



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

DECEMBER 2017

Volume 26 - Issue 12

Annual Holiday Potluck and Program — Thursday, December 14, 6:15 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A St.

Bird Lists, Bird Song, Christmas Counts, and More!

with Jason St. Sauver, Education Director, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center

This is the season to begin preparing for the 118th Christmas Bird Count (CBC) all over the country. Many intrepid Auduboners and new birders team up for this—the longest running community science project in North America—and here in Lincoln, many of us will be counting on Saturday, December 16, to see how our Nebraska birds are faring this winter (see related CBC article on page 2).



Photo by Mike Fernandez

Jason St. Sauver

Our presenter this month, Jason “the Birdnerd” St. Sauver, has participated in CBCs all over the country and has created special Christmas Bird Counts for Kids over the past six years. Currently the education director at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, St. Sauver is also a part of National Audubon’s Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity team and is currently piloting a new position as the education director for Audubon Nebraska’s state program.

Before that, Jason worked in biology and education with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. But, along with his expertise on education in the outdoors, “the Birdnerd” is known for his imitation of bird songs and skills at birding by ear. It is this more light-hearted topic that Jason will be bringing to our holiday party as he presents “Twas the Birding Day before Christmas.”

“The idea for my talk came while getting prepared for this year’s upcoming CBC in Lincoln,” said St. Sauver. “I was making a target list of birds I would want to search for, and I thought that approaching some lists in an informal way could be a fun topic for all to enjoy.” The presentation will include not only lists like “best” and “worst” bird songs but will be filled with fun bird trivia, photographs, humor, and most likely tons of fun bird sounds provided by “the Birdnerd” himself.

We hope you’ll join us for an evening of friends and food and enjoy time together to celebrate something we all share—our love of our feathered friends and the prairie habitat they need. At **6:15 p.m. on Thursday, December 14**, we’ll gather at Lincoln’s Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, for our annual holiday potluck supper. Bring family and friends along with a favorite dish or two to share and your own table service. Wachiska will furnish the beverages. The public is invited to this free event as long as everyone brings food to share. A silent auction will run throughout the evening. There is easy access with no steps at the church and convenient parking is provided in the church lot and across the street to the west in the Pius High School lot.

Silent Auction

At the holiday party announced above, there will be an ongoing silent auction throughout the evening. Among the items for sale will be a used spotting scope and a pair of Kronos 20x60 (Russian made) binoculars along with a variety of bird guides, a birdsong scanning wand/kit, bird ornaments, feeders, framed bird pictures, t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc. Come check it all out at the December 14 holiday potluck and party. Bring your checkbook!

Calendar

December

- 4 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 6:00 p.m.
- 11 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 14 **Annual Holiday Potluck, Unitarian Church, 6:15 p.m.;**
ongoing silent auction; program on bird calls & other
light-hearted bird stuff, by Jason St. Sauver
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 16 **Christmas Bird Count** (page 2)
- 19 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Legislation Committee, DaVinci’s, 11th & G sts., 6:00 p.m.
(NOTE: Change of date due to holidays)

Lincoln's Annual Christmas Bird Count

by Lauren Dinan

In 1900, Dr. Frank Chapman proposed a new holiday tradition to help rather than hunt birds. A promising 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 (CBC) broke records with 72,653 observers and more than 63 million birds tallied.

Calling all birders! Time is nearing for Audubon's 118th Annual Christmas Bird Count, one of the longest-running citizen science projects in the world. The CBC is an amazing event where birdwatchers across the nation collect bird counts from both the field and yard feeders over a 24-hour period. Each year the CBC is held between December 14 and January 5. Data collected provide a snapshot of the status and distribution of various bird species and provide statistics that can be used to track long-term trends in bird populations. This data is available online and is used by many to better understand the population trends of various bird species and guide conservation efforts.

The Christmas Bird Count has become an annual holiday tradition for thousands of birders; it is easy to participate and is a fun, rewarding way to contribute to bird conservation annually. This year join us for the Lincoln area CBC which will be held on **Saturday, December 16**, and help us 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 in the Lincoln area CBC as either a field or feeder counter, contact Lauren Dinan at ngpc.nongamebird.temp@nebraska.gov.

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

Take Action for our Birds

America has a proud conservation legacy. But proposed budget cuts would cripple or end the critical programs that protect habitat for birds and restore treasured ecosystems. The president's budget blueprint opens the door to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; eliminates EPA programs that are cleaning up the Great Lakes, Long Island Sound, and San Francisco Bay; and drastically cuts clean energy funding.

Contact Nebraska's congressional delegation (contact information on page 7) **to reject this proposal for drastic budget cuts for conservation and instead uphold and support America's conservation programs.** You don't need to give a specific bill number but rather stress in broad terms the sentiments in this paragraph. These are trying times for all—and particularly everything pertaining to nature. Our birds, public lands, waterways, natural wonders all are on the chopping block.



From the Board ...

by Bruce Kennedy
Legislation Committee Chair

Niobrara River: Five Years after the Fires

Wachiska Audubon has taken a great interest in issues affecting the Niobrara River in Northern Nebraska. One of the most traumatic events in the Niobrara National Scenic River Corridor occurred with the wildfires of 2012.

According to the fall 2017 Nebraska Nature Conservancy newsletter, when the five-year anniversary arrived, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) looked back on that time and remembered how fearful they were for the safety of people and livestock. They worried about how they could afford to repair 50 miles of fence that burned and when things might get back to normal. TNC reports that things still are not the way they were, but great strides have been made to protect the Niobrara River Valley in the future. A research team was brought on-site to study the impact of fire on soil, water, and wildlife. They have found benefits to grasslands and reduction in cedar trees. They also found that both pine and cedar trees were not returning, and it seems likely the former woodland areas will become grassland.

A new bison corral was completed in the fall of 2015 and has performed well in roundups. TNC is finishing construction on a new training center at the Niobrara Valley Preserve and are starting construction on a new meeting building in addition to renovations on the bunk houses.

Ecological impacts of the 2012 fires are sometimes positive. The word is that woodpeckers are very happy as well as Bell's vireo, since they like shrubby habitats and should thrive at the Preserve. On the negative side, birds and animals that needed mature cedar and pine trees have had to leave the area; however, many trees remain along the river. TNC is not aware of any prairie plant or animal species that suffered major losses from the 2012 wildfires. The plan is to let burned trees stand and ultimately fall on their own as they provide habitat for many species. Shrubs, perennial grasses, and wildflowers are filling in places where the soil initially eroded. In a "glass-half-full" manner, TNC staff says the fire did a great job in jumpstarting their efforts to clear out cedar trees! They are way ahead of where they would be without the fires.

Another positive result of the wildfires is that landowners and government agencies are focusing on preventing future disasters of this nature. Permanent bases for Single Engine Air Tankers were established in 2013. These bases are staffed by National Forest Service during the fire season. One such permanent base is located in Valentine and provides firefighters with something they didn't have in 2012—the ability to reach new fires quickly in rugged terrain. Valentine and Long Pine became the first and second Firewise Communities in Nebraska.

Historically, the Niobrara Valley has experienced big wildfires every six years, so there may be another big fire year in 2018.

Highlights of this Fall's Field Trips

by John Carlini and Shari Schwartz

Some recent field trips gave Wachiskans an excellent reason to spend time in the great outdoors in the Lincoln area. October's expedition to the newly opened Marsh Wren Community Wetlands yielded a number of migrating sparrows in a diverse mosaic of habitats that featured saline wetlands, tallgrass prairie, a pond, and mature woods along Salt Creek. The sparrow list for that day entailed LeConte's, Harris's, Lincoln's,



Harris's Sparrow



White-crowned Sparrow

savannah, song, swamp, white-throated, and white-crowned. Field trip attendees weren't the only ones present who were focused on sparrows, however. Five species of raptors made an appearance, and some of them were just as interested in those sparrows as our group was.

A fun weekend of prairie exploration was led by Esa Jarvi in November. Esa's willingness to share fascinating tidbits on birds and their behavior complements his always enjoyable field trips.



Fertig Prairie Update

by Sam Truax, Conservation Committee

It was reported in *The Babbling Brook* for September 2017, that Wachiska achieved a notable accomplishment by purchasing the 45-acre Fertig Prairie in Colfax County. Now the importance of that purchase has been emphasized by an article in the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's *NEBRASKA*land magazine. The article by botanist Gerry Steinauer points out that the prairie contains Nebraska's only population of a wet meadow prairie flower, the purple-headed sneezeweed. The article suggests that the flower population may be a remnant of a plant that developed and existed 8,000 to 12,000 years ago with the retreat of the glaciers. The article commended the Fertig family and Wachiska Audubon for their efforts to preserve this rare plant. Wachiska members and volunteers can take pride in this accomplishment.

December Events at SCPAC

by Kevin Poague

CBC4Kids! (Christmas Bird Count for Kids) – Thursday, December 28, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Spring Creek Prairie's Christmas Bird Count for Kids is modeled after National Audubon's Christmas Bird Count. We'll start with binocular boot camp, learn bird identification by sight and sound, and then head outside for the bird count. Afterwards, enjoy hot chocolate (provided) and lunch (bring your own). Free admission.

(Full details of this and other programs at springcreekprairie.audubon.org, 402-797-2301, or scp@audubon.org.)

Birding Kiosk – In December, we will be setting up an eBird Trail Tracker in our Grand Prairie Hall. This computer system will allow visitors to record their own bird sightings at SCPAC and to find where certain species have been seen on our property. Next year, we plan to have workshops to help people learn all about eBird.

Our Saturday outing at Pioneers Park was quite birdy with good views had by all of foraging cedar waxwings and accommodating Harris's sparrows along with other sparrows in the brush. A pair of brown creepers tipped us off to their location with the sounds of

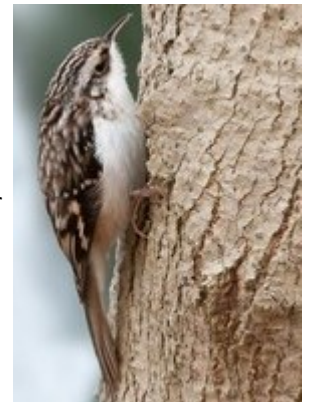


Cedar Waxwing



Fox Sparrow

the prairie plants that tinted the hillside with fall hues. Esa guided our search for birds in the wooded draws that seemed to be brimming with wintering tree sparrows plus a few stealthy fox sparrows. Northern harriers were seen cruising the grasslands on both days.



Brown Creeper



What Makes You Want to Save a Prairie?

by Marilyn McNabb

Recently when I went out for a walk on a prairie, the first thing I saw was a tiny snake, maybe five inches long. The week before, while sitting in my car next to some prairie plants, I saw a goldfinch perched on a coneflower head about three feet away, methodically pulling out the seeds one by one and eating them. I've seen lots of goldfinches, but never one so close. Prairies are so rich, there is always something beautiful, interesting, and surprising to see. Recently *NEBRASKA*land magazine reported on the surprise of professionals who found a variety of sneezeweed in Wachiska's Fertig Prairie that nobody had previously identified in Nebraska. (See article on page 3.)

I started working with Wachiska's conservation committee on prairie preservation 20 years ago. For a decade I worked with the committee to put conservation easements on patches of prairie. The rhythm of our work went something like this: a landowner or interested person would call the Wachiska office or Ernie Rousek. The committee would go out and assess the quality of the prairie. We'd drive out to the site, then for me came the most fun part: identifying the prairie plants. The ones blooming were pretty easy; the ones not blooming, more of a challenge. This was our way of assessing the quality of a prairie remnant and documenting what was important to save. If we decided to establish an easement, we got approval from the county board, put together all the paperwork and, when it was official, we'd schedule a public dedication. Family, neighbors, and Wachiskans came. Speeches were made and cookies and leadplant tea were served. Now these prairies continue to serve as important habitats and are also used for birdwatching, seed harvests, research projects, school field trips, and the simple pure enjoyment of simply *being* in one of these amazing places. Of course our preservation work is only possible because of the past decisions of families, year after year, to not plow their little patch of prairie. We are all greatly indebted to them. Chris Helzer with The Nature Conservancy says less than one percent of prairies in America remain in good shape. But I think our

committee was aware that well-funded national organizations like The Nature Conservancy wouldn't have gone to the effort to save pieces of prairie as small as we have. So Wachiska took on this role. We are leading a concerted effort to protect this precious and rare natural resource in our part of the world. Will these bits of ecosystem persist decade after decade? Wachiska does our best, but the responsibilities are many—and to meet these responsibilities, *in perpetuity* as our easements state, requires planning, volunteerism, and money.

I trust that people coming after us will build on our work. But to do so they need our help today. Several years ago, Wachiska established the Prairie Management Fund and the Prairie Legal Defense Fund with the ultimate goal to establish a \$1 million endowment to provide funds to hire a prairie manager. Currently these funds total about \$225,000 and are held at the Lincoln Community Foundation. There are many ways people can help us grow these funds—current gifts of cash, stocks, or properties; beneficiary gifts from an IRA or insurance policy; or many other options.

At present, I have made Wachiska the beneficiary of an IRA. But recently, I talked to Chip DeBuse at the Lincoln Community Foundation and learned that they could set up a charitable gift annuity that would, based on my age, pay me 5.7 percent a year for the rest of my life, with the balance going to Wachiska when I'm gone. I'm considering that. I encourage you to think about how you could make a legacy gift to support Wachiska's important work of prairie preservation for the future.

There are many ways to give and we can help find what's best for you. Gifts should be directed to the **Wachiska Prairie Management Fund #710146** held at the Lincoln Community Foundation. For more information, contact your financial planner, the Foundation, or Wachiska Donor Development Committee Chair Elizabeth Nelson at 402-770-3485 or enelson555@gmail.com.

I support the preservation of tallgrass prairie—Please reply using the envelope inserted in this newsletter

_____ Send me more information on Wachiska's prairie protection plans and ways to support this effort.

_____ I am giving \$_____ to the Wachiska Prairie Management Fund. My check payable to the **Wachiska Prairie Management Fund #710146** is enclosed.

_____ 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 and can be changed at any time.

Name _____

Address _____

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.

New Chapter Officers for 2018

As stated in our bylaws, Wachiska held its annual meeting with election of officers for the coming year at the November general meeting. The nomination committee's slate was accepted by acclamation as follows:

President — Gary Fehr
Vice President — Stu Luttich
Recording Secretary — Richard Peterson
Treasurer — Bill Gustafson

Let's assist these willing leaders by offering to help with one of the many tasks required to keep this active chapter in good standing. Contact the Wachiska office if you can help in any way. Here are just a few of the areas where help is needed:

- ◆ any of the standing committees listed on the back page (the education committee especially needs more members)
- ◆ donate cookies or help Cheryl with calling for cookies
- ◆ assist with organizing tables or tasks before meetings
- ◆ spiffy up the meeting areas after monthly meetings
- ◆ assist with Public Service Announcements
- ◆ offer to be a "Joe or Jill Friday" wherever there is needed
- ◆ work a birdseed sale or suggest ways to enlarge the two birdseed sales each year
- ◆ recommend an audit firm or volunteer to help if you have the qualifications

The most urgent need for help at this time is to assist with the holiday party and silent auction on December 14.

Contact Arlys at office@wachiskaaudubon.org; 402-486-4846.

NOTICES

- ⇒ The treasurer and bookkeeper are requesting that all invoices and reimbursements to be paid in 2017 be in the office by no later than Monday, December 11. Their work just begins at that time. With the holidays and family gatherings, no one should be stuck in the office paying bills the last days of the year. Thanks.
- ⇒ When ordering from Amazon, consider using the site at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of the price of your eligible purchases to Wachiska.
- ⇒ Wachiska is still recycling aluminum cans at A-Can Recycling Center, 3255 South 10th Street, in Lincoln. When taking cans in, be sure to tell them to credit Wachiska Audubon. Thanks.
- ⇒ Line 42 on the 2016 Nebraska State Income Tax Form 1040N allows individuals to donate all or a portion of their tax refund to the Nebraska Wildlife Conservation Fund which focuses on saving Nebraska's wildlife and wild places. Consider a few dollars for our wildlife.

Poaching for Profit

by Richard Peterson

Trafficking in eagles, hawks, owls, and other protected birds is disgusting on so many levels. An Associated Press story out of Pierre, South Dakota, sheds light on the dark side of privilege and its abuse.



Bald Eagle

At the heart of this matter is black market trafficking for "eagle carcasses, feathers, parts, and ..." Federal law limits the possession of such items to members of federally recognized tribes who use the items in their religious practices. "There are legitimate ways to obtain eagle parts for religious purposes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service operates the National Eagle Repository to provide Native Americans with eagle carcasses, parts, and feathers. Indians can also inherit them within their families or receive them as gifts."

Since the bald eagle was removed from the endangered species list in 2007, the illicit trade has become a growth industry. The illegal trade is made possible through face-to-face meetings, emails, texts, and word of mouth. It is difficult to determine the size of the industry.

In April 2017, indictments against 15 people were filed on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by South Dakota U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler. Seiler described the operation as "a chop-shop for eagles." The cases involved 250 eagles, most of them shot, and more than 40 species of other protected birds. The defendants included people in Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

"One case accuses a Rapid City family, Troy Fairbanks (age 54) and his two sons, Majestic (22) and Troy Jr., (24), who are enrolled members of the Standing Rock and Lower Brule Sioux tribe." Fairbanks has been charged with conspiring to commit wildlife trafficking and violation of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Lacey Act. Fairbanks bragged to those undercover on the case that he could acquire 60 eagles in 2015 and had 19 people in the Los Angeles area who wanted to buy eagle parts. He allegedly sold a golden eagle head for \$250, was involved in a trade for about \$5,400 of legal merchandise for eagle parts, and selling two sets of eagle wings for \$900. On another occasion, he sold a confidential informant three eagle tails and six sets of eagle wings for \$5,200. In his day job the father leads a traveling dance troupe called Buffalo Dreamers.

Reference: Parts for Profit: Undercover feds bust illicit "chop shop for eagles." *Omaha World-Herald*. April 29, 2017.

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb



Whooping Crane

Climate change was identified as the reason for the changes in the migration schedules of whooping cranes that come through Nebraska. In an article published in *Waterbirds* this fall, Nebraska authors Mary Bomberger Brown and Joel Jorgensen documented the change in migration.

Bomberger Brown is with UNL's Department of Natural Resources. She is the co-author of *Birds of*

Southwestern Nebraska along with a

number of scientific articles. Jorgensen is manager of the Nongame Bird Program with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC). They used 2,806 confirmed siting observations from 1942 to 2016. The data come from the Cooperative Whooping Crane Tracking Project of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The migrations now are occurring earlier in the spring by approximately 22 days and later in the fall by approximately 21 days.

Bomberger Brown is quoted on the National Audubon website saying "For a long time, ornithologists thought they primarily migrate with day lengths. But days haven't grown any longer in the past 75 years, while temperatures have increased." Temperature data came from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The effects, positive and negative, of the expansion of the migration window by six weeks are yet to be understood. Birders have observed that other birds, including sandhill cranes, also migrate earlier in the spring and later in the fall.

Whooping cranes, these "lovely, elegant creatures" in Bomberger Brown's words, are one of the most critically endangered birds in the world. Between 300 and 400 birds are part of the last wild migratory remnant population studied, referred to as the Aransas-Wood Buffalo Population.

The "Fort Report," Congressman Jeff Fortenberry's newsletter of October 27, announced his plans to introduce the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. The bill would use existing mineral and energy revenues from federal lands to fund state wildlife conservation and restoration programs. He described the act as a "gentler, more holistic approach" to "help at-risk species before they require the expensive, restrictive 'emergency room' measures required by the Endangered Species Act." The bill will have bipartisan support.

Writing about the bill in the *Omaha World-Herald*, October 22, Henry Cordes explained that a decade ago, every state drew up

State Wildlife Action Plans, identifying ecosystems that are threatened, endangered, rare, or declining. NGPC identified 38 of them across the state. Currently Nebraska receives about \$500,000 every year to restore identified critical habitat. If the bill passes, Nebraska would get an additional \$15 million annually. Cordes quoted the wildlife diversity manager for NGPC: "We are really set to go," Kristal Stoner said. "We just need additional funding."

The internal structure of the wings of a swallowtail butterfly, called the Common Rose from South and Southeast Asia, has been turned into a design for a more effective solar cell to generate electricity, according to Dan McCue writing in *Renewable Energy Magazine*. Observing



Common Rose Butterfly

that the butterfly's wing is extremely dark black (meaning it has high absorption of sunlight) scientists looked at the structure of the wings with an electron microscope. They have been able to form the wing's nanostructures on the silicon layer of a thin-film solar cell, increasing the light absorption rate by up to 200 percent. See the publication at <http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/3/10/e1700232>.

Ferguson House Christmas Open House

The Nebraska Environmental Trust will host a holiday open house at the historic Ferguson House on Sunday, December 10. From 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., the public is invited to tour the 106-year-old Renaissance Revival home. The State of Nebraska acquired the property from the Ferguson family in 1972, and the property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Note that the Kennard House will not be open this year due to renovations. There is no charge to tour the Ferguson House during this event.

The Ferguson House is located at 700 South 16th Street across the street from the State Capitol in downtown Lincoln. For more information, contact Allison at 402-471-5417 or e-mail her at allison.laduke@nebraska.gov.

To Help Birds this Winter, Go Easy on Fall Yard Work

National Audubon reminds us that if you want to make your backyard a welcoming winter haven for birds, some fall tasks call for a laissez-faire approach. That's right, you can take it a little easy this autumn and blame it on the birds. Check out NAS's website for suggestions to best accomplish this idea.

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

Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (1st District)

301 S 13th St Ste 100, Lincoln NE 68508-2537
Lincoln phone: 402-438-1598
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4806 Fax: 202-225-5686
E-mail at website: <http://fortenberry.house.gov>

Congressman Don Bacon (2nd District)

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 (3rd District)

416 Valley View Dr Ste 600, Scottsbluff NE 69361
Scottsbluff phone: 308-632-3333 Fax: 308-635-3049
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-6435 Fax: 202-225-0207
E-mail at website: <http://adriansmith.house.gov>

Capitol Hill Switchboard

888-436-8427 or 202-224-3121

Governor Pete Ricketts

Capitol Bldg, PO Box 94848, Lincoln NE 68509-4848
Phone: 402-471-2244 Fax: 402-471-6031
E-mail at website: <http://governor.nebraska.gov>

State Senator _____

District ____ State Capitol, PO Box 94604, Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

State Capitol Switchboard

402-471-2311

Lancaster County Commissioners

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10th St Rm 110, Lincoln NE 68508
Phone: 402-441-7447 Fax: 402-441-6301
E-mail: commish@lancaster.ne.gov

Mayor Chris Beutler

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10th St Rm 301, Lincoln NE 68508-2828
Phone: 402-441-7511 Fax: 402-441-7120
E-mail: mayer@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln City Council

402-441-7515
E-mail: council@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln Journal Star

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

Join now! Become a Friend of Wachiska Audubon Society!

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

Friends of Wachiska (local membership)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

- _____ \$25 Individual/Friend
- _____ \$35 Family Friend
- _____ \$50 Black-capped Chickadee Friend
- _____ \$100 Northern Cardinal Friend
- _____ \$250 Western Meadowlark Friend
- _____ \$500 Bald Eagle Friend
- _____ \$1000 Peregrine Falcon Friend

Select the level of support that is right for you and make your check payable to **Wachiska Audubon Society**. All funds remain with our local chapter and are tax deductible. Mail to:

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

_____ **I prefer to receive my newsletter by email.**

Please note: If you are already a member of National Audubon Society (NAS) you automatically become a member of Wachiska, but not a Wachiska Friend member. Only Wachiska Friends receive the printed monthly newsletter each month. If you wish to join NAS or receive *Audubon* magazine, please contact National Audubon Society directly.



American Goldfinch family

Still Recycling those Calendars

Again this time of year Wachiska is collecting old calendars that are then distributed to science teachers and others for use in their lesson plans. In addition, we will happily accept those extra 2018 calendars everyone is receiving from all kinds of companies and organizations. These are shared with any members who might want an extra one before taking them to Lancaster Manor to distribute to those who might not get one for their room. You can bring calendars to the December holiday party or drop them by the Wachiska office anytime. If no one is in the office, please leave them on the floor in the corner by our door.

Thank you to all for recycling in this way!



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WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2017

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Vice President.....	*Stu Luttich (Geneva).....	402-759-3597
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Treasurer	*Bill Gustafson.....	402-488-1585
Immediate Past President.....	*Jessi Umberger (Otoe).....	402-580-3057

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Director at Large.....	*Lana Novak	402-475-8693
Director at Large.....	*Richard Peterson	402-489-2996
Director at Large.....	*Roxanne Smith	402-477-1319
Conservation.....	*Stu Luttich (Geneva)	402-759-3597
Education	Sue Kohles (Palmyra).....	402-780-5558
	*Tim Knott.....	402-483-5656
Field Trips.....	John Carlini	402-475-7275
	*Ken Reitan	402-423-3540
Hospitality.....	Cheryl Moncure	402-488-0036
Legislation	Bruce Kennedy (Malcolm).....	402-796-2114
	*Sam Truax	402-325-9012
Membership	*Jami Nelson	402-488-1598
Monthly Programs/General Meetings	Arlys Reitan	WAS office 402-486-4846
Newsletter Editor.....	Arlys Reitan	WAS office 402-486-4846
Population/Environment.....	*Colleen Babcock	308-850-0445
Publicity/Public Relations.....	Jeanne Kern	402-423-0428

*Denotes Board member

OTHER ASSOCIATES

Bird Questions	Kevin Poague	402-797-2301
Facebook Coordinator	Benjamin Vogt	402-499-5851
Raptor Recovery	Betsy Finch (Elmwood).....	402-994-2009
Interim Executive Director Audubon Nebraska	Bill Taddicken	308-468-5282
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Director	Glynnis Collins	402-797-2301
Webmaster	Dan Staehr	402-440-5869

NEBirds Website

Check out the email discussion at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NEBirds> to learn of the latest sightings and interesting tales of Nebraska's most avid birders and those interested in Nebraska birds and their ecology. Posts change daily—and even more often when excitement arises. Offerings of recent sightings, questions, and new photos are all welcome.

Wachiska Audubon Society's financial records are available for examination in the office.

A Gift to the Future

A bequest to Wachiska Audubon Society is a gift to future generations enabling our natural heritage to continue. For wills, trusts, and gifts, our legal name is **Wachiska Audubon Society**. Our Federal Tax ID number is **51-0229888**.