



**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 45th Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2018*

**AUGUST 2018**

**Volume 27 - Issue 8**

**General Meeting and Program — Thursday, August 9, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A St, Lincoln**

## Managing Grassland Diversity in the Haines Branch Prairie Corridor

*by Dr. David Wedin, Professor, School of Natural Resources, UNL*

**S**ince 2016, University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty and students have been assessing plant and pollinator diversity in grasslands totaling thousands of acres in the Haines Branch Prairie Corridor project. This presentation will give an overview of the Prairie Corridor project, describe UNL research funded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust, and share initial results on how prairie diversity responds to management approaches.

**Dr. David Wedin** will also give a brief update on Nine-Mile Prairie, which has been a joint venture between UNL and Wachiska Audubon since the late 1970s. Nine-Mile Prairie Trivia: In 1982, the Nebraska Legislature passed a bill specifically to encourage the Lincoln Airport Authority (owner of Nine-Mile Prairie at that time) to protect Nine-Mile Prairie. The bill enabled the university to purchase the land at below-market value. That bill was crafted by Wachiska's Ernie Rousek, then Biological Sciences Professor A. T. ("TY") Harrison, and former Governor Robert Crosby. The University Foundation has managed Nine-Mile Prairie ever since. Carole Closter, former Wachiska chapter president, continues to update the kiosk with fresh photos and information.



**Dr. David Wedin**

Dr. Wedin is currently a professor in plant and ecosystem ecology in the School of Natural Resources at UNL. He is also director of Nine-Mile Prairie and director of the Agroforestry Research Farm. His

research interests include grassland and savanna ecology, biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, landscape and fire ecology. Dave earned a BS in biology from St. Olaf College and a PhD in ecology from the University of Minnesota.

Join Wachiska Audubon to learn more about Dr. Wedin's work and research with the Prairie Corridor project spanning a good share of the distance between Pioneers Park and Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center. Reserve **Thursday, August 9**, for this program at **7:00 p.m.** at Lincoln's Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street. Parking is free in the church parking lot with overflow parking in the Pius High lot across the street to the west. There is easy access to the church with no steps and plenty of space for mingling while enjoying refreshments after the presentation.

### Order Fall Birdseed Next Month

Watch for the September newsletter next month where you'll find the next birdseed sale order form and announcements. Advance seed orders will be due in late September with seed distribution in early October. Check the website in a couple of weeks when the order form will be posted there.

### Calendar

#### August

- 6 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 6:00 p.m.
- 9 General Meeting, Haines Branch Corridor & Nine-Mile Prairie update, by Dr. Dave Wedin, Unitarian Church, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Field Trip to Rainwater Basin, 7:00 a.m. (page 2)
- 13 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 13 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 21 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 23 Legislation Committee, DaVinci's, 11<sup>th</sup> & G sts., 6:00 p.m.



## Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

### Early Bird Auto Tour of the Eastern Rainwater Basin

Just a hop, skip, and jump west of Lincoln lies the eastern edge of the Rainwater Basin, an extensive patchwork of shallow wetlands vital to Nebraska's birds both during breeding season and migration. Our August outing will entail car-birding at the far eastern marshes to see what surprises can be found from the road at Tamora Waterfowl Production Area and North Lake Basin Wildlife Management Area by Utica. Herons and shorebirds might be present. We'll also keep our eyes and ears peeled for marshland inhabitants like soras, yellow-headed blackbirds, and marsh wrens.

Meet on **Saturday, August 11**, at **7:00 a.m.** in Lincoln on the south side of the Capitol at 15th and H Streets, across the street from the governor's mansion. Participants can caravan or carpool to our destinations 30-40 miles away. We'll plan on birding for several hours, but folks can return sooner if they'd like. Suggested items to bring are water bottle, sun protection, insect repellent, 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.

### Abundant Wildlife Seen on Waubonsie Field Trip

by John Carlini

A colorful cast of characters made an appearance on June's Waubonsie State Park field trip. Temps mercifully remained cooler than the 100° high that had been predicted, and the deep forest shade provided a pleasant morning.

Ovenbirds were thick—at least nine were heard singing along the path. One singer zipped past the birders' heads offering a glimpse of a species that's typically hard to see despite being easy to hear at times. Acadian flycatchers were also on territory at the park, and one observant birder spied an adult landing on its nest providing the highlight of the day for the group. Striking zebra swallowtail butterflies also graced the park hillsides trolling their favorite food source, the paw-paw trees, which are the only member of their subtropical family to creep this far northward. A woodhouse toad was also photographed on the trail and later identified by the position of the glands behind its eyes.



Photo by John Carlini

Zebra Swallowtail

### July's Nine-Mile Prairie Trip Brought Many Participants

by Carole Closter

The passion people share for prairie plants was apparent from the large number of participants for July's field trip to Nine-Mile Prairie. We strolled prairie trails in an area encompassing one-fifth of the total 230-acres and within two hours many wildflowers had been identified. A memorable moment in our hike occurred when our group approached a fork in the trail and a female wild turkey exploded from her nest in tall vegetation just a few feet away. Before we could recover from our surprise, a fuzzy chick darted from the same grassy spot and disappeared across the mowed trail in the direction its mother had fled. Our group moved quickly past to allow for a speedy family reunion. The mid-summer peak time for many blooming plants showcased a variety of spectacular flowering species along the trail and many more without their flowers were also identified. Provided below is our list arranged by color as in Jon Farrar's *Field Guide to the Wildflowers of Nebraska*.

Green: Spider milkweed

White: Plains wild indigo, Thimbleweed (*Anemone cylindrica*), Hemlock, White prairie clover, Yarrow, New Jersey tea, Whorled milkweed, Daisy fleabane, Wild licorice, Canada milk-vetch, Virginia mountain mint, Illinois bundle-flower, Rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), Roundhead bushclover (*Lespedeza*)

Yellow: Partridge pea, Senna, Wild lettuce, Ground cherry, Goat's beard salsify, Yellow flax, Upright prairie coneflower, Grayhead prairie coneflower, Black-eyed Susan, Common evening primrose, Mullein, Compass plant, Rosinweed, Heliopsis, Missouri goldenrod, Sawtooth, Maximillian, Stiff and Common sunflowers

Red-orange: Butterfly milkweed

Pink, purple, blue: Deptford pink, Purple poppy mallow, Prairie wild rose, Many-flowered and Silver-leaf scurf pea, Purple coneflower, Woolly verbena, Western ironweed, Tall thistle, Common milkweed, Tick trefoil (Canada tickclover), American germander, Purple prairie clover, Bergamot (*Monarda*, beebalm).



Photo by John Carlini

Rattlesnake Master



## From the Board ...

by Terry Stentz, Director at Large

### Environmentalism and the Millennials

Based on the work of Neil Howe and William Strauss, Dr. Jill Novak, Texas A&M University, describes six living generations by birth year: G.I. Generation (1901-1926), Mature/Silents (1927-1945), Baby Boomers (1946-1964), Generation X (1965-1980), Generation Y “The Millennials” (1981-2000), and Generation Z “The Boomlets” (born after 2001). Since many of my students at UNL these days are Millennials, I wondered what we know about their environmental values and activities. Here is a brief summary of information from seven publicly available articles on Millennials and the environment.

- Millennials are considered to be the most environmentally conscious generation in U.S. history.
- Compared to their elders, Millennials prefer to address environmental challenges by individual initiative and grassroots efforts rather than traditional top-down bureaucratic means.
- Millennials are worried about solving global problems like climate change but prefer using local environmental initiatives and solutions.
- Millennials want to support companies that promote environmental awareness, use sustainable practices, and foster social improvements.
- Online communications and activism on environmental issues are viewed as more efficient and effective than traditional forms of communication. The word can go out in an instant and be quickly read by millions.
- Millennials tend to resist standard consumer culture. They are more likely to use recycled products and materials, favor greener sources of energy, reduce personal consumption, and organize events to voice environmental concerns.
- Millennials who vote are more likely to vote for political candidates who want to transition the U.S. from dirty fossil fuels to clean energy like wind and solar and less likely to vote for candidates who want to eliminate the EPA.
- Millennials see themselves as global citizens who are responsible for making the world better.
- Even though Millennials tend to recycle less than the general population, they are more likely to excel at making major lifestyle-related environmental and sustainability changes such as growing their own food; borrowing or sharing services; installing solar, wind, or geothermal energy sources; and more likely to use natural cleaning products.
- Millennials are optimistic and feel they can change things for the better for environmental as well as social inequality issues.

We need more Millennials in our membership base and for them to begin holding positions of leadership in the chapter. Can the information about Millennials and the environment be useful in appealing to and recruiting new Millennial members? How can we connect birds, birding, legislation, public education, native plants, and native prairies to Millennial environmental values and preferences? Maybe the answer is simply to have more Millennials around to help us. I’m a Baby Boomer, and the Millennials are like my grandchildren; every day, in and out of the classroom and lab, I learn something new from them, and it’s so valuable for me and for them. How can we motivate our grandkids to join Audubon? Being multi-generational is certainly one of our important challenges for securing the present and the future of Wachiska Audubon.

### Bird Mite Problem

My daughter in Lawrence, Kansas, is living through a nightmare because of bird mites. When the baby birds leave the nest, there are thousands of mites which then look for a new host. With her bare toe, my daughter touched a dead bird in the driveway, which is believed to be the source of the infestation in her house. She has arthritis resulting in a weakened immune system which made her more susceptible as a host. Once they have found a host, other people in a household usually are not affected. Even with extermination treatments and intensive nontoxic home treatments, after more than two months the mites are still there. Doctors, skin specialists, and the public seem to have no knowledge or remedies for this situation. It is like a plague that one has to fight alone since some chemicals aren’t effective. Online information has been the chief source of help. Everyone who loves birds should be aware of the consequences of picking up dead birds or nests recently deserted, of nests near the house, and of places in the structure where mites might have access.

*A Wachiska Audubon member*

*Editor’s Note: The preceding notice was received with a Birdathon donation in early summer. Here are a couple of other comments that came with donations:*

*“We are glad to be [Wachiska] members.” (from Brainard, NE)*

*“[I] really enjoy the newsletter.” (from Lincoln, NE)*

*“When my husband brings in The Babbling Brook each month, one of us sits right down and reads it cover to cover—reading out loud many parts to each other. Thank you for that.” (from rural Lancaster County, NE)*

### Before Winter Sets In . . .

Consider insulating your hot water pipes. Doing so can reduce heat loss, allow you to lower the temperature setting, and save an additional three to four percent per year on water heating.

## Northern Gannet

by Richard Peterson

I've never seen a gannet in the wild, but I have seen them on TV. The other day I was watching a program on flight, how different creatures get airborne and what they do when they get there. The lifestyle of the northern gannet, also called the solan goose, caught my attention.

The northern gannet (*Morus bassanus*) is one of the largest seabirds off the North Atlantic and has a wingspan of up to over six feet. Along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts, gannets are common over open water, well off shore and any nearby land. They are a rare casual visitor on the Great Lakes. A relative of the booby, both are in the Family Sulidae. Other members of the family include the cape gannet from southern Africa and the Australasian gannet in southern Australia and New Zealand. Most fossil gannets are from the Late Miocene or Pliocene, ca 4-8 million years ago.



Northern Gannet

Gannets travel in small groups in low-arching flight patrolling high above the water searching for schooling fish like herring, cod, pollack, mackerel, and anchovy. They then plunge dive from a height of up to 200 feet and pursue their prey as deep as 75 feet below the surface, moving at 60 mph when they enter the water. So how do they get away with this and survive impact? First, they have no external nostrils or nares; instead, these are located inside the mouth. In addition, they have air sacs in the face and chest under the skin which cushion the impact. Their eyes are far forward, giving them vision which allows them to judge distances accurately. They look like an Olympic high platform diver when entering the water, then receiving a score of 10. If schools are few, they will scavenge for scraps and offal that has been cast from fishing boats.

Two thirds of northern gannets nest in large colonies off the coast of the United Kingdom. The largest colony is on Scotland's Bass Rock—in 2014 it contained 75,000 mating pairs. Those nearer to us colonize sea cliffs off eastern Quebec, Canada. They stay entirely at sea the first three years of life before heading to land to breed and may pair for life. The male claims a territory in the tightly-packed colony and then displays to attract a mate. The nest is usually built by the male and consists of a pile of grass, seaweed, dirt, and feathers all compacted and held together with their droppings. The nest is used by the same pair for years and gradually becomes a tall mound. Only one young is raised every year.

Gannets migrate southward offshore along the Atlantic Coast around Florida and along the Gulf Coast of Texas and points

south. In parts of the UK, the term “gannet” is used to refer to people who consume large quantities of food especially at buffets and public functions.

For gannets in action, search “gannet plunge dive” then find “Video Results”, or go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D8vaFl6J87s>.

## Fertig Prairie Open House Held June 30

by Isaac Remboldt, Conservation Committee

Wachiska's beautiful 44-acre Fertig Prairie was displayed to the public the end of June. Attending were members of our conservation committee, representatives from the Nebraska Environmental Trust, the Cooper Foundation, the Lower Platte North NRD, members of the Fertig family, and local school teachers from the Schuyler area.



Delicious cookies decorated with “Fertig Prairie” and chilled leadplant tea helped to beat the heat. There was an excellent presentation by Bill Whitney of the Prairie Plains Resource Institute about the importance of prairies to birds, native wildlife, and people.

After the official ceremony, a guided tour led by conservation committee members helped visitors identify plants found at the prairie; included is the purple headed sneezeweed (*Helenium flexuosum*) which is very uncommon in Nebraska. The event was an overall success, with good weather, delicious refreshments, and great people.

For those who might want to make leadplant tea, Tim Knott used one to two cups of the dried leadplant leaves to one gallon of water, but using about 1-2 teaspoons of leaves should make a cup of tea. Let it steep in boiling water for 4-5 minutes until golden brown. For the best taste, serve chilled. Phyllis Reagan and Kay Young furnished the leaves and recipe.



Sneezeweed



Sneezeweed

*Editor's Note: Tim Knott contributed to this article. Photos were provided by Ross Scott.*

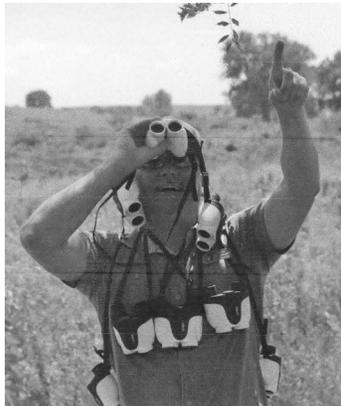
# W.A.R.B.L.E.R. (Wachiska Audubon Readers' Bulletins, Letters, and Environmental Reports)

## Prairie Seed Gathering

Beth Coufal reminds all prairie enthusiasts of the seed-collecting event on Saturday, August 18. Volunteers can meet at the Wachiska office at 7:30 a.m. Contact Beth for location and more information at 402-797-8203 or [bethngaryc@windstream.net](mailto:bethngaryc@windstream.net).

## Great News from Summer Picnic

The 72 people attending Wachiska's potluck picnic in July at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center will be pleased to learn that \$343 was donated for Jason St. Sauver's project to purchase binoculars for kids to use out there during their educational classes. With each pair costing around \$25, Wachiskans made it possible for Jason to buy about 13 pairs of binocs from the money we dropped in the giant pickle jar! Can you count eight pairs of binocs on Jason? Many thanks to all who donated and attended a fun evening at the end of a very hot day.



**Jason "the Birdnerd" trying  
out the new binoculars!  
Thank you, Wachiska!**

## Nine-Mile Prairie Field Trip

Chris Hodges was one of over 20 people who attended Carole Closter's wildflower field trip to Nine-Mile Prairie on July 14. Chris wants to thank Carole for guiding the tour which was fun and interesting. She is sharing a mini-guide that shows some of the species seen that morning and during the rest of the month. For about a month, Chris will have this link activated for all to check out. So you'd better scurry and do so as soon as you read this announcement! Here is the link: [Nebraska Wildflowers - July Blooming.docx](#). (See page 2 for this field trip report.)

## Fall Birdseed Sale Coming

Watch next month's newsletter for the next birdseed sale order form. The Fall Birdseed Sale will take place on October 5-6 (pick up dates). Orders must be postmarked by Thursday, September 27. Copies of the order form will also be posted on Wachiska's website at [www.wachiskaaudubon.org](http://www.wachiskaaudubon.org) in a few weeks. Pick up dates and times will be Friday, October 5, 3:00-6:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 6, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Volunteers are needed to help with distribution at 14th and Arapahoe streets on those days. You can help by indicating so on the order form or by notifying Lana at 402-570-1273.

## Field Trip to ASO's New Prairie

Wachiskans are invited to join a field trip led by Glenn Pollock to the Audubon Society of Omaha's new prairie acquisition approximately three miles northwest of Blair on Saturday, August 11, 9:30 a.m. Meet at the Blair Memorial Hospital parking lot to carpool as onsite parking is limited. The cemetery prairie is the only known Missouri River Valley Loess Hills prairie in Nebraska. The site comprises ten acres and is preserved in its natural state. For more information, contact Glenn at 402-571-6230 or [pollockg@cox.net](mailto:pollockg@cox.net).

## Nominees Needed for 2019 Wachiska Chapter Officers

Wachiska leaders are constantly looking for new folks to get involved in our chapter. There are many ways and places where you can help. If you are willing to serve as a chapter officer or become more involved in one of numerous areas, contact the Wachiska office or one of our current officers listed on the back of each newsletter. The nomination committee has met and is forming lists of people to contact; beat the rush and let us know.

## Future Event – Electronics Recycling

Plans are just getting underway for Wachiska to sponsor an electronics recycling day early next spring (2019). This will be our first attempt at such a fundraiser. If you are getting a new computer, printer, copier, keyboard, or other electronics for Christmas or another reason, be thinking of stashing the old ones until further notice, and you'll be able to dispose of them in the proper manner next spring. We're looking into the possibility of writing a grant proposal that would enable people to include TVs and other items that normally require a charge for disposal. All this is tentative at this point; Arlys will keep you posted in the next several months. If you have experience or knowledge that would be helpful in planning or a location where this could be held, please contact her at the Wachiska office, 402-486-4846 or [office@wachiskaaudubon.org](mailto:office@wachiskaaudubon.org).

## SAVE THE DATES—Water Conference Coming in October

UNL's Innovation Campus will be the scene for the National Institutes for Water Resources Regional Symposium October 24 - 26. The theme will be "Water Resources of the U.S. Great Plains Region: Status and Future." For details, check the websites for these sponsors: Nebraska Water Center, USDA, USGS, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at UNL.

## National Audubon Solicitations

To be removed from receiving solicitation letters, calls, and emails from National Audubon, phone toll-free 1-844-428-3826 or email [audubonconnect@audubon.org](mailto:audubonconnect@audubon.org). Someone is available 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST Monday through Friday.

*"A good deed is sufficient unto itself."* Volunteer with Wachiska Audubon. Call the office or a Board member listed on the back of every newsletter.

# Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

One of the most important decisions for the Lincoln City Council this year affecting climate change will be its vote on an ordinance called PACE: Property Assessed Clean Energy. PACE is a way for city government to facilitate loans for projects that increase energy and water efficiency or use clean energy. The loans are from private lenders and go to private building owners. No taxpayer money is loaned. PACE loans are filed with the county and are attached to the property.

Members of both political parties have supported PACE programs in every region of the country. PACE-enabling legislation has been passed in 34 states, Nebraska's in 2016. The Omaha City Council unanimously adopted its PACE ordinance. Their first project is a \$3.4 million loan for the Peregrine Hotel, a 105-year-old building. It will add insulation, efficient lighting, electrical improvements, water-saving bathroom fixtures, and efficient heating and cooling systems. They hope to have it open in time for the Berkshire Hathaway annual meeting next spring.

The Lincoln ordinance, initiated by City Councilman Roy Christensen, was on the Council's agenda June 18, then delayed until July 23, and delayed again until the first week of August. Delays were at the mayor's request, to better understand supporting administration required from city government. Depending on events by the time you read this, you may want to communicate with your councilperson to urge support of PACE or thank them if they voted for it.

The climate change crisis has no silver bullet. National Audubon says "Building consensus around a range of solutions, including market- and incentive-based policies, will help us accelerate the pace of successful and durable climate policy." The PACE initiative is an excellent example of just that.

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In March, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved a \$1.7 million grant to relocate Alaskan climate refugees. As Hannah Waters reports in the summer issue of *Audubon*, their "homes are collapsing as melting sea ice, thawing permafrost, and rising ocean levels combine to erode coastlines." Two days before, FEMA issued its new strategic plan. It describes the effects of climate change but never uses the term "climate change."

Why has the average number of major disaster declarations increased from an average of 25 a year in the 1980s to nearly 90 a year since 2010? FEMA's new plan explains it is "due to rising natural hazard risk." Un-huh. Sure.

FEMA and other federal agencies can't use "climate" in program titles. Websites about climate change have been deleted or rewritten. Hannah Waters refers us to Columbia Law School's Center for Climate Change Law website, "Silencing Science

Tracker." It tracks government attempts to restrict or prohibit scientific research, education, or discussion or the publication or use of scientific information.

Readers who seek to understand the need for these changes may find some guidance in the Newspeak Appendix to George Orwell's novel, *1984*. The avoidance of Oldspeak such as "climate change" helps prevent thoughtcrime, meaning thoughts that are unorthodox or outside the official government platform (or the crime of thinking of such thoughts.)

## Mother of the Century Award Nominee



A common merganser mama duck waddling around Lake Bemidji, Minnesota, could easily win the top prize if there were one for rapidly growing family. Several national magazines have become interested in this story since late June. By July 26, photographers have documented at least 76 ducklings being led by a single mother duck!

Kenn Kaufman, field editor for *Audubon* magazine, claims that ducks will often lay a couple of eggs in other ducks' nests. Scientists aren't entirely sure why they do this, but they think it could be a kind of reproductive insurance policy similar to the adage "not putting all of one's eggs in one basket." At this rate, this mama duck must have won the lottery!!

## Energy Tip

Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight for maximum energy efficiency. Test the seal by closing the door over a piece of paper placed half in and half out of the closed door. If you can easily pull the paper out without tearing it, your seal may need to be replaced or the latch might need to be adjusted.

## 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 (1<sup>st</sup> District)**

301 S 13<sup>th</sup> 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> District)**

416 Valley View Dr Ste 600, Scottsbluff NE 69361  
Scottsbluff phone: 308-633-6333 Fax: 308-633-6335  
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 10<sup>th</sup> St Rm 110, Lincoln NE 68508  
Phone: 402-441-7447 Fax: 402-441-6301  
E-mail: [commish@lancaster.ne.gov](mailto:commish@lancaster.ne.gov)

### **Mayor Chris Beutler**

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10<sup>th</sup> St Rm 301, Lincoln NE 68508-2828  
Phone: 402-441-7511 Fax: 402-441-7120  
E-mail: [mayor@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:mayor@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lincoln City Council**

402-441-7515  
E-mail: [council@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:council@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lincoln Journal Star**

Letters to the editor, 926 P St, Lincoln NE 68508  
E-mail: [oped@journalstar.com](mailto: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 newsletter each month. If you wish to join NAS or receive *Audubon* magazine, please contact the National Audubon Society directly.



**American Goldfinch Family**

## Prairie Helpers Needed

If you can help the education committee with Prairie Discovery Days for fourth graders out on the prairie the afternoon of August 29 or the morning and afternoon of September 4 and 5, call Bruce Mellberg at 402-570-3681 or Tim Knott at 402-483-5656 for details and directions. If staying all day, you'll want to bring a sack lunch.

You don't need to be experts but help will be needed to assist kids in catching bugs and identifying prairie plants. In past years this has been lots of fun for the kids as well as our helpers.



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**Wachiska Audubon Society**  
**4547 Calvert St Ste 10**  
**Lincoln NE 68506-5643**  
402-486-4846  
Office@WachiskaAudubon.org  
www.WachiskaAudubon.org

## WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2018

### OFFICERS

President.....	*Gary Fehr.....	402-570-4382
Vice President.....	*Stu Luttich (Geneva).....	402-759-3597
Recording Secretary.....	*Richard Peterson.....	402-489-2996
Treasurer.....	*Bill Gustafson.....	402-488-1585
Immediate Past President.....	*Jessi Umberger (Otoe).....	402-580-3057

### STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large.....	*Theresa Pella.....	531-289-6098
Director at Large.....	*Terry Stentz.....	402-202-8819
Director at Large.....	*Melinda Varley.....	402-416-4111
Conservation.....	*Stu Luttich (Geneva).....	402-759-3597
Education.....	*Tim Knott.....	402-483-5656
Field Trips.....	John Carlini.....	402-475-7275
	*Lana Novak.....	402-475-8693
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.....	Judith Gibson.....	402-466-0117

\*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.....	Roxanne Smith.....	402-477-1319

## 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**.