



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 42nd Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2015

MARCH 2015

Volume 24 - Issue 3

General Meeting—Thursday, March 12, 7:00 p.m., Dick Administration Building, Union College, Lincoln

Water: Connecting Everything to Everything Else

with Dr. David Gosselin, Director of Environmental Studies, UNL

Everyday water is in the news. We are fortunate in Nebraska to have access, in general, to enough quality water to support the “Good Life.” However, on a national and global scale, and arguably on the local scale, water, in all shapes and forms, is an increasingly precious natural resource.



Dr. David Gosselin

Water is essential to life, yet on a worldwide scale, more than one billion people lack access to an adequate water supply both from a quantity and quality standpoint; more than twice as many lack basic sanitation. Water security is an ever-growing issue from the farm to the United Nations. It can be a source of local, national, and regional conflict. Water is the key to improving global health, ensuring social welfare and social stability, and promoting economic development and environmental sustainability. Being water literate—that is, understanding where our water comes from, where it goes, how it is used—is essential to making informed choices about the future of this valuable resource.

In Nebraska, fresh water has been critical to our heritage. This presentation will examine water from a variety of contexts emphasizing the importance of connections to everything we do.

Although this may sound like a simple concept, we all need to appreciate the complexities of our water supply. Getting your water to you is not just delivering flow to the tap and toilet. Every item in your house requires water—food, clothes, furniture, electronics—everything costs water to produce. One of the goals of this talk is to touch on many aspects of what it means to be water literate. Do you know your water footprint? Have you ever thought about the embedded water footprint of imported products and food also known as virtual water? How does the ocean impact our water supply? How is human demand impacting our water systems? What are the connections between energy, water, health, and food supply? Hopefully, you will walk away with fun facts to know, tell, and act upon.

Dave Gosselin is the director of Environmental Studies and professor of Earth Science in the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His water-related research has focused on using chemistry and basic principles of water flow to understand both basic and applied scientific problems. Some examples include assessing local and statewide groundwater quality, the physical and chemical variations of groundwater resources, the potential impact of environmental change on Sand Hills environments, groundwater management strategies, and water quality variations in public water supplies.

In October 1999, Gosselin was recognized by the Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science with their Catalyst Award for leadership, dedication, and service to science education. In 2014, he received the Omtvedt Award for Innovation in Teaching at UNL. In his capacity as the director of the Environmental Studies Program, Dave currently serves on the executive committee of the Council of Environmental Deans and Directors, a program of the National Council for Science and the Environment. Dave has authored or co-authored over 125 publications including refereed journal articles, abstracts, and contract reports.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, March 12, 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. Look for Audubon signs on the doors. There is a ramp at the east entrance and an elevator inside. Refreshments will be served after the program.

Calendar

March

- 2 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 3 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 12 General Meeting, “Water: Connecting Everything to Everything Else,” by Dr. Dave Gosselin, Union College, 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 15 Field Trip for crane viewing (page 2)
- 16 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 26 Legislation Committee, DaVinci’s, 11th & G, 6:00 p.m.



Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Crane Caravan



Sandhill Cranes

Nebraska has become internationally known for sandhill cranes; in March, tourists come from many states and countries to view the largest sandhill crane party in the world. Don't miss these iconic migrants as they pause at their ancestral Platte

River during a sort of annual spring break for cranes. A full weekend of fun is available during Audubon's Nebraska Crane Festival in Kearney March 19 - 22, or if you prefer an afternoon expedition, join Wachiska Audubon's crane caravan to the Grand Island area. We'll use our cars as blinds as we view flocks of cranes feeding, stick-tossing, and dancing in the fields. A late afternoon stop at the visitor center will give us an opportunity for a little break. We'll then head to the Platte River at sunset to watch their epic arrival as throngs of cranes stream through the sky and amass on the river to roost for the night.

Meet at **2:00 p.m.** on **Sunday, March 15**, on the south side of the State Capitol in Lincoln at 15th and H Streets across from the governor's mansion. Participants can either caravan or carpool the 100-mile trip to the Grand Island area. Bring binoculars and scope if you have them and any beverages or snacks you may want if you prefer not to purchase them on the road. Be prepared to bundle up at sunset as the temperature can drop quickly. There is no fee and the public is welcome. If you have questions, call John at 402-475-7275.

We really appreciate the willing cooperation of Lincoln City Libraries, Nebraska Game and Parks, Wild Bird Habitat Stores, All Needs Computer and Mailing Services, and Pioneers Park Nature Center. The many volunteers who provided their time and energy on Saturday morning were the spark that made things happen. We anticipate this will be a popular annual event for years into the future and bring more people to Wachiska and to birding.



From the Board ...

by Jessi Umberger, Vice President and Chuck Francis, Population & Environment Committee

Children Flock to Bird EnCOUNTER

More than 200 potential bird enthusiasts migrated to Walt Library in South Lincoln for the fourth annual Bird EnCOUNTER organized by Wachiska Audubon. Young and older alike enjoyed the crafts, the live raptors, the binocular lessons, and the drawings they made on Saturday morning, February 7.

Live raptors from the Pioneers Park Nature Center were again one of the most popular attractions, as children crowded around the keepers to see owls up close and try to stare them down. Some visitors headed straight for the raptors and later joined in other events.

Our own international author and specialist, Dr. Paul Johnsgard, was on hand to assist children of all ages to draw their impressions of birds, using photos and carved birds as their models. Our favorite resident artist was heard to say, when viewing a creative series of multi-colored scribbles by a younger protégé, "That looks like a beautiful tropical bird to me!" Paul told a volunteer that this was one of his favorite annual events.

Volunteers supervised assembly of nesting materials and pine cone feeders. Others showed bird feet, wings, and bones that children could pick up and study. There were matching games and instruction in using binoculars. Many children even made a flamingo collage with bright feathers to simulate a tropical critter. One mother told us her little boy was so excited last year that he went home and made several more pine cone feeders and hung them all in the backyard as high as he could reach. Unfortunately, their dog could reach higher.



BIRD-LORE

by Richard Peterson

What is today's *Audubon* magazine began 115 years ago. In 1899, Frank Chapman began publishing *Bird-Lore*. The first issue stated it was "an illustrated bi-monthly magazine devoted to the study and protection of birds." It was the "official organ of the Audubon Societies." *Bird-Lore* became *Audubon Magazine* in 1940 (see photo of copy below) and *Audubon* in 1966.

In 1899, William McKinley was president and America was involved in the Spanish-American War. On the fashion front, unfortunately, feathers and fur were the rage.

Frank Michler Chapman (b 1864 – d 1945) joined the American Museum of Natural History in 1888 and in 1908 became its curator of birds. His many ornithological books include "Bird Studies with a Camera" and "Distribution of Bird-life in Columbia." The Audubon Christmas Bird Count was his idea.

Mabel Osgood Wright (b 1859 – d 1934) edited or co-edited (with William Dutcher) the magazine from its inception until her death. She helped organize the Connecticut Audubon Society. Her most notable work was "Birdcraft: A Field Book of Two Hundred Song, Game, and Water Birds." She and Chapman were pioneers in what became the modern field guide.

The first issue of *Bird-Lore* began with the article, "In Warbler Time" by John Burroughs. Included in the issue was what became regular sections: "For Teachers and Students," "For Young Observers," "Notes from Field and Study," "Book News and Reviews," and "The Audubon Societies." The latter was a directory listing the state societies' reports of their activities.

In 1900, the Audubon Advisory Council included Professor E. H. Barbour, University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Erwin Hinckly Barbour (b 1856 – d 1947) became head of the Department of Geology in 1891 and shortly after was appointed curator of the University of Nebraska State Museum, a position he held until 1941.

In 1902, The Proceeding of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union at its Second Annual Meeting, Omaha, January 12, 1901 was reviewed. Nebraska was listed as a State Audubon Society in 1903. The State Secretary was Miss Joy Higgins, 544 South 30th Street, Omaha. Also in 1903, Educational Leaflet No.1, *Nighthawk*, *Bull-bat*, *Mosquito Hawk* appeared.

In 1935, a new period began for *Bird-Lore*. The president of the Audubon Association was Kermit Roosevelt, son of President Theodore Roosevelt. The editor was William Vogt, and new staff included Roger Tory Peterson. The revamped magazine now espoused the protection of mammals as well as birds. By 1937, 140 bird species had been the subjects of the Audubon educational leaflets.

I have paged through every issue of *Bird-Lore* (1899-1940). Along the way I have come across a number of informative articles (and some poems) which are worth passing along to the readers of *The Babbling Brook* in future issues.

New Members to Join Chapter Ranks

by Joyce Vannier, Membership Chair

Welcome to Esa Jarvi and Kitty Shuster as new Friends of Wachiska this month.

Joining Wachiska through National Audubon are the following who are also extended a big welcome!

Doris Banister
James Bates
Nancy Bowen
Duane Delozier
Shirley Dettmer
Jonathan Dixon
Julie Druery
Patricia Friesen
Sue Gardner
Robert Gibson
Terry Hiatt
Gordon Kissel

Patricia Kohout
Karen Morten
Elizabeth Niehaus
Mary Richey
Connie Riensche
Linda Schmechel
Debra Smedra
Christine Starr-Davis
Sandy Strain
Diana Watton
Roger Watton
James Williams

We hope each one listed above will plan to attend a meeting, program, field trip, or a committee. If you have questions, call the Wachiska office or any Board member listed on the back page of the newsletter.



Can People and Birds Coexist?

by Chuck Francis, Population & Environment Committee

Loss of habitat for birds is directly related to our current priorities to provide food, fuel, animal feed, and raw material resources for a growing human population. Agriculture and forestry are a large part of current destruction of habitat. Many birds are killed by cars and trucks on the interstates and even more by the unintended impacts of the fossil fuel industry. Oil spills are only one of the challenges in this arena.

According to *Birdlife International*, www.birdlife.org, logging and expansion of agriculture currently threaten half of the bird



species and a quarter of the prime biodiversity areas in Africa. Loss of these natural areas is one of the most serious threats to habitat for birds in Europe. There is currently a substantial area of land set aside from agriculture, both in the E.U. and in the U.S., with

payments from governments to save soil and reduce production to maintain prices of major crops. As population grows, more of these lands will be brought back into agricultural production, putting additional pressure on grassland ecozones where most cereal grains are grown and many birds nest.

Human-induced climate change is recognized by a large consensus of scientists, and modifications in temperature and rainfall are causing loss of critical bird populations of those species with a limited range of adaptation. World Wildlife Fund (WWF Global) www.panda.org cites scientific reports that some bird species populations have declined by 90 percent, while many others have lower reproductive rates due to climate change. These are large-scale and long-term effects that could impact ecosystem services and wildlife populations that we all enjoy and need for survival, and many are soon irreversible.

What can we do? There are many local and small-scale initiatives that each of us can embrace to help change these trends.

Creating bird habitat at the family scale in our backyards can

include native plantings with edible seeds, cover for protection, and desirable habitat for nesting. Making sure that large windows have some sort of distraction can keep birds from flying into them. Moving beyond our



immediate space, we can seek ways to limit fossil fuel consumption by turning down heaters this time of year, driving

less, and reducing our consumption of material goods. Finding food that is produced locally with short travel distance, eating in-season foods, and reducing our consumption of animal protein and eating more grains help us to eat lower on the food chain—with additional benefits to our personal health.

Moving up the spatial scale, we can vote to establish more efficient public transportation options, support parks (especially those with natural habitat such as Wilderness Park in Lincoln), manage our wealth portfolios to avoid fossil fuel energy investments, and encourage national initiatives to set aside federal lands to protect wild areas and diverse natural ecosystems from development.

Educational activities sponsored by Wachiska Audubon can expose more youth to birds, to natural habitat, and to the importance of other species to our own long-term quality of life and well-being. Trips to Spring Creek Prairie and other natural areas, travel

to see the cranes, and bird events at the library contribute to an ecological understanding of our place in the world and to the importance of other species. We owe this to future



generations, as they will need to seek new and sustainable ways to feed themselves and maintain quality of life in a future with scarce natural resources.

Nebraska Crane Festival this Month

Audubon's 45th annual celebration of the sandhill crane migration will take place March 19 - 22 in Kearney (see January's newsletter for details).

Visit nebraskacrane festival.org or call 402-797-2301 for details. General crane-viewing information can be found at rowe.audubon.org or by calling the Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary, 308-468-5282. Field trips, a workshop on crane behavior, and a variety of nature-related topics will be offered, including the Wild Experience Room.

Looking for a Volunteer Graphic Designer

We have several brochures we wish to create in 2015 and would appreciate the services of a volunteer graphic designer to help with layout and printing management. If you have experience with InDesign or other similar design programs and would like to help out, please contact Elizabeth Nelson at eNelson555@gmail.com or 402-770-3485.

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

More About Birds and Windfarms

The National Audubon report on climate change and birds gives the grim news that about half of the bird species in North America will be at risk of extinction by the end of this century if we pursue business-as-usual with green house gas emissions. We know we have to make lots of changes, and quickly.

Despite the fact that the relative proportion of the cause of bird deaths by windfarms compared to cats compared to cell and radio towers is about 1 to 8 to 23, we need to do as Audubon chapters have done across the country and keep a careful eye on windfarms' effects on birds and bats. In addition to collisions, windfarm roads and towers may cause damage by fragmenting habitats, creating migration barriers, introducing alien species, and disturbing or displacing wildlife.

➡ <http://awwi.org/new-study-provides-most-comprehensive-analysis-ever-of-bird-fatalities-at-wind-energy-facilities>

In a presentation January 7 to citizens in Cortland worried about the effects of a windfarm in the early planning stages, Carolyn Jezierski, Wind Energy and Wildlife Project Coordinator at UNL, said that so far, because they want to be (or at least appear to be) environmentally sensitive, wind developers have generally participated constructively in discussions with the state.

Both federal Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) standards are voluntary, but USFWS has the power to sue if a completed project is violating the laws it enforces. Given the enormous potential for wind development in Nebraska, these negotiations could get more contentious as the numbers and pace of wind installations increase. Conflict has sharpened at the national level.

In late December, the USFWS took PacifiCorp Energy to federal court in Wyoming for violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Federal investigators found the carcasses of 38 golden eagles and 336 other protected birds at two PacifiCorp wind projects. The Wildlife Service says it had made recommendations earlier to PacifiCorp which were ignored. Priority for enforcement in court by USFWS is given to projects were built in defiance of Fish and Wildlife recommendations. PacifiCorp has agreed to pay \$2.5 million in fines and restitution, with most of the money going toward mitigation efforts to reduce bird deaths.

➡ <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2015/01/29/bird-deaths-wind-turbines/21358155>

Rep. Jeff Duncan (SC), introduced a bill in January to attack the legal basis for USFWS's authority which rests on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the Endangered Species Act. It's so extreme it probably doesn't have much chance to pass as proposed, but it alerts us to the

likelihood of attempts to weaken federal enforcement power. The source of this push is almost certainly oil and gas companies which are subject to much more stringent enforcement of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act than wind and solar farms. The Center for Responsive Politics reports that the leading contributors to Rep. Duncan's 2014 campaign were oil and gas companies.

<http://www.kcet.org/news/define/rewild/commentary/bill-would-gut-major-bird-protection-laws.html>

➡ Nebraska is in the middle of a public comment period on a 33-page document called "Mitigation Guidelines for Wind Energy Development in Nebraska."

The deadline for comments is March 31 and should be emailed to windwildlife@unl.edu. I hope some Audubon folks can submit comments.

<http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/tools.asp#mitigation>

➡ The Guidelines classify Nebraska into minimum, moderate, and maximum mitigation areas. This classification, along with a site visit, helps determine the state's recommendations for mitigation ranging from no action at all to purchasing a similar piece of land to be protected.

It is interesting to compare federal rules on the same subject. See Final U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Land-based Wind Energy Guidelines. The federal rules are much more comprehensive. For example, the federal rules tell developers when they should begin consulting with the agency, direct what methods and metrics to use in their field studies, and require two levels of studies of bird deaths to be done after the farm is operational.

http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/docs/WEG_final.pdf

As I read the proposed "Mitigation Guidelines," there is no provision for public review except very late in the process where NGPC makes a recommendation to the Power Review Board to approve or disapprove a project.

It appears the two agencies perform their negotiations with developers behind closed doors. At no point, even after a windfarm is built, is there provision for public access to the agreements made by the state agency with the developers. It appears the Guidelines are written by wildlife experts with wind developers in mind as the audience. But the public has a stake in these outcomes as well. I'm hoping some **Wachiskans can propose how some degree of public involvement might work.**

March Seminar on Drought Management

UNL's Spring Water and Natural Resources Seminar Series continues this month. Free lectures are presented in Hardin Hall auditorium at North 33rd and Holdrege streets on East Campus on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. On March 11, "The Value of Groundwater" will be presented by Michael Schneiders, president of Water Systems Engineering.

Flora and Fauna of this Place – Then and Now: 85 Years of Recollection

by Stan and Jean Shavlik

After making a phone call to Ernie Rousek a few months ago, he suggested I write another article for *The Babbling Brook*. I decided to write about the flora and fauna that I have grown up with and the changes that have taken place in my 85 years.



Included here are photos of some of the wildlife that have come and gone to our area around Linwood, Nebraska. Some of these are cattle egret which got blown in with a large rain and wind storm several years ago. Meadow plovers, which were common living in the hills, now are called upland sandpipers. Screech owls are very calm and

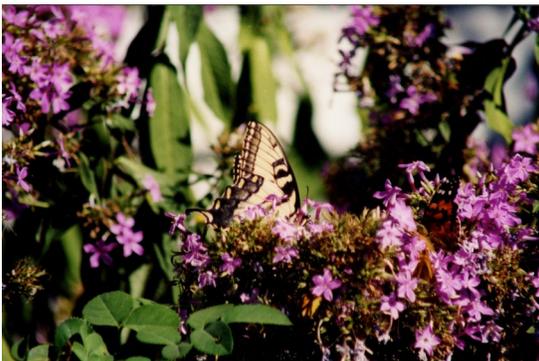
people friendly. Butterflies are diminishing in numbers. Four-point evening primrose is a lovely meadow plant. A family of baby five-striped ground squirrels was not really wanted but is part of our world.

Years ago when I began growing soybeans, the weed control was less than satisfactory, so I had my wife and children crawling on our hands and knees, pulling up weeds in the rows. Soybeans yielded 30 bushels/acre. Land prices at that time were about \$125/acre. Now we have Roundup® Ready beans that can be sprayed with Roundup® with no harm resulting to the beans. Currently the soybeans yield 70-80 bushels/acre on farm ground that can go for up to \$20,000/acre!

Then came along Roundup® Ready corn and other sprays that do not hurt corn plants. The fields now are clean and corn yields are commonly 250-300 bushels/acre—but at what cost?

In early summer the airplanes start roaring overhead, spraying corn for fungus, bugs, and insects and this goes on well into fall season. This spraying also destroys butterflies and beneficial insects, which upsets the stream of nature.

I was privileged to see a pair of whooping cranes about four years ago, circling



toward the southeast. Occasionally I would see a timberdoodle (American woodcock) by the meadow and a flock of “giant” Canada geese, which are very rare.

I’ve identified 120 - 150 bird species including bald eagles, red-tail hawks, sharp-tail grouse, prairie-chickens, wood ducks, pintails, spotted towhees, nuthatches, brown creepers, bluebirds, etc. We have installed many nest boxes to help the birds.



Let us all protect nature and the meadows.



Seminar on Drought Management

“Storage Systems for Drought Management and Food and Water Security” will be addressed by Robert Lenton, executive director, Water for Food Institute, on March 18, as part of the Paul A. Olson Seminars in Great Plains Studies. All lectures begin at 3:30 p.m. at the Center for Great Plains Studies, 1155 Q Street, in Lincoln. Lectures are free and open to the public.

Union College Appreciates Wachiska

Recently Wachiska received a gracious thank-you letter from Union College President Vinita Sauder acknowledging a donation the chapter made in appreciation for the continued use of the Dick Auditorium for our monthly meetings and programs. A handwritten note at the bottom stated, “We love the Audubon Society and are so glad we can provide a meeting location for you. Thank you for your generosity!”

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 Ben Sasse

100 Centennial Mall N Rm 287, Lincoln NE 68508
Lincoln phone: 402-476-1400 Fax: 402-476-0605
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-4224 Fax: 202-224-5213
E-mail available at website

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 Brad Ashford (2nd District)

Contact information not available until later

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 available at website

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—many people choose both. 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 local membership dues remain 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.

AND / 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

C5ZP040Z

Members Sign Up to Receive *The Babbling Brook* Online

You can help Wachiska save paper and reduce the cost of printing and mailing the *Babbling Brook*. Beginning in early 2015, each month's newsletter will be posted online by the first day of each month. Electronic subscribers will receive an email the first of each month with a link to the online newsletter.

If you would like to switch from paper to online delivery, please send an email to newsletter@WachiskaAudubon.org and put "Electronic Newsletter" in the subject line. We'll get you converted over soon.

Thanks for helping us save trees and postage!



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WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2015

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.....	*Stu Luttich (Geneva).....	402-759-3597
Education.....	*Lauren Dinan.....	308-390-3961
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.....	Joyce Vannier.....	402-570-8469
	*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

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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. 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**.