



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

MAY 2015

Volume 24 - Issue 5

General Meeting—Thursday, May 14, 7:00 p.m., Dick Administration Building, Union College, Lincoln

Our Future Outdoor Enthusiasts

by Jeff Kurrus, Editor, NEBRASKAland Magazine

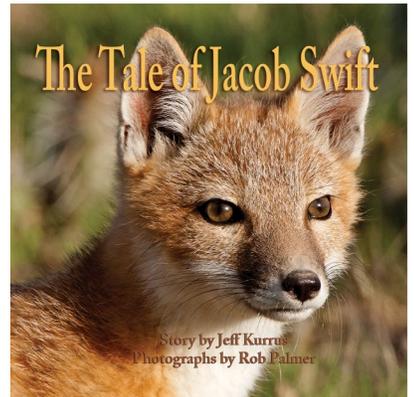


Jeff, Madeline, and Eli Kurrus

My goal through both writing and photography is to tell stories—stories that will not only entertain and educate but will also encourage viewers to seek their own personal connections to nature.

interactions with them that has given me confidence that they, too, can become interested—as long as we abide by some very simple rules. My newest photo-fiction book, *The Tale of Jacob Swift*, will be used to illustrate the points to be shared.

Jeff Kurrus is currently the editor of NEBRASKAland Magazine and the author of *Have You Seen Mary?* a Golden Sower book award finalist. His work has also appeared in *Field & Stream*, *In-Fisherman*, *Outdoor America*, and numerous other publications. He lives in Gretna with his wife, Laura, and two children, Madeline and Eli.



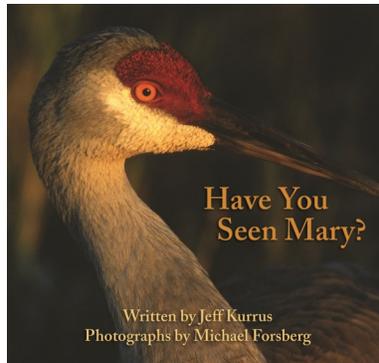
When I stand in front of a group of children and ask them who likes to play outside, nearly every hand goes up; but when I show them photographs of a pheasant, an elk, or even a sandhill crane, there is an immediate disconnect that ultimately, if we value nature at all, can't happen.

To help increase this connection to nature for children as well as adults, I use photographs. Ask someone what they watched on television last night and they can barely recall, but ask them about a wildlife encounter and they remember it for life. That's the way you remind everyone of how valuable nature is to them, regardless of how much time they currently spend there.

This talk will focus on the challenges we face with the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts and what I've seen during my

Kurrus will sign books after this presentation. *The Tale of Jacob Swift* retails for \$16.99; *Have You Seen Mary?* (hardcover) is also \$16.99, and the softcover version is \$10. Bring your checkbooks and consider purchasing a title for you or the kids in your life to enjoy during summer vacation, or pick one up as an early holiday purchase.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, May 14, 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. Free parking is available on both sides of 48th Street and in the College View SDA Church parking lots. 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

May

- 4 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 5 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 9-10 BIRDATHON WEEKEND
- 9 Field Trip to Wilderness Park (page 2)
- 10 Field Trip to Platte River State Park (page 2)
- 12 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 14 General Meeting, "Our Future Outdoor Enthusiasts," by Jeff Kurrus, Editor, NEBRASKAland Magazine
- 18 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 24 IMBM event at Fletcher Prairie (page 3)
- 28 GIVE TO LINCOLN DAY (pages 4 and 8)
- 28 Legislation Committee, DaVinci's, 11th & G, 6:00 p.m.



Field Trips

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Meet the Migrants for Birdathon

May is the perfect month to go birding. Great birds can be found just about anywhere but during Wachiska's annual Birdathon, we'll be visiting some of our favorite parks. Two weekend field trips will give us a chance to hone our powers of observation as we search for new arrivals and visiting migrants. Our goal will be to add as many species as we can to the Birdathon list as some donors base their pledge for this fundraiser on the number of species seen over Birdathon Weekend. Join the fun by either lending your eyes and ears on a field trip or by birding on your own. Everyone can contribute their Saturday and Sunday bird sightings to Birdathon by emailing their list to office@wachiskaaudubon.org.

The mature woods at both Wilderness Park and Platte River State Park provide bird havens and will be our weekend destinations. Recommended items to bring include a water bottle, insect repellent, and binoculars if you have them. The public is welcome. Call John at 402-475-7275 if you have questions.

Wilderness Park – Saturday, May 9, 8:00 a.m.

Meet at the south end of Lincoln on the west side of South 14th Street in the parking lot located 3/4 mile south of Yankee Hill Road, next to the trestle footbridge that crosses Salt Creek. No entry fee is required. Expert birder Kevin Poague will be guiding our hunt for treasures like bright yellow-throated vireos, noisy house wrens, and flashy warblers. Kevin contributes his talent to Audubon in many ways and is Wachiska's go-to birder for identification challenges. Friends of Wilderness Park is co-sponsoring this field trip, and we're grateful to their dedicated volunteers for their ongoing care and protection of this invaluable wildlife corridor.

Platte River State Park – Sunday, May 10, 8:00 a.m.

From I-80, turn south at exit 426 and follow Road S13E past South Bend to the park entrance. We'll meet in the parking lot next to the observation tower and restaurant. A state park entry permit is required; daily passes are available for \$5/vehicle. Explore this scenic park with John Carlini and Shari Schwartz as we look for brilliant tanagers, red-eyed vireos, and tufted titmice. The unique habitat along Stone Creek trail is known to birders as the best place in the state to see Louisiana waterthrushes and hosted four breeding territories in 2014.

Save the Date!

Wachiska's 26th annual Backyard Habitat Tour will again be held on Father's Day which is Sunday, June 21. Details next month and later on Wachiska's website.

Friends of Wachiska/Local Membership

by Linda R. Brown, Membership Committee

Membership in the National Audubon Society automatically makes you a member of our local chapter, Wachiska Audubon Society, established in 1973 and serving 17 counties in Southeast Nebraska. In addition to *Audubon* magazine, you are receiving Wachiska's *Babbling Brook* monthly newsletter. As a National Audubon member, only a small portion of your dues comes back to our chapter.

As a Friend of Wachiska, 100 percent of your donation will support Wachiska's numerous programs and projects, including protection of nearly 1,000 acres of tallgrass prairie in Southeast Nebraska. Additionally, Friends receive *The Babbling Brook* monthly and voting privileges. Currently there are about 1,200 National Audubon members and 200 Friends in Wachiska. In 2011, 136 Friends gave \$4,120. More recently, 171 Friends contributed \$6,445 last year. These donations are essential to supporting Wachiska's many education, outreach, and conservation programs.

Each month Wachiska's membership committee receives a list of new or renewing National Audubon members. We are using that list to invite National Audubon members to increase their support of our local chapter. Alternatively, you can use the form in the newsletter or on the website to become a Friend today. That would be great! Thank you for your support of Wachiska Audubon.

Spring Migration of New Members

by Joyce Vannier, Membership Chair

Joining our chapter this month with a membership in National Audubon are the following:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Carol Bartling | Paul Kirchoff |
| D'Arcy Blosser | Linda McFarland |
| Don Cavin | Shawna Richter-Ryerson |
| Cindy Chapman | Sharon Sawyers |
| David & Karlene Dudley | Linda Smith |
| David Hauptmann | Dan Strout |
| Cheryl Higel | Peggy Tilgner |
| Paula Hoppe | Jill Tomes |
| Angie Johnson | Rebecca Wells |
| Jessica & Geoff Jurzenski-Putney | |

Joining the ranks as local members or Friends of Wachiska are:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Nancy Aden | Virginia Miller |
| Ervin Anderson | Dennis & Gail Russell |
| Linda R. Brown | Betty Safranek |
| Cheryl Eldridge | Jason St. Sauver |
| Maureen Franklin | Joan Weber |
| Carol Loos | Robert White |
| Timothy Malone | Wild Bird Habitat Stores |
| Edward Maynard | |

Nebraska IMBM

by Jessi Umberger

Nebraska will be celebrating International Migratory Bird Month during May. Check: <http://www.nebraskabirdmonth.org/> to learn more about Nebraska's IMBM activities including the growing list of birding events in May. If you have a birding event scheduled for May or plan to host a birding event or activity during that time, have it added to the IMBM list of events.



Birds and Bikes—Sunday, May 24

by Jessi Umberger

Join Wachiska Audubon to celebrate International Migratory Bird Month with Birds and Bikes! On Sunday, May 24, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. we invite you to bike out to Fletcher Prairie east of Lincoln to learn more about migratory birds and their habitats. There will be a variety of activities throughout the afternoon focused on migratory birds:

- Robert Hanna, Nebraska native and artist, will be sketching migratory birds and their habitats.
- Raptor Recovery will present information on migratory birds and bring some feathered friends.
- There will be a variety of activities for children. Families are encouraged to bring a BIRD-themed kite to fly!
- Nature walks and birdwatching will be available for all.

Bike out to this fun event!

Since the location cannot accommodate many cars, we request that you join us by bike. The Fletcher Prairie is located east of Lincoln and west of Walton, at the intersection of 105th and A streets. The location is immediately adjacent to the MoPac bike trail and will be clearly marked and visible from the trail. Parking access for the trail in Lincoln is off 84th Street just south of the State Farm complex at 84th & O streets, or jump on the MoPac from many places throughout Lincoln. In Walton and Eagle, street parking is available; there is trailhead parking in the Village Park in Elmwood.

If you have questions, contact Peg Fletcher at 402-488-4451 or Jessi Umberger at 402-580-3057.

Please be advised that this is a rough-terrain prairie with few trails, and some areas may or may not have been recently burned (as a spring burn is pending at this location). We

welcome children to the event but ask that you supervise them closely as there are areas of the prairie the owners would prefer be left alone. There will be limited restroom use at the prairie—there are restrooms at both the Walton and 84th Street MoPac trailheads. Please use these before you join us.

Hope to see you out there!

This property requires contact with the landowners before visiting. If you would like to plan a visit outside of the May 24 event, you can find more information about the prairie and landowner contact information at: <http://wachiskaaudubon.org/prairie.htm>.

Learn to Bird by Ear during Bird Bonanza

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

Come out to Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center on Saturday, May 23, to welcome spring and the return of migratory birds! This fun event is part of the larger International Migratory Bird Month in Nebraska, encouraging families to join in the fun outdoors by enjoying and learning more about our local and migratory birds and the habitats they need. Spring Creek Prairie will be offering two programs as part of our Bird Bonanza event.

1. Birding by Ear Workshop - 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Led by Jason "the Bird Nerd" St. Sauver, this fun and informal class will help birders of all levels tweak their birding skills by learning all about bird songs, calls, alarms, and more—and offer tips on how better to hear and identify our feathered friends by sound. \$5/person
2. Family "Picnic-palooza" Bird Walk - 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This informal bird walk is geared for all ages and all levels of nature enthusiasts—especially kids with families. Bring your picnic lunch as we'll finish the walk with lunch under the trees, enjoying the spring sights and sounds. \$5/family

Everyone is invited to stay and explore after the programs during our regular Saturday open hours, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. We'll have great Discovery Packs available FREE for checkout.

To RSVP for either part of the Bird Bonanza, please email scp@audubon.org or call Jason at 402-797-2301 and join in the fun! (Registration is preferred to ensure enough binoculars/field guides are available for use.) All the details are here: <http://springcreekprairie.audubon.org/events/birding-bonanza>.

There are two remaining bags of birdseed in the Wachiska office. Please call or email if you can use either of these:

- 1 40-lb. bag of Standard Audubon Mix—\$28 (tax included)
- 1 40-lb. bag of Classic Audubon Mix—\$33 (tax included)



From the Board ...

by Elizabeth Nelson, President

Wachiska Birdathon 2015

Each spring, Wachiska Audubon welcomes back our migrating bird friends with our annual Birdathon. This is one of our biggest events of the year for two important reasons. First, over two days, Wachiska birders lead birdwatching events to identify



Designed by Dan Staehr

as many bird species as possible—often as many as 170 species are identified in our 17-county membership area in Southeast Nebraska. See the field trips article on page 2 for more information about Birdathon birdwatching events.

Second, and critically important to Wachiska's many educational, outreach, conservation, and legislative initiatives, **the Birdathon is the primary funding source for our many programs.** Wachiska makes a huge impact on Southeast Nebraska. We protect nearly 1,000 acres of tallgrass prairie through conservation easements or outright ownership. We help hundreds of children develop love and respect of nature through our Prairie Discovery Days, Bird EnCOUNTER, Sandhill Crane Field Trips for kids, and much more. Our members are active advocates for legislation affecting wildlife, water, and conservation issues across the state.

Our chapter's efforts to engage more children, protect additional prairie and wildlife, and make conservation voices heard depend on the success of our Birdathon. If you receive this newsletter in the mail or electronically, you will also be receiving our Birdathon 2015 fundraising mailing. Please consider a donation of \$35, \$50, or \$100 or more this year by sending a pledge or check to Wachiska or by giving through **Give To Lincoln Day**, a 24-hour event sponsored by the Lincoln Community Foundation which helps Lincoln area nonprofit organizations with their fundraising efforts. When you make your Birdathon donation online, Wachiska will receive a portion of the \$300,000 the Foundation is donating to area nonprofits. Every donation to Wachiska helps us earn a share of this matching money. Last year we earned over \$900 in additional funds from the match.

Mark your calendars: Give To Lincoln Day is Thursday, May 28. Go to GiveToLincoln.com. Look under environmental, educational, or alphabetical and select Wachiska Audubon. Enter your donation amount, contact information, and credit card information. You can be assured that this is a completely secure site. More details can be found on the Give To Lincoln website. Thanks to all of you for your generous support of Wachiska Audubon. Our entire success is due to the continuing donations of time, treasure, and support from our generous donors.

Mr. Chickadee

submitted by Richard Peterson

Many of the early issues of *Bird-Lore* had a poem, sometimes more than one. Most did not hit a chord, but this one I had to share. It was under the section, "For Young Observers," and appeared in 1900, Volume II, Number 6. This is by Florence A. Van Sant, Jay (Essex County), New York.

The Rev. Mr. Chickadee, D.D.

*A little clergyman is he,
With black and white cravat;
He bears a coveted degree,
And wears a soft silk hat.*

*With happy heart and merry voice,
He braves the cold and heat;
And to the loved one of his choice,
He whistles soft and sweet.*

*So overflowing is his strain,
That he could dub "D.D."
Young theologues with meager brains
And bump of vanity.*

*His sect is congregational,
The wild woods are his church,
The wind his "choir invisible,"
His pulpit is a birch.*

*The sermon we should not forget,
"Happy and cheerful be,
Have diligence, be brave, don't fret,"
Says Chickadee, D.D.*

Florence Allaire Van Sant Ward (b 1869 – d 1933) married Almon Harry Ward (b 1891 – d 1980). She is buried in Central Cemetery, Jay (Essex County), New York.



Black-capped Chickadee

Wachiska Audubon Society 2015 Awards

by Elizabeth Nelson, President

Earthkeeper Award winner Dave Titterington



Wachiska's Earthkeeper Award is given annually to an individual or organization exhibiting "tireless efforts toward a significant environmental issue over an extended period of time." This year's award winner is **Dave Titterington**, owner of the Wild

Bird Habitat Stores. Inspired to start his business by his wanting to give his children opportunities to experience nature and the difficulty he found trying to purchase quality birdseed in the 1980s, Dave has been a long-time supporter of many environmentally-oriented organizations in Lincoln and the surrounding area. Upon describing his growing up years, Dave says he grew up outside and always enjoyed exploring and experiencing nature first hand. Dave comes to birding not as a horticulturalist but as an avid conservationist and birder who is convinced that a welcoming yard and garden is good for wildlife.

Dave has been a naturalist with the Pioneers Park Nature Center for many years, teaches an annual bird identification class, is an avid supporter of Wilderness Park, and has been a frequent noon forum guest on local TV where he gives sage advice on bird feeding. In addition, Dave has been an outstanding supporter of Wachiska and many of our activities. It seems long overdue that Wachiska is honoring Dave Titterington and the Wild Bird Habitat Stores and publicly recognizing him for the numerous tasks and projects he has accomplished for our chapter and the public over the years. Many thanks and congratulations, Dave, for being Wachiska's recipient of the 2015 Earthkeeper Award!

President's Award winner Gary Fehr

The Wachiska President's Award is given annually to an individual for "exemplary achievement in volunteer work to our chapter." This year's recipient is **Gary Fehr**.

Gary has been an active volunteer with Wachiska since 2011 and has now entered his fifth year serving as Board treasurer. Gary has played an active leadership role for the chapter, serving as an exemplary treasurer overseeing all aspects of Wachiska's finances, managing our volunteer bookkeeper, and chairing the finance committee.

Serving as treasurer requires a complex mix of skills to take care of all the daily and annual details such as accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, banking, sales tax, financial reporting, budgeting and projections, insurance, various filings, and coordinating preparation of income taxes and audits—while also overseeing the big picture of Wachiska's long-term financial goals and responsibilities. Working behind the scenes, Gary has



developed a comprehensive Treasurer's Manual providing detailed instructions for every aspect of the treasurer's job. Whoever may be Wachiska's next treasurer sometime in the future will thank Gary over and over for leaving this detailed guide. We thank Gary profusely for the excellent job he is doing as treasurer and for his extraordinary dedication to Wachiska. Gary, we very much appreciate all you do and are proud to recognize you with the 2015 President's Award.

Special Award winner Arlys Reitan



Most years, our annual awards are limited to the two above; however, this year Wachiska's executive committee decided that an additional award was appropriate. Recognition was made to **Arlys Reitan**. Arlys was an early member of Wachiska,

joining the founding members in late 1973 in their quest to preserve bird and wildlife habitat. She and her husband, Ken, were involved in the early, successful efforts of Wachiska to protect the Platte and Niobrara rivers.

After serving as chapter president in 1992-93, Arlys assumed the chair of the Nebraska Audubon Council for two years. In 1995, she participated in a National Audubon strategic planning effort where the entire structure of the national organization was scrutinized. Over a four-month period and seven trips to New York City (spending a total of 31 days in The Big Apple) it was determined that state offices should be set up in as many states as possible. Often current structures such as nature centers or large chapter offices were made to accommodate a state presence. Arlys proposed to Audubon's board of directors that Nebraska should be the first state to develop a state office "from scratch." This was finally agreed to and was the beginning of many months of meetings statewide and even nationwide.

A significant part of this thorough planning resulted in a strategic planning event locally, resulting in the establishment of the Wachiska office and getting our first chapter-owned computer. Previously, Wachiska was managed from people's homes. When the office opened in April 1995, Arlys was recruited to become our first office administrator, a part-time staff position she has now held for 20 years.

This award, as inscribed on the plaque Arlys received at the awards banquet, is "*In sincere appreciation for many years of dedicated volunteerism and 20 years as Wachiska Audubon Society Office Administrator.*" Not only has Arlys been an untiring office manager, she is also responsible for organizing our monthly meetings with a variety of engaging speakers and edits our monthly newsletter, *The Babbling Brook*. Although it is not in her job description, Arlys holds much of the institutional history of Wachiska in her amazing memory.

Thank you, Arlys, for your exceptional, dedicated service to Wachiska—both as a volunteer and as our indispensable office administrator.

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

The most rational part of what popular novelist Jonathan Franzen writes in the April 6 *New Yorker* is that the resources of organizations like Audubon should not be exclusively directed at combating climate change, but must also address threats to birds and their habitat in the present. Of course, the intelligent goal that is emerging from the National Audubon Climate Initiative is that, in addition to support for Important Bird Areas, geographic areas called "climate strongholds" will be identified. As changes in temperature, precipitation, and seasonal patterns shift birds' ranges, protecting climate strongholds will, we hope, save many bird species otherwise threatened with extinction.

Franzen's initial question seems fair enough. It's a common problem—one we have to address in all aspects of our personal life about what can be a conflict between short-term and long-term goals. The trick is balance: put time into studying for that exam now but stay in touch with your friends; have some fun now but save for retirement, and so on. But here's where it gets less reasonable. The only specific example Franzen gives of resources spent on global warming that should have been directed elsewhere is the Audubon Climate Initiative, and of that, he looks only at the Birds and Climate Change Report. But as he admits, he didn't read it! (The report is being published in several segments in peer-reviewed scientific journals, but there's a long "summary review" on the Audubon website.) Franzen writes:

"The climate change report was not immediately available, but from the website's graphics, which included range maps of various bird species, it was possible to deduce that the report's method involved a comparison of a species' present range with its predicted range in a climate-altered future."

So you hand your editor a book review and say you looked at the pictures and deduced its import, but didn't actually get around to reading the book. Would the *New Yorker* print it? They did the equivalent for Franzen. Here's his conclusion from looking at the range maps:

"Although, in any given place, some familiar backyard birds may have disappeared by 2080, species from farther south are likely to have moved in to take their place. North America's avifauna may well become more diverse."

OK, that's getting really pretty strange. If the purpose of birds is to entertain us in our backyards, we are reassured there will be no shortage of entertainment. And apparently Franzen thinks birds can just keep shifting their ranges north indefinitely.

But it gets even stranger. He continues:

". . . drastic planetary overheating is a done deal. . . The Earth as we now know it resembles a patient whose terminal cancer we can choose to treat either with disfiguring aggression or with palliation and sympathy. We can dam every river and blight every landscape with biofuel agriculture, solar farms, and wind turbines to buy some extra years of moderated warming, or we can settle for a shorter life of higher quality, protecting the areas remaining where wild animals and plants are hanging on, at the cost of slightly hastening the human catastrophe. One advantage of the latter approach is that, if a miracle cure like fusion energy should come along, there might still be some intact ecosystems for it to save."

What that comes down to is a choice to see lethal conflict where there could be a perception of balance and even harmony. For Franzen, the present and the future are in conflict, the welfare of birds and the welfare of humans are in conflict, and both are a zero-sum game: if birds and their habitat win, then humans lose; if humans win, birds lose. But what if the well-being of species is mutually reinforcing and interconnected? What if we see ourselves as part of the natural world? What if our fate as a species is linked to the chorus of canaries in the coal mines who are telling us, "Leave it in the ground"?

Can Our Birds Survive While Scientists Study Their Fate for 50 Years?

by Dave Titterton, Wild Bird Habitat Stores

First, I would like to thank Wachiska Audubon for the Earthkeeper Award presented at the awards banquet on April 9. It is an honor both the Wild Bird Habitat Stores and I take seriously and will continue to attempt to live up to.

The program entitled "The Conservation Status of North American Birds in the Face of Future Climate Change" by Dr. Chad Wilsey, Science Division of National Audubon, was extremely interesting. The investigation looking toward the future and the impact of global warming on birds and bird distribution is a proactive attempt to adjust conservation strategies so we will be prepared.

Audubon is targeting many bird species to determine future impacts—but with the assumption that those bird species will still be with us. Let's not lose sight of current issues that are impacting bird populations—habitat loss and human activity. In just the last 45 years, the bobolink population has been reduced by 67 percent. In fact, in the last 50 years many bird species populations have been reduced from 50 to 90 percent. Can these birds survive another 50 years with the ongoing loss of habitat and growing human activity?

We need to prepare for the future of global warming's impact on birds, but we must continue to address the more immediate needs of bird conservation. The Wild Bird Habitat Stores have become an Impact Partner with the Canadian film production of "The Messenger." Learn more about the documentary at songbirdsos.com.

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.

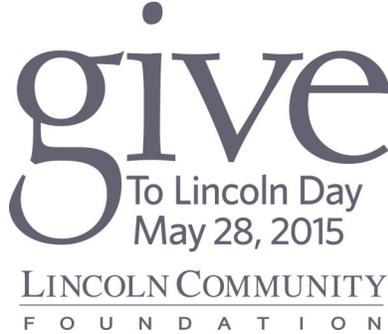
Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society** and mail to:

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

C5ZP040Z

Mark your calendars: Give to Lincoln Day is Thursday, May 28.

Go to GiveToLincoln.com. Look under environmental, educational, or alphabetical and select Wachiska Audubon.



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WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2015

OFFICERS

President.....	*Elizabeth Nelson.....	402-770-3485
Vice President	*Jessi Umberger (Otoe).....	402-580-3057
Recording Secretary.....	*Bob Boyce.....	402-770-6865
Treasurer	*Gary Fehr	402-570-4382
Immediate Past President.....	*Arnold Mendenhall (Hickman)....	402-525-4884

STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large	*Joe Francis.....	402-489-7965
Director at Large	*Mitch Renteria.....	402-483-7275
Director at Large	*Benjamin Vogt	402-499-5851
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

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	vacant.....	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**.