Bank in Brasilia, Brazil
Tackling Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon

February 23

Jennifer Turner, Director, China Environment Forum, Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, D.C.
China's Water-Energy-Climate Conundrum

These lectures are sponsored by the Unitarian Church of Lincoln, Humanities Nebraska, and the UNL School of Natural Resources. Again, the March presentations will be announced in next month's newsletter.

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
E-mail at website: <http://whitehouse.gov/contact/>

Senator Mike Johanns

100 Centennial Mall N Rm 294, Lincoln NE 68508-3803
Lincoln phone: 402-476-1400 Fax: 402-476-0605
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-4224 Fax: 202-228-0436
E-mail: mike_johanns@johanns.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 Lee Terry (2nd District)

11717 Burt St Ste 106, Omaha NE 68154
Omaha phone: 402-397-9944
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4155 Fax: 202-226-5452
E-mail at website: <http://leetterry.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
E-mail at website: <http://adriansmith.house.gov/>

Capitol Hill Switchboard

888-436-8427 or 202-224-3121

Governor Dave Heineman

Capitol Bldg, PO Box 94848, Lincoln NE 68509-4848
Phone: 402-471-2244 Fax: 402-471-6031
E-mail: dave.heineman@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

Membership

Wachiska offers two choices of membership. Local membership, called Friends of Wachiska, includes receiving *The Babbling Brook*, our chapter's monthly newsletter. It also includes voting privileges and attendance at monthly meetings, programs, and field trips. All membership dues from a local membership stay with Wachiska to support chapter activities such as prairie preservation and education.

Membership in the National Audubon Society also includes membership in our local chapter, Wachiska. You will receive *Audubon* magazine from National Audubon along with *The Babbling Brook*.

Friends of Wachiska (local membership)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Recruited by _____

E-mail _____

_____ \$20 Individual/Friend

_____ \$50 Sustainer

_____ \$30 Families

_____ \$100 Patron

Make checks payable to **Wachiska Audubon Society**. All funds remain with our local chapter. Mail to:

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

As a conservation organization, our goal is to use our natural resources wisely. Materials and postage are considerable, and we do not want to waste them. When your address changes or if you are receiving *The Babbling Brook* and would rather not get it, please notify us at office@wachiskaaudubon.org or 402-486-4846.

OR

National Membership in National Audubon Society

Dues from new (introductory) memberships and for first-time gifts will be returned to Wachiska if this coupon is used:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Recruited by _____

E-mail _____

Enclose introductory membership fee of \$20.

Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society** and mail to:

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

C4ZP040Z

Volunteers Needed Now

Ways to help your chapter:

1. Call the office and offer to make a few phone calls each month to line up cookie donors for general meetings. The list of donors is established—you just need to schedule the month needed.
2. Send your check to the office for the library birdseed fund (page 2).
3. Volunteer to help at the third annual Bird EnCOUNTER on February 8 (page 2).
4. Enjoy your backyard birds. Take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count on February 14-17 (page 2).

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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

WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2014

OFFICERS

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| President..... | *Elizabeth Nelson..... | 402-770-3485 |
| Vice-President..... | *Jessi Umberger..... | 402-580-3057 |
| Recording Secretary..... | *Bob Boyce..... | 402-770-6865 |
| Corresponding Secretary..... | *Joe Francis..... | 402-489-7965 |
| Treasurer..... | *Gary Fehr..... | 402-570-4382 |
| Immediate Past President..... | *Arnold Mendenhall (Hickman) | 402-525-4884 |

STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

| | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|
| Director at Large..... | *Mitch Renteria..... | 402-483-7275 |
| Director at Large..... | *Benjamin Vogt..... | 402-499-5851 |
| Director at Large..... | *vacant..... | |
| Conservation..... | *Heidi Hillhouse..... | 402-470-7350 |
| Education..... | *Lauren Dinan..... | 308-390-3961 |
| Field Trips..... | John Carlini..... | 402-475-7275 |
| | *Ken Reitan..... | 402-423-3540 |
| Fundraising..... | vacant..... | |
| Hospitality..... | Cheryl Moncure..... | 402-488-0036 |
| Legislation..... | Bruce Kennedy (Malcolm)..... | 402-796-2114 |
| | *Sam Truax..... | 402-325-9012 |
| Membership..... | Joyce Vannier..... | 402-489-4611 |
| | *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 |
| Program Coordinator..... | Tim Knott..... | 402-483-5656 |
| Publicity/Public Relations..... | Jeanne Kern..... | 402-423-0428 |

*Denotes Board member

OTHER ASSOCIATES

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|--------------|
| Bird Questions..... | vacant..... | |
| NAS Regional Board Member..... | vacant..... | |
| Newsletter Layout..... | Linda Sullivan..... | 402-580-8515 |
| Raptor Recovery..... | Betsy Finch (Elmwood)..... | 402-994-2009 |
| Executive Director Audubon Nebraska..... | Marian Langan..... | 402-797-2301 |
| Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Director..... | Roger Furrer..... | 402-797-2301 |
| Webmaster..... | Dan Staehr..... | 402-440-5869 |

NEBirds Website

Check out the email discussion at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NEBirds/> to learn of the latest sightings and interesting tales of Nebraska's most avid birders and those interested in Nebraska birds and their ecology. Information changes 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**.