



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

AUGUST 2017

Volume 26 - Issue 8

General Meeting and Program —Thursday, August 10, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, Lincoln

Welcome to the Dark Side: 21 August 2017

The Eclipse of a Lifetime!

by Dr. Daniel Claes, Chair, Physics & Astronomy Department, UNL



Dr. Daniel Claes

At that distance the sun's apparent size in the sky is small enough to be easily covered by your thumb held at arm's length. You usually raise your whole hand, though, to shield your eyes from its glare. Placing your eyes in your hands doesn't plunge you into utter darkness, of course. There's still plenty of light scattered by the atmosphere above you (the sky looks blue, after all, not invisibly transparent), the objects around you, even your own body, that you can still see detail on the back of your hand. But what if you could block the sun with an

Where will you be August 21? Lincoln, Nebraska, will be one of the best spots on Earth to view one of nature's grandest spectacles—a total solar eclipse! The sun can be blindingly bright. I trust you know enough not to stare directly at it. One of the few times it's actually safe to look at with the naked eye is at sunset. Next time you watch a sunrise or sunset, remind yourself that you are focused on an object 93 million miles away.

object over 2,000 miles wide? Your entire neighborhood, city, most of the county, would find itself in **true nighttime darkness!** **That's what will happen in Lincoln, Nebraska, just minutes past 1:00 p.m.—in the middle of the day—this month on August 21,** when we will fall under the moon's shadow for a full minute and 24 seconds. The sun will wink out, night will suddenly appear, and the stars will COME OUT. That is not an everyday occurrence, but more like a once-in-a-lifetime event. This is why such total solar eclipses are so rare and special, and we'll discuss this phenomenon during this presentation.

Dr. Daniel Claes is chair of the University of Nebraska's Department of Physics and Astronomy. He received his Ph.D. from Northwestern University (1991), and as a postdoc for S.U.N.Y. Stony Brook worked at Fermi National Lab on the discovery of the top quark. Dan joined UNL in 1996, and now searches for new, theoretically predicted particles at CERN in Geneva, Switzerland, where the 2012 announcement of the Higgs boson was made.

Join Wachiska Audubon on **Thursday, August 10, at 7:00 p.m.** for this free public lecture and discussion at the Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, in Lincoln. Park in the church lot; there is overflow parking in the Pius High lot across the street to the west. Close, easy access to the church requires no steps to climb. There is plenty of space inside for mingling while enjoying refreshments and conversation after the program.

NOTE: At the July general meeting it was announced there might be a supply of eclipse glasses at our August meeting to use the day of the eclipse. Unfortunately, there won't be any glasses for sale at that time. However, you can get them many places in town and over the Internet. Morrill Hall, the Children's Museum, Pioneers Park Nature Center, and several hardware stores we've been told carry them, but they are selling fast.

Calendar

August

- 7 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 6:00 p.m.
- 10 General Meeting, "Total Solar Eclipse,"
by Dr. Daniel Claes, Unitarian Church, 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Field Trip to wetlands near Fremont and Valley, 2:00 p.m.
(page 2)
- 14 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 14 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 15 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 21 TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE—about 1:00 p.m., Lincoln, NE**
- 24 Legislation Committee, DaVinci's, 11th & G sts, 6:00 p.m.



Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Wetlands Bounty

Wetland areas can abound with bird species in the late summer and early fall season. August's field trip will take us on a scouting expedition of two wetlands in the Fremont and Valley areas. Our first stop will be the north end of Lake Wanahoo to see if any interesting shorebird migrants or eagle residents will grace us with their presence. Our second destination will be a newly discovered area near Valley that was unearthed by an astute Omaha birder who found Virginia Rails there in July to the delight of numerous birders who have subsequently birded there and had a degree of luck hearing their calls.

We'll meet at **2:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 13**, 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 to the wetlands. Anyone wanting to meet up at our destination can rendezvous with the group on the north end of Lake Wanahoo on Road O just east of its intersection with Road 21 around 3:30 p.m. This outing will entail mainly driving and minimal walking; however, shoes adequate for walking through vegetation may be required at our first stop. Also recommended are insect repellent, sun protection, water bottle, and binoculars and scope if you have them. There is no fee and the public is welcome. If you have questions, call John at 402-475-7275.

What's Happening at SCPAC this Month?

The following events will take place at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center during August. Full details can be found at springcreekprairie.audubon.org, or by contacting scp@audubon.org, or 402-797-2301.

Third Tuesday Bird Walks – Tuesday, August 15, 8:00-10:00 a.m. Join us for a guided bird walk along the prairie trails, looking for and learning about the birds we manage for, such as Grasshopper Sparrows, Bobolinks, and Willow Flycatchers. Tuesdays are always free admission at Spring Creek Prairie.

Little Eclipse on the Prairie – Monday, August 21, Noon-2:00 p.m. Beat the crowds and come enjoy the 2017 total solar eclipse on the tallgrass prairie. Bring a picnic blanket and find a great wide-open spot to relax and enjoy this amazing event. Free eclipse glasses to the first 100 visitors. Free admission, no registration.

Save the Dates:

Tastes in the Tallgrass – Sunday, September 17, 4:00-7:00 p.m. Our annual outdoor dinner fundraiser to support prairie conservation at Spring Creek Prairie.

Fall Fest: Music 'cross the Meadow! – Friday, October 6, 5:00-8:00 p.m. This family-fun fall prairie festival features music, interactive booths, live animals, food, and lots more.

Extension Seeks Lincoln's Extra Harvest for Those in Need

Nebraska Extension is challenging Lincoln gardeners to grow extra produce this season to support those in need. Each Tuesday during the summer, community members are asked to bring extra produce from their gardens to the Backyard Farmer Garden, 3850 Center Street on East Campus, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The produce will then be delivered to local food banks, pantries, kitchens, and other charities.

"We want to help those in need receive nutritious and fresh foods, and what better way to do that than by providing produce grown right here?" said Terri James, assistant Extension educator.

The effort is part of Extension's "Cultivating Health Our Way" (CHOW) program, which is working to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to emergency food access sites across the state. The program is a collaboration between Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Education, Extension master gardeners, Backyard Farmer, Produce from the Heart, and NET.

Through CHOW, five Nebraska counties are growing community gardens with the help of local nutrition councils, schools, and other partners. The sites were given \$5,000 to plant, grow, harvest, and transport produce to their partners. Extension educators, assistants, and Extension master gardeners in each county worked with their emergency food access site to determine which fresh fruits and vegetables their participants would recognize and use. In 2016, gardens grown with the help of SNAP Education produced and donated more than 4,000 pounds of produce worth an estimated \$4,900.

CHOW officials receive input from teams of community members and can help communities apply for grants and certifications. The officials also help put together materials to create donation gardens. The gardens are then used to produce and promote fresh, nutritionally dense foods to community members.

For more information or to participate, contact Terri James, assistant extension educator, Nebraska Extension Service, 402-472-8973; tjames2@unl.edu.



Local Gardeners Bringing Extra Produce to Share



From the Board ...

by Roxanne Smith, Director at Large

The Great American Desert

“The Great American Desert”—that’s what the early explorers called our region. They did not recognize the vast grasslands of the Great Plains as being one of the most productive ecosystems in the world.

The Great American Desert—we have created a desert on the Great Plains. Of course, it has another name now—mowed turf. Think of all the things that bring excitement and enrichment to the landscape and our lives. Birds, bugs, and critters, you don’t find them in mowed turf, and if you do, they can be killed or persuaded to vacate the area. Am I the only one who remembers a time when an unkempt lawn with patches of clover supported swarms of bees, when an unkempt lawn was a haven for birds looking for snacks in the grass and debris, when an unkempt lawn was a source of income for a child? (We used to get a dollar per grocery bag digging dandelions.)

On those few mornings when I wish the birds chirping outside my window at dawn would just be quiet, I am instead thankful that my little bit of the Great Plains will support a chorus of birdsong. I know that by planting native trees, shrubs, and forbs I am providing homes for many creatures. By surrounding myself with remnants of the Great Plains I am improving my quality of life and enhancing my mental health. I know that the sound of birds at dawn is much preferred to the sound of a lawn mower.

A few words on an early 19th century map was all it took to dictate America’s perception of the Great Plains and the grasslands for almost two centuries. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if a few words, turf equals desert, could change the way we landscape our homes and communities? Rather than spending our time and money to create a desert, we could embrace the native flora of the Great Plains and restore birds, bees, and butterflies to the landscape.

Friends of Wachiska can take pride in the work we do to educate the public about the importance of birds and the ecosystems supporting them. The Friends of Wachiska chapter members do important work when we own and maintain native prairies. Keeping these remnants of the Great Plains intact and functional is costly, but necessary, if we are to change the perception of mowed turf from beautiful landscape to lifeless desert. Visit a Wachiska prairie in all its diverse glory and wonder—what were they thinking when they called this a desert?

To learn more about Wachiska Audubon’s prairie preservation program or to become an active part of this project, contact the Wachiska office or any Board member (see list on back page).

Trash Island

by Richard Peterson

From Wellington, New Zealand, comes this confirmation of what many of us already knew: Our oceans are slowly becoming the world’s landfill. Around the world, countries are dumping their sewage sludge, mining tailings, fly ash from power stations, dredged material from harbors and estuaries, synthetic organic compounds, and all forms of plastic articles and containers into the oceans.



Henderson Island is an uninhabited, six miles long and three miles wide, place in the middle of the Pacific Ocean about 3,000 miles from a population center. It’s located halfway between New Zealand and Chili and was named a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1988. It is part of what was the Pitcairn Island colony. Remember the mutiny on the *HMS Bounty*? The island is now part of the South Pacific British Overseas Territory.

An estimated 38 million pieces of trash have washed up on the island’s beaches. One survey found 671 plastic items per square meter. The density of debris is the highest recorded anywhere in the world. Of the estimated 17.6 tons of trash, more than two-thirds of it was buried in shallow beach sediment. Included in the “stuff” found were cigarette lighters, toy soldiers, dominoes, toothbrushes, and hundreds of hard hats of every shape, size, and color. One of the things found was a baby pacifier. Most of the debris is believed to be from South America and trash dumped overboard by fishing boats. Where would all those hard hats have come from? One can only guess.

The report, authored by Jennifer Lavers, a research scientist at Australia’s University of Tasmania, was published in 2017 in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. By clearing a part of the beach of trash and then watching new pieces accumulate, Lavers said they were able to estimate that more than 13,000 pieces of trash washed up every day. Lavers said the island is at the edge of a vortex of ocean current known as the South Pacific gyre which captures and holds anything floating. The study noted that the island’s hermit crabs are using some of the plastic containers as a home.

Clearly, international (1972 London Convention and 1996 London Protocol) and our own EPA (1972 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act) regulations need to be strengthened and better enforced.

As citizens, we need to rethink our love affair with plastic—especially single-use plastic like beverage bottles and consumer product packaging. Most plastic is designed to last almost forever. We all owe it to ourselves and others to reuse and recycle.

by Jeanette Nakada

Lincoln Repair Cafe (LRC) is a friendly space for people to gather as we repair small machines, appliances, furniture, and clothing. We put neighbors in touch with each other in a new way as they have items repaired, get guidance on repairs, or do repairs themselves. We offer time for conversation in a friendly setting while keeping some of our “stuff” out of the landfill. LRC can realize savings in resources and money; but above all, volunteers with skills can use them at LRC—that treasured item in need of repair can be fixed, and we can show how easy it is to make repairs, and how much fun it can be.

This idea took shape in 2009 in the Netherlands. In 2010, the Repair Café Netherlands Foundation was set up with these goals:

- Bring back repairing into the local community
- Maintain repair expertise and spread this knowledge
- Promote social cohesion locally, connect neighbors in a low-key, conversational setting

Lincoln Repair Café began in 2012. In March 2014, we became an affiliate of the Repair Café Foundation, www.repaircafe.org. Information appears on their website and map. We are one of over 1,200 Repair Cafes worldwide and one of over 20 in the U.S. We repair items one Sunday per month at 1239 South 14th Street which is north of the 14th and B Street intersection. August 27, 1:00-3:00 p.m., is our next gathering.

Join us. If you or others skilled in areas such as mending clothing, sharpening tools, or jewelry repair would like to join us, let us know! Find us on Facebook at Lincoln Repair Café, through the *Neighborhood Extra*, by phone at 402-476-5768, or by email to nakada.jeanette5@gmail.com.

Lincoln Repair Café Guidelines

- Repair Café work is free and voluntary; however, donations are accepted.
- Visitors can make repairs themselves if they wish; otherwise, volunteers will do so.
- To reduce waiting, ONE item per person will be examined. Please wait your turn if there are additional items to repair.
- Repairs are made by unpaid volunteers; therefore, there may be risks. Neither the facilitator of Repair Café nor the volunteers are liable for any loss or damage that may result from advice or instructions, for the loss of items handed over for repair, for indirect or consequential loss, or for any other kind of loss resulting from repairs made.
- New materials such as leads, plugs, fuses, or zippers will be paid for separately.
- Volunteers making repairs offer no guarantee of repairs made by them or with their assistance and are not liable if items repaired do not work properly at home.
- Volunteers may refuse, or be unable, to repair certain items.

Omaha's Habitat for Humanity ReStore Deconstruction Program

by Kathy Roum, Habitat for Humanity Omaha

(reprinted with permission from Resource, July 2017, newsletter of the Nebraska Environmental Trust)

With an award of \$160,000 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust in 2016, Habitat for Humanity of Omaha was able to kick off its Deconstruction Program. The goal of this program is to salvage valuable materials from blighted houses and limit debris or materials that are sent to local landfills. The program is in the pilot phase; they are working to complete ten whole house deconstruction projects on blighted houses that would otherwise be slated for demolition and 20 “soft strip” projects.

These deconstructed houses will provide materials for upcycling and reuse as well as materials for recycling. The result is approximately 65,000 cubic feet of debris saved from the landfill and salvaged materials re-purposed, reused, or recycled.

Deconstruction is the process of selectively dismantling a house and reusing, recycling, or upcycling the maximum materials possible, thereby diverting them from the landfill. Typically, 60 percent of a house can be salvaged—in some cases over 75 percent. Materials that can be recycled or repurposed include plywood, dimensional lumber, hardwood flooring, bricks, windows, concrete, fixtures, doors and knobs, hinges, paneling, insulation, stairs and railings, trim, lathe, and countertops. In addition to the environmental benefit of decreasing landfill use, a second goal is to reduce the need for raw materials by making salvaged materials available for use in new and rehabilitation construction projects, specifically old-growth lumber.

Materials removed from these projects are then sold to the public at one of Omaha’s Habitat ReStores with proceeds going to build more Habitat homes in the community.

For more information about the Deconstruction Program or Omaha’s Habitat ReStore, visit OmahaHabitatReStore.org.



Thanks to funding from the Nebraska Environmental Trust, quality materials—including kitchen cabinets, appliances, reclaimed/old growth lumber, and more—are given a second life through Omaha Habitat ReStore’s Deconstruction Program.



Post Card

*Stretched out lazily
at the base of an ancient bur oak,
I reflect on the gossamer afternoon
that shimmers and lingers
like a gauzy Monet painting.*

*Below tall trees,
children throw small stones and cluster on the far banks of the
peaceful pond,
ripples spreading in even arcs,
poles and bobbers
anchoring their muted voices.*

* * *

*An observer well outside the margin,
I have stepped back
and quietly framed it
as a post card to myself.*

Nancy L. Savery
Steinhart Park, Nebraska City 1992

Birdathon Campaign Wind-up for 2017

by Tim Knott, Campaign Chair



Wachiska did quite well this year with donations to the Birdathon thanks to our members, friends, and supporters. Gratitude is also shown to all those who donated to the Give to Lincoln Day event sponsored by the Lincoln Community Foundation and funded by many Lincoln

area businesses. We still welcome your donation. If you have not contributed yet, please consider giving this year. It makes it easier to accomplish our programs if we don't need to do extra outside fundraising to pay for them. Just send your contribution marked Birdathon to our office address as shown on the newsletter. Thank you for your generous contributions.

Come Explore Magnificent Southern Malawi!

- ◆ 10-day Safari
- ◆ January 3, 2018
- ◆ Best Food and Guides in the Country
- ◆ Affordable
- ◆ Help Support Wachiska
- ◆ Detailed Information to Come

\$4,995—\$6,500 for safari (price dependent on number of participants) plus air transportation.

392 bird species close to lodge, African elephants, rhinos, cheetas, etc.



Southern Ground Hornbill

Check Wachiska's website at www.WachiskaAudubon.org for more details as they become available. At this time, please indicate your possible interest by contacting Nancy Hamer at 402-499-1306 or email travelwachiska@gmail.com by August 10. This travel idea is just being formulated, so let us hear from you with your specific ideas and suggestions.

Platte River Prairies Work Days Sponsored by TNC

by Steve Schafer

If you enjoy working on prairie projects out in the field, contact me about The Nature Conservancy's fall work program. All work dates are on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The sites are near Wood River. Some of the tasks will include seed collection and processing, pulling out old fences, over-seeding new prairie, and miscellaneous jobs between now and mid-December.

On August 12, a photographer with TNC will be documenting seed collection for a feature article in The Nature Conservancy magazine. We need a great turnout for that event, so plan to come and bring a friend.

Contact me at steven.schafer@tnc.org or my mobile phone at 402-310-1503 for locations, directions, items to bring, and to get on the email list for announcements. Everyone is welcome.

The September *Babbling Brook* will have information about our Fall Birdseed Sale.

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

Current Views Locally and Nationally

Through August 7, the place to comment on Mayor Beutler's Environmental Action Plan and the 15-page plan itself can be found at www.lincoln.ne.gov. Type LEAP into the search box. The Plan was developed by the Mayor's Environmental Task Force which has had Audubon participation from its beginning. That doesn't mean the Plan couldn't use improvement! What's left out? What needs to be more ambitious?

The Plan articulates a goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions. City Councilmember Leirion Gaylor Baird spoke most forthrightly about climate change at the press conference announcing the Plan. She said, "We should act and adapt because the worst impacts of climate change are not inevitable . . . we can mitigate the risks climate change poses to our economy, environment, and quality of life." Her leadership is noted and appreciated. Talking about climate change may feel uncomfortable, but especially now that we must rely on decisions at the local level, we're going to have to get used to naming the problem.

Demonstrating the overlapping interests of different perspectives when it comes to action on climate, Michael Bloomberg, former mayor of New York City (and incredibly rich guy), has co-authored with Carol Pope, executive director of the Sierra Club for 18 years, a very interesting new book called *Climate of Hope: How Cities, Businesses, and Citizens Can Save the Planet*. Here's just one of the many concepts Bloomberg and Pope propose, many of which would be applicable to Lincoln: "It used to be that urban economic development focused on retaining industries and luring new businesses with incentive packages. But in the new century, as businesses have become more mobile and the world more connected, a different and far more effective approach has emerged: focusing first and foremost on creating the conditions that attract people. This creates competition among cities—which of them can offer the best schools, the safest streets, the biggest parks, the most extensive mass transit, and the cleanest air? Talent attracts capital more effectively than capital attracts talent. People want to live in communities offering a healthy and family-friendly lifestyle. Where people want to live, businesses want to invest."

If I heard him accurately, Dan Duncan, executive director of Innovation Campus, expressed very similar ideas at the press conference on the Environmental Action Plan. And if you're interested in attracting talented young people, better keep in mind Millennials' views about transforming the economy away from greenhouse gases.

Have some ideas about "the City We Need" in the face of climate change? Join the conversation at a conference at Innovation Campus August 24 - 26 organized by the Joslyn

Institute and sponsored by the City of Lincoln and UNL. Go to: <http://joslyninstitute.org/news/jisc-news/>. It is designed for people like Wachiska members, as well as "mayors, university administration representatives and other decision leaders from among the 14 cities and universities of the Big 10 Conference to discuss and lay the groundwork for how these universities and their host cities can collaborate, support, and strategize for long-term sustainability, resilience and high qualities of life in upper Midwest and Northeast areas of the U.S."

Editor's Note: Update to Marilyn's numbers last month – U.S. mayors pledging to stick to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement is up to 350 and now includes all 10 of the largest U.S. cities.



Sam Truax Presenting at a Prairie Discovery Day

Prairie Discovery Days – Volunteers Needed

by Tim Knott, Education Committee

Each September Wachiska Audubon holds our Prairie Discovery Day events for fourth graders and their teachers for elementary schools in our area. We invite the fourth grade classes to spend a half-day on one of our prairies to learn the basics of Nebraska's prairie ecosystem. This year our students are coming from Benson Elementary in Omaha on Tuesday, September 12, Yutan Elementary and Valley Elementary on Thursday, September 14, and Syracuse Elementary on Monday, September 25.

We need your help as volunteers on each of those days to help students catch insects, finish their plant identification exercise and their writing exercise, and to generally stay on task. It's easy and fun to see the kids enjoying the prairie for the first time. If you can help, call Sue Kohles at 402-525-7653 or Tim Knott, 402-483-5656. We will give you all the information you'll need. We are not looking for experts; we just need volunteers who enjoy kids and want to help.

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: 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

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 _____

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- ___ \$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

NEXT MONTH Annual Potluck Picnic

On Thursday, September 14, Wachiska's annual potluck picnic will be held at the Jayne Snyder Trails Center at Union Plaza downtown, 228 North 21st Street between "P" and "Q" streets. We'll gather at 6:00 p.m. in the air-conditioned facility, eat, and hear a short presentation on native plantings in that area by Mark Canney, Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department. After that Mark will lead a short tour of the area for anyone interested.

This is a free event open to members and others who bring favorite foods to share for dinner. Specific details in next month's newsletter.



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WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2017

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Director at Large.....	*Richard Peterson	402-489-2996
Director at Large.....	*Roxanne Smith	402-477-1319
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	*Tim Knott.....	402-483-5656
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	*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**.