



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

DECEMBER 2014

Volume 23 - Issue 12

Holiday Potluck Party—Thursday, December 11, 6:15 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 3825 Wildbriar Lane

Weather Forecasting and Impacts of Weather on Bird Migrations

by Luke Dorris, Chief Meteorologist, KLKN TV

How do meteorologists predict the weather? Why did it pour, the forecast only had a 20 percent chance for rain? How do hurricanes allow for rare birding opportunities in parts of the country? We will spend the evening answering all of these questions and more. The discussion will be broken into several segments. The first will cover forecasting—from basic meteorology and forecasting techniques to why meteorologists sometimes miss the mark and how long-range seasonal forecasts are produced. The second segment will focus on something with which Nebraskans are very familiar, severe weather. Explanations will be given of the various types of



Luke Dorris

thunderstorms—why some are severe and others are not, how tornadoes are thought to form, and how hurricanes develop. Some of the more significant tornadoes in history will be discussed, as well. Finally, the third segment will explore hurricane impacts on bird migrations, along with some incredible accounts of birds surviving one of nature's most powerful forces. The discussion will conclude with a Q&A session, open to all topics about weather or broadcast TV.

Luke Dorris is the chief meteorologist at KLKN, the ABC affiliate for Lincoln. He is from the St. Louis area and has always had an interest in weather, but he originally set out to design automobiles. A major weather event affecting Luke personally instantly changed his career plans, and he headed to the University of Oklahoma to pursue a degree in meteorology. While in college, he chased tornadoes across six states. His forecasts are seen weekdays at 5, 6, and 10 p.m. on Channel 8.

Come to Wachiska's annual holiday potluck to get Luke's take on severe weather phenomena in Nebraska. Learn what happened to determine his future career.

Join us at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on **Thursday, December 11**, beginning at **6:15 p.m.** The church is located at 3825 Wildbriar Lane in southwest Lincoln, one block north of the intersection of South 40th and Old Cheney Road. The building easily accommodates wheelchairs. Bring family and friends along with a favorite dish or two to share and your own table service. Wachiska will furnish beverages. The public is invited to this free event as long as you bring food to share for dinner. If you cannot come to eat, the weather program should begin around 7:30 p.m. You are welcome to drop in for the program.

BREAKING NEWS! Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center just called to say Wachiska is to receive the Tallgrass Prairie Champion Award at our December meeting. If you have worked on, or donated toward, our prairie efforts you should be at the potluck to be recognized as one of the recipients of this award! Please join us!

Calendar

December

- 1 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 2 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 4 Population/Environment Committee, Anderson Library, 6:15 p.m.
- 11 Holiday Potluck Party, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 6:15 p.m., weather program by Luke Dorris
- 12 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 15 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 18 Legislation Committee, DaVinci's, 11th & G, 6:00 p.m.
- 20 115th Annual Christmas Bird Count (page 2)

Upcoming Highlights

- January 8 – "Native Plants and a New Garden Ethic," by Benjamin Vogt
- February 12 – "Chasing Icebergs," by Dr. Ken Dewey

Wachiska Audubon Office: 402-486-4846

Email: office@wachiskaudubon.org

Christmas Bird Count

by Michelle Johnson

Calling all birders ... time is nearing for the 115th annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count

This year marks Audubon's 115th annual Christmas Bird Count where citizen scientists collect bird counts from both the field and yard feeders over a 24-hour period. The data collected provides necessary information on various bird species statistics and their annual trends. This information is available online and is being used by many to better understand population trends of various bird species and guide conservation efforts. Tens of thousands of birders participate in the event which is one of 2,300 circles across the nation. Lincoln's bird count circle is a 15-mile diameter centered around Coddington and West A area.

The Christmas Bird Count is held between December 14 and January 5 every year. Over the past several years, Wachiska has held its count on the first Saturday after the initial day. Join us on **Saturday, December 20**, as the Lincoln area citizen scientists continue the long 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 as either a field or feeder counter, please contact either Michelle Johnson at michellej02@inebraska.com or Josef Kren at josefkren@yahoo.com.

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

What's Happening at SCPAC?

Green Holiday Jubilee and Exhibit Opening

Sunday, December 7, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Free Admission
Come see the new interactive exhibits at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center and get ready for the holidays. Keep Lincoln and Lancaster County Beautiful will be offering Do-it-Yourself ideas to keep your holidays green from reducing waste and reusing materials to where to recycle everything, including holiday lights and your tree. Fun activities for the family will feature the Lincoln Ukulele Club. Pre-registration not required.

Winter Wander-land

Saturday, January 3, 10:00 a.m. - Noon
Admission: \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and under
Deb Hauswald will lead this wonderful winter experience. Not all life is hibernating—come check out what might be stirring. Braving the cold, you will be introduced to life on the prairie in the winter. The majority of time will be spent outside, so dress for the weather. Register by calling 402-797-2301 or email scp@audubon.org.

Gayfeather Harvest Update

by Ernie Rousek, Conservation Committee



Ernie Rousek

Wachiska volunteers have been harvesting gayfeather seeds from my field near Pleasant Dale for 18 years. These seeds with chaff are taken to the Stock Seed Farms near Murdock where they are cleaned and resold. This has been a good source of income for Wachiska when plenty of volunteers show up to do the harvesting. In the past, I posted notices in the October *Babbling Brook* that the harvesting would be the third Sunday in October; however, the weather could be bad that day, and there is no way to notify volunteers of postponing the harvest.

In the fall of 2013, I decided to have Arlys notify Wachiska members of the harvest a few days ahead of the weather-favorable harvest date by sending an email notice to about 600 on the listserve. This may have been too short a notice as only five volunteers showed up. We picked only 38 pounds of seed and chaff, leaving a lot of seed in the field. In mowing this field afterward with my tractor rotary mower (which I do after every seed harvest), there were a lot of seeds that were knocked off onto the deck of the mower. I periodically collected this seed and ended up with an additional 78 pounds. This total of 116 pounds resulted in 36.4 pounds of clean seeds for which we received \$60/pound. (In 2007, the price was \$30/pound).

Last month Wachiska received a check for \$2,184 for this 2013 crop. (By always agreeing to receive payment a year after harvest, we get quite a higher price.) Since this money is derived from prairie seeds, I think it is appropriate to use it to help fund the purchase of the Gewacke Prairie. (See Gewacke Prairie purchase article in the November *Babbling Brook* and update on page 4 this month.)

For the 2014 gayfeather harvest, I contacted the Prairie Plains Resource Institute in Aurora and inquired about borrowing their engine-powered rotary brush seed harvester to use with my tractor. They were very willing, even bringing it to my field and picking it up after use. My gayfeather crop this year was quite reduced due to a dry summer. The machine worked fairly well but wasted a lot of the feathery seed. I ended up with only about 55 pounds of seed and chaff. For next fall I am thinking of again asking for Wachiska volunteers through the newsletter. Perhaps we can get another 361-pound harvest as we got in 2011.

(Editor's Note: Over the past 18 years this annual prairie seed harvest has yielded thousands of dollars which Ernie Rousek has donated to Wachiska Audubon's projects, primarily the conservation committee's extensive commitment to prairie preservation. The chapter will be indebted to Ernie forever for his generosity and passion.)



From the Board ...

by Bruce Kennedy,
Legislation Committee Chair

Going First Class

In the late 1970s or early '80s, I suggested to Ron Klataske, who at the time was our regional vice president for the National Audubon Society, that Wachiska's efforts at representing our views on conservation matters to the Nebraska Unicameral were insufficient.

Up to that point, our efforts at lobbying for conservation measures had been for member volunteers to appear at public hearings conducted by the various committees of the State Legislature and to write our state senators. I had observed how other groups using a professional lobbyist worked behind the scenes and, most important of all, were getting things done.

Ron responded by hiring our first lobbyist for Audubon in the state of Nebraska. He was Joe Johnson, a rancher from Anselmo. When Joe was no longer able to do the job due to health problems, Audubon interests were then represented by Dave Sands of Lincoln. At this point, I thought that Audubon members were playing a first-class game.

When the Audubon structure in Nebraska changed from regional representatives to state offices, the idea of a paid lobbyist temporarily disappeared. Then came Marian Langan, current executive director of Audubon Nebraska. Marian also saw the need to be represented by a paid lobbyist. About two years ago, she organized Audubon chapters in the state to work in partnership with Ducks Unlimited and hired the very able firm of Mueller Robak LLC with Katie Zulkoski as our lobbyist. This organized effort has worked very well on a couple of fronts, like this year's water policy issue, and we were well represented on these matters. In short, it is just the way it has to be done.

Now let me say a few words about organizational efforts. The folks who challenge our views on conservation matters in the State Legislature are very well financed and well organized; furthermore, they are having an adverse impact on the values that we cherish. I would advocate that this idea of organization be broadened to include all conservation organizations in the state plus the sportsmen's groups along with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to come up with an organizational effort headed by a lobbyist so that philosophies would change, some real wildlife conservation practices could be implemented, and we would not continue to lose ground. For example, one of the main issues addressed by our lobbyist involves the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The NET is a major player in the funding of



Bruce Kennedy

conservation measures. The Trust is attacked by organizations that would seek to divert funds, weaken its authority, or do away with it entirely. The protection of this entity should be the goal of all conservationists in Nebraska.

Let's all get together with other groups to do this thing and be a strong voice in the upcoming Nebraska Unicameral! As Benjamin Franklin said during the time of the American Revolution, "If we don't hang together, by Heavens we shall hang separately."

Hospitality Committee's Year-end Report

by Cheryl Moncure, Chair

A sincere thank you to the 2014 bakers of cookies, bars, and quick breads for our general meetings and the candidate forum. New contributors are always welcome. A number of people have chosen to drop off the calling list or have not wanted to bake this year, so we REALLY need some new names. With a sufficient active list, our donors would only need to provide home-baked goods once a year. Please let me know if you would be able to help Wachiska in this way, 402-488-0036, cmoncure48@gmail.com.

Again, many thanks to these bakers during 2014:

Mitzi Wiggle	Dick Boyd
Loris Purtzer	Starla Schleicher
Colleen Geisel	Bob Boyce
Sharon Johnson	Betty Safranik
Lelia Coyne	Rachel Simpson
Pat Stephen	Clare Sward
Joe Francis	Judi Cook
Madalyn Allen	Cheryl Moncure
Carole Closter	Arlys Reitan

Ferguson House Opens for Holiday Tours

The Nebraska Environmental Trust will host a free holiday open house at the historic Ferguson House which is their office headquarters. This will take place on Sunday, December 7, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The public is invited to tour this 102-year-old Renaissance Revival home as well as the neighboring Kennard House. Both houses will be decorated in

historic holiday fashion for that period. The **Ferguson House** is located at 700 South 16th Street in downtown Lincoln just across the street east from the State Capitol. For more information, contact the NET at 402-471-5409 or env.trust@nebraska.gov.



President's Corner

by Elizabeth Nelson



Approaching Goal for Gewacke Prairie Purchase

Elizabeth Nelson Our exciting news continues! As described in detail in last month's newsletter, Wachiska Audubon has the opportunity to purchase a high-quality prairie in Fillmore County, the Gewacke Prairie. As the December newsletter goes to press, we have almost reached our \$10,000 goal toward the purchase of this wonderful prairie.

Can you help us cross the finish line?

Many thanks to our generous members and friends who have contributed, but we still need \$2,700 to reach our goal by December 15! **When you are planning your end-of-year charitable donations, please consider supporting this important conservation project.** All donations to Wachiska Audubon Society are tax deductible. If you have any questions, contact me at 402-770-3485 or Don Pepperl, past president and project coordinator, at 402-489-9321. Donations can be mailed to or dropped off at the Wachiska office at 4547 Calvert St Ste 10, Lincoln NE 68506. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Wachiska's Newest Members for this Year

by Joyce Vannier, Membership Chair

The list of new members joining our chapter through a National Audubon Society membership shows the following:

Nicole Alesio	Ronald Hoffart
Bruce Bartling	Terry Hoffart
Ken Becker	Richard Hoover
Andrew Benton	Mark Hutchings
Mark Burbach	Elizabeth Ingwersen
Brian Burns	Linda Lambert
Charles Burns	Liz Lange
Michele Casanova	Bonnie Luckey
Mohamed & Deb Dahab	Andy Merliss
Don Daringer	Joyce Porter
Nathan Davidson	Keith Prettyman
Bev Devore-Wedding	Reba Schafer
Todd Duncan	Richard Ternes
Gerald Ellingson	John Tharnish
Terry Hansen	Loree Thayer
Ethan Hatcher	Rex Walton
Lloyd Hinkley	Helen Windbaum

Joining the ranks of Friends of Wachiska as local chapter members are David & Nancy Wedin and Larry Witt.

Twin Bluebirds, One Egg

by Pat Leonard, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

There's something immensely uplifting and hopeful about seeing feathered families coming together in spring to build nests, raise their young, and then send them off into the big world. There's also a lot of useful data there. The Cornell Lab has an entire citizen-science project built around our fascination with bird lives—it's called NestWatch. NestWatchers have been tracking trends in the nesting success of hundreds of species of birds across the country for nearly 50 years—and discovery can happen at any time.

Case in point: During the 2013 NestWatch season, participant Gerald Clark monitored a bluebird nest and noticed one egg was much larger than the others. Wonder of wonders, at hatching time twin bluebirds emerged! "It's the first report of twinning in eastern bluebirds," said NestWatch project leader Robyn Bailey. "The finding was so remarkable it was published in a scientific journal. We learn new things all the time, even about a species as well studied as the eastern bluebird."

You heard that right, the first report of bluebird twins. Twinning is extremely rare in wild birds, despite the odd double-yolked chicken egg that may turn up on occasion.

For more information about the twin bluebirds, visit <http://woolwinehousebluebirdtrail.com> and scroll down to the September 14, 2013 entry or use this URL address: <http://tinyurl.com/loppgwd>.

(The preceding article was reprinted from Bluebirds Across Nebraska's newsletter, The Banner, Vol. 21, No. 2, May 2014)

Hutton Niobrara Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary for Wildlife and People

Located near Bassett, Nebraska, this 5,000-acre Audubon sanctuary of prairie and diverse wildlife habitat is situated along the nationally designated scenic Niobrara River. The Hutton House is spacious and beautiful, providing modern comfort and amenities, four bedrooms with prairie views. The Lazy Easy Ranch House offers comfortable simplicity in a relaxed, peaceful setting with four bedrooms looking out to shade trees.

Other offerings include wildlife and birding experiences, photography and wildlife-viewing blinds, hiking and equestrian trails, along with a multitude of outdoor opportunities.

Visit www.niobrarasanctuary.org and make a reservation for next summer (if you make it through this l-o-n-g winter!).

"They say every snowflake is different. If that were true, how could the world go on? How could we ever get up off our knees? How could we recover from the wonder of it?"

— Jeanette Winterson

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

Looking Ahead to 2015

The short dark days of the holidays moving into the new year are probably not the best time to dwell on the future disappearance of bird species and other terrible losses that global warming threatens. But it is also a time for reflection and reassessment to sort out the more important issues from the less significant. I'm making an upfront, explicit, frank, blatant pitch here: Consider adding climate change to your list of things that you care enough about to take action in 2015. You might start by thinking about the sphere of action that appeals to you: personal, family, business and community groups, (including Wachiska!), religious institutions, and/or national policy.

At the personal and family level, you may want to start with The Nature Conservancy's quick calculator to estimate how the choices you make in daily life affect your contribution to the release of greenhouse gases. Go to this website <http://www.nature.org/greenliving/carboncalculator/>. The Environmental Protection Agency's carbon calculator includes a list of things you can do to reduce your footprint. Check out <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/ind-calculator.html>.

Another carbon calculator can be found at <http://www.nativeenergy.com/carbon-calculators.html>. This organization also offers "carbon offsets" you can buy to balance your use for things like unavoidable plane trips. Projects include wind farms, reforestation, and landfill gas to energy (as LES has done here).

Besides the usual checklist—efficient lights, home insulation, transportation—there's another area your family may control—your yard. Sue Reed, a landscape architect, has a very interesting analysis on the web at <http://nativeplantwildlifegarden.com/?s=lawns+as+a+carbon+sink>. She considers the claim by Scotts Miracle Grow and the Outdoor Power Institute that a "well-managed" lawn can be "a good foot soldier in the fight against climate change" by absorbing carbon from the air. She runs the numbers and compares the 120 pounds of carbon/acre/year possibly absorbed by a "well managed lawn" to 2,400 – 3,600 pounds/acre/year that mature grasslands can sequester. She further points out the many options to a conventional lawn including lawns of native grasses, mosses, sedges, and pocket prairies. The website nativeplantwildlifegarden.com is a treasure trove of ideas.

Wachiska's conservation committee's project of preserving tallgrass prairie remnants helps keep carbon out of the air. That's one more reason to support Wachiska's Gewacke Prairie purchase. We need to have more conversation about what Wachiska can do to protect birds from the threatening business-as-usual scenario which National Audubon has studied.

If working with your church is appealing, you might benefit from checking in with Nebraska Interfaith Power and Light at <http://www.nebraskaipl.org/>.

For business and community groups, consider scheduling our November speaker, Dr. Clint Rowe, UNL climate scientist, to discuss Nebraska effects and climate science with your group.

Making a Difference

(reprinted from AudubonAtHome.org)

The following tips will make your home and yard more bird-friendly:

- ◆ Identify the non-native invasive plants in your region and work to remove them from your yard. Don't bring new invasives into your backyard habitat as they do not provide as much good food or habitat as native plants do and invasives can threaten healthy ecosystems.
- ◆ Create or protect water sources in your yard—birds need water to drink and bathe. Be sure to keep birdbaths clean, and change the water three times/week while mosquitoes are breeding.
- ◆ Let your yard get a little messy. Leave snags for nesting places and stack downed limbs to create a brush pile which is a great source of cover for birds during bad weather.
- ◆ Close blinds at night and turn off lights you aren't using. Some birds use constellations to guide them on their annual migrations; bright lights from windows and skylights can disrupt their steering senses.
- ◆ Watch for birds. Count them. Contact Michelle Johnson or Josef Kren to help with this month's Christmas Bird Count (see page 2).
- ◆ Check out National Audubon's online bird guide at audubonbirds.org.
- ◆ Plan now to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count coming up in February. Watch *The Babbling Brook* for details in the next two months.

"Of all the language sources, the loss of Nature seems the saddest. A thousand times a day, Nature—in the most ordinary of places—has something to tell or show us; something it wants us to touch, smell, or feel; something it wants all of us, not just the overtly artistic, to express."

— Joyce McGreevy

"That's the problem with Nature. Something's always stinging you or oozing mucus on you. Let's go watch TV."

— Bill Watterson

W.A.R.B.L.E.R

(Wachiska Audubon Readers' Bulletins, Letters, and Environmental Reports)

Turn in *Audubon* Magazines to Restore their Use

Jessi Umberger and the crew organizing our Bird EnCOUNTER for February would like to have your old *Audubon* magazines if you are ready to part with them. Bring them to the Wachiska office and leave them outside our door on second floor. It is hoped that each child participating in the EnCOUNTER this year will be able to take home a copy if they want it.

Keep those Old Calendars Coming

Once again Wachiska is collecting old calendars for classroom use in Lincoln schools. Wachiska teacher Linda Geisert is now teaching in multiple classrooms and would appreciate wildlife calendars, especially of primates (apes, monkeys, tarsiers, lemurs, etc.) so she can post pictures of the critters being studied. For students making book marks, they could use calendars on other topics such as cars, motorcycles, dogs, cats, sports, Native American art, etc.—anything that might represent someone's culture, interests, or hobbies.

Linda writes that Wachiska has been very kind these past years and our efforts are warmly appreciated!

Continue Recycling Aluminum Cans for Wachiska

Wachiska still maintains an open account at A-Can Recycling Center, 3255 South 10th Street, in Lincoln. Thanks to all Wachiska members and friends who are recycling aluminum cans there. Owners Ben and Connie Dahlberg will accept your cans and credit the funds earned to Wachiska when you specify to do so. At the end of the year they send the chapter a check. The last couple of years have brought in about \$100 each year.

Stop by A-Can Recycling Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. with your cans. If this location in southwest Lincoln is convenient, make your recycling count twice—once for the environment and again for Wachiska. Wouldn't it be something if someone were to arrange with a restaurant or bar to take all their cans to this recycling center and designate the proceeds to our account?

From our Members

"Just a comment about the fabulous trips and tours offered through this newsletter—you are doing a wonderful job. Wish I were in a position to take advantage of some! Keep up the good work." Roselyn Shaffer, Beatrice

End-of-year Gifts

Members and supporters inquire this time of year about remembering Wachiska with an end-of-year gift to take advantage of tax deductions before the beginning of a new year. If you have questions or want information as to how to do this, please contact the Wachiska office, 402-486-4846 or office@wachiskaudubon.org.

Public Invited to Meetings on Niobrara River Studies

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission invites the public to attend informational meetings regarding studies completed on the Niobrara River. Game and Parks will present information from the six studies it has completed about the function and values of the river. Those studies include the science behind the water levels in the river; the economic and social values of recreation on the river; the economic and social values of the river for agricultural, industrial, and municipal uses; and the impact river flows have on fish and wildlife.

The meeting schedule is:

- December 8, Chadron - Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District, 430 East Second Street, 6:30 p.m.
- December 9, Valentine - Niobrara Lodge, 803 East U.S. Highway 20, 6:30 p.m.
- December 10, Butte - Community Hall, 520 Thayer Street, 6:30 p.m.
- December 16, Lincoln - Nebraska Game and Parks Outdoor Education Center, 4703 North 44th Street, 6:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Gene Zuerlein at 402-471-1542 or gene.zuerlein@nebraska.gov.

Laredo Birding Festival Scheduled for February

Join Auduboners for the 2015 Laredo Birding Festival next February 4 - 7. A terrific line-up of events and trips will feature the best area birding hotspots and scenic South Texas ranches. Don't miss the opportunity to spot the prized white-collared seedeater and hundreds of other avian beauties that nest throughout this unique river ecosystem. For more information and details, visit online at www.laredobirdingfestival.com. Call 956-718-1063 or email laredobirdingfestival@rgisc.org with questions.

A hummingbird can remember every flower it visits—and knows how long it will take that flower to refill.

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://leeterry.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

Can you help? Volunteers Needed

Can you help with fundraising? Do you like to talk to people? Do you have marketing experience? Wachiska has exciting plans for the coming years, particularly in areas of prairie and wildlife habitat preservation. These projects provide fundraising opportunities, but we need individuals to help with these efforts.

If you would consider helping, even if just occasionally, please contact the Wachiska office or President Elizabeth Nelson at 402-770-3485 or enelson555@gmail.com.

Want to continue library bird feeding? To donate to our ongoing project of providing birdseed at city libraries, send your checks to the office. Designate "library birdseed project."



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Lincoln NE 68506-5643



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Wachiska Audubon Society

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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
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	Arllys Reitan.....	WAS office 402-486-4846
Newsletter Editor.....	Arllys 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	Kevin Poague	402-797-2301
NAS Regional Board Member.....	Michele Crist (Boise, ID).....	208-863-1918
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. 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**.