



The Babbling Brook

Our 52nd Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2025

OCTOBER 2025

Volume 34 - Issue 10

Wachiska Program and General Meeting — Thursday, October 9, 7:00 PM, Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also via YouTube link: https://youtube.com/live/GUskOgTz9DY?feature=share

The Grassland Phoenix: Restoring Northern Bobwhites

with Kyle Martens, Director of Conservation Programs for the National Bobwhite & Grasslands Foundation

yle Martens is the Director of Conservation Programs for the National Bobwhite & Grasslands Foundation. Martens has been exploring rural landscapes his entire life. He is originally from the Sioux City, Iowa area. Kyle received his masters degree from UNL in 2020 researching conservation program design and is currently in his third year in the natural resource sciences doctoral program in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's School of Natural Resources. He has incorporated his passion for rural communities into his research by creating an online survey to help explore and measure resilience in Nebraska's Sandhills.

His presentation, "The Grassland Phoenix", recounts his journey from the family farm in northwest lower to supporting the Foundation

northwest lowa to supporting the Foundation's mission to restore Northern Bobwhites across their historic range in the southeastern and central U.S.

Bobwhites, like many other grassland species, have dramatically decreased in numbers since the 1970s. Through a mix of geospatial prioritization, conservation stewardship, and programmatic design, Kyle and his team aim to enroll



WACHISKA'S OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 9 General Meeting: Kyle Martens. 7PM Unitarian Church
- 11 Fall Migration Bird Survey. 8AM Prairie Pines
- 12 MUSIC IN THE PINES: Wachiska's Migration Celebration
 4PM-8PM. Prairie Pines Nature Preserve
- 13 Conservation Committee. 6:30PM ZOOM
- 13 DEADLINE TO ORDER BIRDSEED:

https://www.wachiskaaudubon.org/spring-seed-sale

- 18 Wagon Tongue Creek Preserve Tour. 2PM
- 21 Board Meeting. 7PM ZOOM
- **22 Planned Giving Workshop. 6:30PM** Lincoln Community Foundation



Kyle and his dog Artie backpacking in the National Forests of Wyoming.

thousands of private landowners across the Bobwhite's range into grassland-friendly conservation practices.

In his presentation, Kyle suggests that the story of the Bobwhite is actually the story of rural America. He explores the relationship of rural population and wildlife decline, while offering a narrative of hardship and hope. However decoupled the two appear, Kyle argues that restoring natural communities cannot have hard stops for people or for wildlife. If we are to stave off grassland species decline, Kyle suggests we need to recall our shared history on the landscape: past, present, and future.

Kyle splits his time from his home in Lincoln to restoring his family's land to native tallgrass prairie in northwest Iowa.

You can learn more about the National Bobwhite & Grasslands Foundation by visiting their website: www.nbgif.org

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, October 9** at **7:00 PM** at Lincoln's Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street. This free, in-person talk will also be live-streamed on YouTube at:

https://youtube.com/live/GUskOgTz9DY?feature=share No registration needed.







Prairie Pines Partners Events

OCTOBER

12 Roots & Restore 10-4PM Join Prairie Pines Partners with wellness activities. Find physical and mental wellbeing in nature through yoga, meditation, tai chi, therapy and forest bathing. Come as you are, bring your yoga mat or chair. More details on prairiepines.org.

Wachiska Audubon Office: 402-486-4846

Email: Office@WachiskaAudubon.org

Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman

Can you believe October is already here? Bird migration is in full swing, and we have many reasons to celebrate! Get ready for a full weekend, October 11-12, of nature and community at Prairie Pines!



The weekend begins with our annual bird migration survey, Saturday, October

11, at 8 AM. Then, Sunday, October 12, from 10 AM to 8 PM, there will be a full day of activities! From 10-4 PM *Roots and Restore Wellness Event* by Prairie Pines Partners and 4-8 PM *Music in the Pines*, hosted by Wachiska. *See full schedule on Page 3 in the newsletter.

Music in the Pines was created as Wachiska's Migration Celebration; an open invitation to the surrounding community to visit our new space, celebrate longtime supporters, and educate and invite new friends! It will feature storytelling by Wendy Jane Bantam and live music by Lloyd McCarter and the Honky-Tonk Revival. Food, beer, wine, and pop will be available for purchase from Wachiska! Bring your own chair. Rain or shine!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: WACHISKA'S MUSIC IN THE PINES

We need volunteers for Wachiska's celebration Sunday, October 12, 4-8PM. We'll rotate volunteers so people can enjoy the music! We need volunteers to welcome people, direct traffic at the gate and help serve food and drinks.

We could really use help for our big event!

Please email me: mark.brohman@wachiskaaudubon.com
or call me directly at 402-525-1504.

In other news, it's birdseed time!

Don't forget to order your birdseed by October 13!

You may order by sending the form in this newsletter to us, or order from our online store! Our online birdseed store is open:

https://www.wachiskaaudubon.org/spring-seed-sale
Birdseed pickup will be October 24 and 25 at Prairie Pines.
We can always use extra birdseed for our bird friends at Prairie
Pines, so order an extra bag and donate it if you would like.

We finally got the Prairie Pines prairies hayed. Mother Nature didn't want to cooperate, and we couldn't get a three or four day stretch with no moisture. We did leave a couple of strips unhayed, so the public could appreciate eastern tallgrass prairie over the winter months. I'm sure wildlife will also appreciate the cover. Some of our other prairies were also delayed in haying and that can hamper fall growth that is critical for helping catch snow over the winter. Let's hope for some fall moisture before the first hard freeze to get some plant growth before winter.

You may recall our Speaker Series visit from Dr. Deb Bathke? Dr. Bathke will be giving a climate assessment talk October 16, 7PM Unitarian Church. This is open to the public.

On October 18, Wachiska members are invited to Wagon Tongue Creek Preserve to explore the site.

Towards the end of October, we'll be setting up a few seed collection events, both near Lincoln and by Schramm Park. The locally sourced seeds we collect will help reestablish prairies.

BIRDING, FALL COLORS, ART

Field Trip

Wagon Tongue Creek Preserve invites Wachiska Audubon to explore its three hundred acres in the Bohemian Alps southwest of Valparaiso on October 18, 2025, at 2:00 pm.



Fields at Prairie Pines. Photo by WJ Bantam.

The preserve is located approximately 30 minutes by car from downtown Lincoln. We will take a leisurely walk of less than one-mile round trip through the mixed riparian and grassland habitats along Wagon Tongue Creek. We will do some birding, enjoy the fall colors, and see the garden of sculptures created by Ron Parks. Bill Taddicken, the preserves director, will be your host for the afternoon and will tell you all about this new nature preserve. Join us for a relaxing afternoon!

PLANNED GIVING WORKSHOP

Special Free Workshop for Wachiska Members Only

Have you thought about gifting retirement funds or stocks to your favorite charity in the future? Chuck DeBuse, Vice-President, Development-Legacy Planning, at the Lincoln Community Foundation, is giving a workshop to give you information you might need to start planning. The workshop will be held on October 22nd at 6:30pm at the Lincoln Community Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South, 5th floor Conference Room

South, 5th floor Conference Room. Street parking free after 6:00pm.

Questions? Call Mark Brohman at 402-525-1504.

BIG WEEKEND AT PRAIRIE PINES NATURE PRESERVE OCTOBER 11th-12th

SATURDAY, 8 AM: WACHISKA AUDUBON'S MIGRATORY BIRD SURVEY
SUNDAY, 10 AM-4 PM: PRAIRIE PINES PARTNERS: Roots and Restore Wellness Festival
SUNDAY, 4 PM-8 PM: WACHISKA'S MIGRATION CELEBRATION: MUSIC IN THE PINES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 8AM

Fall Migration Bird Survey by Theresa Pella

With ready access to both woodlands and prairies at Prairie Pines, Wachiska is looking to better understand what bird species travel through Prairie Pines during fall migration.



Join others in a survey on Saturday, October 11. We'll meet in the parking lot at 8:00 am and you can stay as long as you want (the Preserve is open to the public until 5:00 pm).

The survey results will be uploaded into eBird, a worldwide database used by birders, scientists, conservationists and other interested parties. If interested in doing some homework, Bird Migration Explorer tracks more than 450 species as they move between the Canada, United States and countries further south: www.birdmigrationexplorer.org. There may still be monarchs roosting in the woodlands before heading to Mexico!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 10AM-4PM

Roots and Restore by Sharon Kennedy

Join Prairie Pines Partners with wellness activities from 10 - 4 PM. Find physical and mental wellbeing in nature through wellness and enjoy delicious plant-based offerings for sale from Rutabaga's food truck (Noon to 2 PM) Come as you are and reconnect with your surroundings as we collectively root with nature. Donations appreciated.

SCHEDULE OF WELLNESS ACTIVITES:

 $\textbf{Lincoln Taijiquan Association:}\ 10:30-11\ a.m.\ \&\ 1:00-1:30\ p.m.$

Wild Root Yoga: 10:00-10:30 a.m. & 3:00-3:30 p.m. Forest Bathing: 11:00 – noon & 2:00-3:00 p.m. Meditation: 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. & 2:30-3:00 p.m. Sattva Sound Therapy Tent: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Flute Music by Cyrus Zgud: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Arise Herbalist: 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Lincoln Acupuncture Project: 10:00-4:00~p.m. Therapeutic Art Activities: 10:00-4:00~p.m. Hourly Walk with a Therapist: 10:00-4:00~p.m. Art by Hannah Demma: 10:00-4:00~p.m. Crystal Healing and Jewelry: 10:00-4:00~p.m.

A few of our generous Roots & Restore teachers are:

Alex Svoboda: Clinical and community herbalist and owner of Arise Botanicals.



Jeff Mohr: Professor of Social Work-Nebraska Wesleyan/ Certified Forest Therapy Guide

Dr. Gary Yuen: Lincoln Taijiquan Association, dedicated to Taijiquan as a martial art.



Brianna Georgeson: Wild Root Yoga Owner and Yoga Teacher Trainer Certified.



Samantha Gallentine: Sattva Sound Therapy Owner and practitioner.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 4PM-8PM

Music In The Pines by Wachiska Audubon

Join Wachiska Audubon in the Prairie Pines' Arboretum for MUSIC IN THE PINES 4-8PM. This is a free event for our friends, partners, and Lincoln community to celebrate fall migration and our move to Prairie Pines! We will have food, beer, wine, pop and water available for purchase! Vegan options!

Donations and proceeds from food and drink sales directly support Wachiska Audubon.

LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE:

4-5:15PM: Wendy Jane Bantam: *Stories and Songs from the Prairie* (Nebraska Arts Council grantee/U.K. touring artist) **5:30-8PM:** Lloyd McCarter & The HONKY-TONK REVIVAL (Nebraska Country Music Hall of Fame honoree)

Food and Drink for sale on site. Bring your own chair. Rain or Shine. Free Parking. ADA accessible facilities.

Special Thanks to our generous grantor: Nebraska Arts Council Sponsors: Pepe's Bistro, Isles Pub and Pizza, U-Stop, Doug and Mary Campbell, Russ's, The Printer, Home Depot, Anonymous, Hy-vee.



Wachiska Audubon Fall 2025 Birdseed Sale & Fundraiser

Wachiska's Birdseed Sales are an important part of our fundraising and offer you a great deal on birdseed! Our prices are very competitive. The great majority of Wachiska's budget for education and conservation programs comes from donations and fundraising, and our twice-a-year birdseed sales are two of our major fundraisers. If you feed birds regularly, or want to give it a try, please buy from Wachiska. We depend on your purchases, and so do our feathered friends! Thank you!

FEED MIXES

Standard Audubon Mix - white millet, sunflower seed, cracked corn, peanuts, oat groats

Classic Audubon Mix – sunflower seed and hearts, white millet, cracked corn, safflower seed, peanuts, oat groats

Attraction Audubon Mix -sunflower seed and hearts, safflower seed, peanuts, raisins, protein pellets

Woodpecker Gourmet - 75% nuts (almonds, peanuts, walnuts), pumpkin seed, corn, black oil sunflower seed and hearts, safflower seed

Bushy Tail Treat - peanuts, sunflower seed, whole corn, raisins, pumpkin seed, feed pellets. Treat your favorite backyard squirrels and keep them away from the bird feeders!

SUET CAKES

High Energy Treat - sunflower seeds, millet, cracked corn; enjoyed by most wild birds

NEW! Berry Treat - a wonderful winter treat

SEEDS

White Millet (98%) - popular with cardinals, mourning doves, house finches, juncos, sparrows

Peanuts (shelled) – attractive for woodpeckers and blue jays

Safflower Seed - good for house finches, chickadees, cardinals, wood peckers – NOT FAVORED by squirrels and grackles.

Nutra Saff Seed is without the hard, outer shell.

Sunflower Hearts – highly prized by birds and leave less mess—use coarse hearts for feeders with large openings that might allow fine hearts to drop out

Black Oil Sunflower Seed - favored by most seedeating birds; high oil content for more energy

ORDER PICK UP DATES - MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

Location for pick up: Wachiska Audubon 3100 N 112 St. Lincoln, NE 68527

Look for Signs

Reminder: stay in your car; we will bring the seed to you.

Friday, October 24

Saturday, October 25

9:00-11:00 a.m. 3:00 -6:00 p.m.

PLEASE—Plan to pick up your order during one of these times. Orders that are not picked up cause a lot of extra work for our volunteers whose help we greatly appreciate!

You may also order birdseed from our online shop: https://www.wachiskaaudubon.org/spring-seed-sale

CHECKS MUST BE POSTMARKED by Mon., Oct. 13th, 2025

Wachiska Audubon Fall 2025 Birdseed Sale Order Form

	Audubon Society	Bag Size	Bag Code	Pric	e Each	Quantity	Total Cost
		ALL PRICES	INCLUDE SA	LES 1	XAT		
S	Standard Audubon Mix	40 lb bag	ST40	\$	45.00	s	
Ξ	Classic Audubon Mix	20 lb bag	CL20	S	31.00	s	
\equiv	Classic Madabott Mix	40 lb bag	CL40	S	50.00	S	
2	Attraction Audubon Mix	35 lb bag	AT35	\$	67.00	s	
FEED MIXES	Woodpecker Gourmet	20 lb bag	WO20	\$	59.00	s	
芷	Bushy Tail Treat	20 lb bag	BT20	s	40.00	s	
	Millet, White (98%)	50 lb bag	MI50	ş	44.00	s	
	Peanuts, shelled rejects	20 lb bag	PR20	s	55.00	s	
	Safflower Seed	20 lb bag	SA20	\$	42.00	s	
20		50 lb bag	SA50	\$	92.00	s	
SEEDS	Safflower Seed, Nutra Saff	20 lb bag		s	42.00	s	
SE	Sunflower Hearts, coarse	20 lb bag	HC20	\$	57.00	\$	
		50 lb bag	HC50	\$	110.00	s	
	Sunflower Hearts, fine	20 lb bag	HF20	\$	57.00	s	
	Sunflower Seed, black oil	25 lb bag	SB25	\$	28.00	s	
E S	High Energy Treat, 11.75 oz. cake		EN-C	S	2.00	s	
SUET	Berry Treat, 11 oz. cake		BT-C	\$	2.00	s	
	Total number of bags and cost (All price	25 INCLUDE S	ales tax)			s	
	Tax Deductible Donation to support Wachiska's education & conservation activities				s		
	Total Enclosed. Make check payable to Wachiska Audubon Society					Society \$	

Name (Print)	Email address	Phone Number (required)

Mailing Address

This form and your check must be postmarked by MONDAY, OCT. 13, 2025 Mail to: Wachiska Audubon Society Birdseed Sale -3100 North 112 St, Lincoln, NE 68527

ORDER PICK UP DATES - MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

PLEASE—Plan to pick up your o	rder during one of these times
Friday, October 24	Saturday, October 25
3:00 -6:00 p.m.	9:00 -11:00 a.m.

Note: stay in car; we will bring the seed to you.

Pick up location: Wachiska Audubon Office, 3100 North 112 St, Lincoln, NE 68527

Are you interested in volunteering for the birdseed pick up (check box)

The Babbling Brook

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WILDCAT AND LAMB PRAIRIES

Photos by Ross Scott







SPARROWFEST

Friday, October 24-Sunday, October 26 Join Spring Creek Audubon for a weekend of walks and talks all about SPARROWS! We'll have guest speakers, a



"SparrowFeed" luncheon, a "Birds & Brunch" event, a sketching sparrows art workshop, bird banding demonstrations, and a special "Sparrows and Schoolkids" fest for families.

Some events free, some ticketed: springcreek.audubon.org



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Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird

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

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Letters to the editor, 21st and N St, Lincoln NE 68508 E-mail: <u>oped@journalstar.com</u>

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.

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

Wachiska Audubon Society Attention: Membership Committee 3100 N 112th Street Lincoln, NE 68527



Red-winged blackbird

___ 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 newsletter each month. If you wish to join NAS or receive *Audubon* magazine, please contact the National Audubon Society directly.

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The Babbling Brook is printed on recycled and recyclable paper.



REMEMBERING WACHISKA'S HISTORY

Wachiska means "stream" or "creek" in the languages of Indigenous people of eastern Nebraska, the Omaha and Ponca.

The environmental stewardship efforts of the Wachiska Audubon Society take place on the past, present, and future homelands of the Pawnee, Ponca, Otoe-Missouria, and Omaha Peoples, as well as those of the relocated Ho-Chunk, Sac and Fox, and loway. We humbly join our efforts with theirs in honoring and stewarding this land of prairies, rivers, and streams.

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WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2025

Executive Director	Mark Brohman
Office Administrator	WJ Bantam

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Vice President	. *Ann Briggs
Secretary	. *April Stevenson
Treasurer/Finance	. *Carol Bodeen

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Director at Large	*Stu Luttich
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Director at Large	*Roxanne Smith
Director at Large	*Kris Powers
Conservation	*Ross Scott
Education/Outreach	*Tim Knott
Membership	Linda Brown

*Denotes voting Board member

For contact information of officers and committee chairs, call or email the Wachiska office.

Mission Statement of the Wachiska Audubon Society

The mission of the Wachiska Audubon Society is to bring people together to preserve and restore tallgrass prairies and other natural ecosystems, promote birding, support native wildlife, provide nature education, and advocate for the sustainability of our natural community.

Wachiska Audubon Society

3100 N 112th Street Lincoln, NE 68527 402-486-4846 office@WachiskaAudubon.org www.WachiskaAudubon.org

If you missed a monthly program or want to view one again, Wachiska Audubon's monthly programs are available on YouTube via the homepage at www.WachiskaAudubon.org.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

If you'd like to help at Wachiska's Home Celebration:

MUSIC IN THE PINES SUNDAY, OCT. 12 4-8PM

We need people to help set up, serve food, bartend, direct parking and greet people.

PLEASE CALL MARK BROHMAN

NOW to SIGNUP!

We will do short shifts so volunteers have a chance to enjoy the evening!

MARK BROHMAN: 402.525.1504

Wachiska Audubon Society's financial records

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**.



Our events are listed on our Facebook page, along with weekly updates and news! Stay current and follow us on FACEBOOK at: Wachiska Audubon!