



Wachiska  
Audubon Society

Wachiska Audubon Society's vision: To share the experience and love of nature—that life may sustainably flourish in all its natural diversity

# The Babbling Brook

Our 50th Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2023

OCTOBER 2023

Volume 32 - Issue 10

Wachiska Program and General Meeting — Thursday, October 12, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also via YouTube link: <https://youtube.com/live/QtklG3HcAyw?feature=share>

## Floodplain: A Clear View of Life in the Big Muddy

by Alex Wiles

The Missouri River is the longest river in North America. For centuries we have relied upon the water and species within it for survival, and recent decades have seen its

ecology drastically change due to the influences of human development. Natural functions such as seasonal flooding have been mitigated by dams and channelization, enabling invasive species to take hold in this changed environment. *Floodplain* aims to shed light on the unique and elusive biodiversity of the Missouri River basin in the hope that it will inspire people to care for this intricate source of life.

Alex Wiles is a filmmaker, photographer, and storyteller based out of Omaha. His interest in conservation initiatives takes him



around the world where he documents the challenges faced by wildlife and the work of those who wish to protect it. Alex's broader work in the field of natural history and science filmmaking has led to a specialization in macro techniques and finding unique methods of documenting the world's often overlooked inhabitants.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, October 12**, at **7:00 p.m.** at Lincoln's Unitarian Church to see some fascinating photography while learning about the Missouri River basin. This free public in-person talk will also be live-streamed at <https://youtube.com/live/QtklG3HcAyw?feature=share>. Copy this link into your browser. No registration is necessary. Check Wachiska's website for links to this and past programs.

### Calendar

#### October

- 4 Deadline for Fall Birdseed Sale orders, postmarked today
- 4 Deadline for ordering 2024 Audubon calendars
- 9 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 12 General Meeting, "Floodplain: A Clear View of Life in the Big Muddy," by Alex Wiles, 7:00 p.m., in-person meeting at the Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also live-streamed; no registration needed (see link above)
- 13-14 Birdseed pick up (see times and location on page 2)
- 14 Second Saturday Seeds collection, Dieken Prairie, 10:00 a.m.
- 15 Newsletter submission deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 17 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Field Trip to Little Salt Fork Marsh, 8:30 a.m. (page 6)



North American River Otter

**Order Calendars and Birdseed by October 4!**

# Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman

September was a busy month for Wachiska. We participated in the battle not to locate the new state penitentiary in the preferred site directly across the street from Prairie Pines, a site with long-time ties to Wachiska. Now we are working with other conservation groups to find a way to add green space to the site that was formerly being considered and is now owned by the City of Lincoln. I am serving on a panel to continue to look for ways to buffer Nine-Mile Prairie from advancing development.



I attended a celebration of Bill Taddicken's 26 years at Rowe Sanctuary, many of those years as director. It was great to see so many biologists, volunteers, and supporters of Rowe attend to show Bill our appreciation for all the years of great work on the central Platte. Kristal Stoner will be the acting director until Bill's replacement is hired. We applied for a Cooper Foundation grant and are anxiously awaiting the outcome. I traveled to Seward to talk with campers from across Nebraska who were interested in learning about Wachiska and what we do. On Saturday, October 14, there will be a Second Saturday Seeds collection at Dieken Prairie.

We had to postpone Prairie Discovery Days on September 22 for Valley Elementary at Knott Prairie because of the muddy road, and on September 26 we hosted Syracuse Elementary at Dieken Prairie. We are participating in the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District's Nature Nights. We had a booth at Arnold Elementary on September 19, and we'll travel to Brainard on October 12 and Holmes Elementary on November 8. On September 22, we hosted Otoe-Missouria from Oklahoma at Nine-Mile Prairie because it was too muddy to visit Knott Prairie and then hosted them at Dieken Prairie the following day. They also visited Spring Creek Prairie while in Lincoln to celebrate the second annual Otoe-Missouria Day.

I was able to attend a conservation easement workshop near Alda last month. Several conservation groups hosted state senators, their staff, Congressional representatives' staff, and local county board members at the Crane Trust to learn about easements and go on a field trip of the area. Wachiska's 50th anniversary luncheon and the Doug Tallamy talk on December 3 are getting close. Beginning October 1, you can register for the 1:00 p.m. \$40 luncheon and/or the free 3:00 p.m. presentation.

Don Pepperl, Wachiska's long-time legal counsel, recently retired. I want to thank Don for his many years of pro-bono work for the chapter and his many other contributions. With Don's retirement, we are looking for a local attorney interested in

serving as our legal counsel. If you or someone you know has an interest, please contact me. Enjoy the fall migration and try to get out and enjoy some of these wonderful fall days before winter sets in.

## 2024 Board Gap

by Theresa Pella, President

One of the most challenging vacancies for any Board is the treasurer position. Wachiska has been fortunate the last two years to have a young professional, Dylan Aufdenkamp, fill those big shoes! Following membership approval of the revised bylaws that streamlined the organization's committee structure, Dylan helped transition the financial structure to the more streamlined (and shorter) one we use today. At the same time, he and bookkeeper, Nancy Hamer, developed a QuickBooks online system, helping to bring the organization into the 21st century. As Dylan's professional and personal life become more complicated, he has decided to step aside after this term. We wish him well as he and his wife not only welcome a new business into their lives, but also a new baby!

So, the search is on for a treasurer. The individual would work closely with the bookkeeper and chair the finance committee which meets 4-5 times/year. The treasurer is the committee's representative for the monthly Board meetings. This person would assist with preparation of financial statements (revenue/expense, balance sheets) and is a point of contact with the Lincoln Community Foundation for Wachiska's investment accounts. The position is also the point person for developing the annual operating budget and end-of-year financial statements for the Board's review and action. Anticipated volunteer hours/month are five to ten, including meeting times.

If you have the experience and knowledge and would like to be in on the ground floor for Wachiska's first years of the next 50 years, or know someone who could fill Dylan's shoes, contact Theresa Pella, Andrea Faas, Carol Hinkle, or Mark Brohman.

## Birdseed Orders Due October 4

Reminder: Order your fall birdseed from Wachiska RIGHT NOW. Forms were included in the September newsletter and can be downloaded and printed at [www.wachiskaaudubon.org](http://www.wachiskaaudubon.org). You can also order online from this site. Wednesday, October 4, is the last day to order online. All mail-in orders must be postmarked no later than Wednesday, October 4.

Pick up birdseed orders at 14th and Arapahoe streets. The pick updates and times are:  
Friday, October 13, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday, October 14, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

This is a major Wachiska fundraiser which began more than 35 years ago. What can be a more perfect project than providing nourishment for our feathered friends?! Call the Wachiska office if you have any questions.

## Celebrating 50 Years of Birds, Prairies, and People

by Theresa Pella, President

Registration for Wachiska's 50th anniversary celebration is now open through the website homepage at [www.wachiskaaudubon.org](http://www.wachiskaaudubon.org). Luncheon tickets are \$40/person and include admission for Doug Tallamy's keynote talk. The lunch caterer is Premier, and the buffet includes chicken breast lasagna, spinach alfredo, rosemary potatoes, green beans, salads, rolls and drink. Tickets to the talk-only are free, but because of limited seating, registration is necessary. Early registration for one or both is encouraged!

There is a very interesting podcast interview with Doug Tallamy at <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-poor-proles-almanac/id1523042499?i=1000621330604>.

The University of Nebraska's Innovation Campus, 2021 Transformation Drive, Lincoln NE is the site for the event. Landmarks are the intersection of Antelope Valley Drive and Salt Creek Roadway or look for the Devaney Sports Center. Parking in the paved-surface parking lot A is free. Meter parking on the streets is not.

Local independent bookstore Francie & Finch (F&F) will be assisting Tallamy during the dessert reception with book sales and signings. F&F are also selling books now in-store and online at <https://francieandfinch.indielite.org/search/site/douglas%20tallamy>. Note that 10 percent of the proceeds from each Tallamy book sale will be donated to Wachiska Audubon. If ordering online, put "Wachiska Audubon" in the checkout comments.

If you need another reason to attend the luncheon, two framed photos by local, widely well-known, and respected photographers Joel Sartore and Michael Forsberg will be raffled off during the luncheon.

In addition to Francie & Finch, Sartore, and Forsberg, event sponsors include Wild Bird Habitat Store, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Marilyn McNabb, Stock Seed Farms, Midwest Natives Nursery, Aldersgate Gardens, the Unitarian Church's Green Sanctuary Committee, LES Pollinator Program, Craddock Productions, and Green at Heart - Westminster Presbyterian Church. Many thanks to all for their support and belief in Wachiska's mission!

"Autumn is a second when every leaf is a flower."  
— Albert Camus, French author and philosopher

**"TO CHERISH WHAT REMAINS OF THE EARTH AND  
TO FOSTER ITS RENEWAL IS OUR ONLY LEGITIMATE  
HOPE OF SURVIVAL."**

— Wendell Berry

## Focus on New Laws: Managed Natural and Native Landscaping Permitted in Cities

Minnesota cities must now allow managed natural landscaping to be installed and maintained on all parcels.

Effective July 1, 2023, municipalities in Minnesota are required to allow property owners and occupants to install and maintain managed natural landscapes. Chapter 62 (HF 1830\*/SF 1426) is the omnibus state government finance bill that was signed into law on May 24, 2023. Article 3, section 9, creates a new provision of law as Minnesota Statute, section 412.925:

- Subpoint (a) requires all statutory cities or home rule charter cities to allow an owner, authorized agent, or authorized occupant of any privately owned lands or premises to install and maintain a managed natural landscape.
- Subpoint (b) states that managed natural landscapes may exceed 8 inches in height and be allowed to go to seed but must be maintained and cannot include noxious weeds.
- Subpoint (c) states that weeds and grasses that are not part of a managed natural landscape cannot exceed 8 inches in height or be allowed to go to seed. City ordinances that are not consistent with this change would not be enforceable and may need to be amended or repealed.

### Managed natural landscape defined

"Managed natural landscape" is defined as a planned, intentional, and maintained planting of native or nonnative grasses, wildflowers, forbs, ferns, shrubs, or trees, including but not limited to rain gardens, meadow vegetation, and ornamental plants. Managed natural landscapes does not include turf-grass lawns left unattended for the purpose of returning to a natural state. The bill permits landowners to maintain managed natural landscapes in excess of 8 inches in height. However, weeds or grasses that are growing on land in a city, are taller than 8 inches, have gone to seed, and are not a part of a managed natural landscape are prohibited. The law went into effect July 1, 2023, and supersedes any local regulations requiring residents to maintain a managed turf-grass lawn.

### Lawn law history

Minnesota is not the first state to pass legislation loosening local requirements with respect to residential lawns. In 2009, the Florida Legislature passed Florida Statute 373.185, establishing a definition for "Florida-friendly Landscaping" in the interest of preserving water and protecting local wetlands and waterfronts from lawn care runoff.

*(continued on page 6, column 2)*



## Our World is Burning

by Chuck Francis, Education/Outreach Committee

We wish this were hyperbole, but the facts point to current reality: Record temperatures over 110 degrees in Phoenix for over a month; over 400 fires burning in Canada and dozens in the U.S. this summer, blanketing northeastern U.S. with enough haze to close airports; record deaths due to heat in many European countries and U.S. states.

What is our response? Red states suggest new technologies, such as fusion energy and more efficient air conditioners, maintaining a polluting coal-fueled energy supply system or even ignoring the problem by claiming these are natural weather cycles. In extreme moments, they blame nonprofits for trying to raise more money by exaggerating the challenge. How can we be so blind to realities of climate change and our role in this process? "Canaries are dying" all around us, the world is changing, and we are in danger.

It seems there is growing recognition of challenges ahead. Former critics are now accepting evidence of global temperature increase. Those who promoted status quo for years now admit that change is real, but proposed solutions center on more clever technologies. Some may be appropriate in the long term, but what about here and now?

Step one is awareness of the problem, with growing consensus on both ends of the political spectrum that change is real. Step two is more difficult, our attitude toward the challenge. Again, balance is shifting toward a belief that something must be done before we reach a global "tipping point" from which there is no retreat. Step three is action, and many are still unwilling to take personal and collective responsibility to take steps toward changes in lifestyle or reductions in creature comforts. Potential changes are many, and not expensive. The premise that all changes will hurt the economy is a short-term illusion. The economy will suffer more if we do not make modifications now.

Carpooling, public transportation, better planning, and eliminating travel in individual cars could quickly ease the challenge. A 55-mph speed limit for all vehicles and incentives for electric cars could reduce our "ecological footprint." Eliminating contaminating air travel can help. Close to home, we can walk and ride bicycles, dry clothes in the sun, grow some of our own food, turn down air conditioners, open windows, turn off lights in the house. These are simple and available steps.

It's time to take global warming seriously. The challenge is real. The time to act is now. We owe this to our children. It is unrealistic to keep pushing these problems into the future. It is not feasible to expect developing countries to bear a disproportionate part of the burden when people in the North are causing the greatest impacts. We must all face this challenge as a global community, or we will all suffer along with other species which make up our complex and interdependent ecosystem.

## Belted Kingfisher

by Richard Peterson



There are 114 species of kingfishers in the world but only one, the belted kingfisher, is found across much of the United

States. Although this kingfisher lives near water, some kingfishers live in the forest, away from water and feed on invertebrates and other small prey. The smallest, the African dwarf kingfisher, is only four inches long. The belted kingfisher is three times that length. The Australian kingfisher, known as the laughing kookaburra, is the heaviest, with females weighing 18 ounces. Kingfishers are related to the motmots, bee-eaters, todies, rollers, and ground-rollers.

The belted kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) is a stocky bird with short legs and a long, heavy, black bill. They are sexually dimorphic; the females are more brightly colored, being blue-gray and white, and sport a rufous band on the upper belly. Males lack the rufous band. The belted kingfisher is about 14 inches long from the tip of the bill to the end of their squared-off tail. Their wingspan can be over 20 inches. Habitat includes streams, lakes, and bays with clear water for hunting and suitable dirt banks for nesting holes. They can be found along rivers and streams in the eastern one-quarter of Nebraska.

Before you see one of these birds you may hear what's been described as a *rattling* call as it flies over the water. They can also be seen perched high on a snag, a tree branch, post, wire, or other vantage point overlooking the water. Often hovering over water while rapidly beating their wings, they will plunge headfirst after a small fish. They also eat crayfish, frogs, tadpoles, aquatic insects, crustaceans, small mammals, and reptiles. Bones, scales, and other indigestible parts of the prey are coughed up as pellets. Belted kingfishers have excellent vision which some term as binocular vision and are thought to have good color vision; however, they have restricted movement of their eyes within the eye sockets and have to use head movements to track the movement of prey.

This avian's nest is at the end of a 3-to-6-foot-long tunnel, made in a steep or vertical dirt bank excavated by both parents. The tunnel is often sloped uphill ending in the nest chamber, usually with no nest lining but where coughed up pellets may have accumulated. Females lays 5-8 white eggs, and the parents incubate them for 22-24 days before feeding the hatchlings. The young depart the nest 27-29 days after hatching but are fed by the parents for another three weeks. In Nebraska, these birds have one brood a year. They overwinter as far north as waterways remain open or head south to Central America, the West Indies, and northern South America.

The belted kingfisher is depicted on the 1986 series Canadian \$5 bill. It has been featured on the postage stamps of 21 countries but has not yet appeared on a U.S. postage stamp.

# Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

National Audubon has issued an important report, *Birds and Transmission: Building the Grid Birds Need*, that addresses the two great needs of birds: first, to not face an unstable, dangerously heating climate, and second, to not run into wires and towers. You can find it on the National Audubon website or at <https://media.audubon.org/2023-08/BirdsAndTransmissionReport.pdf>. If you have watched the debate about the R-line in Nebraska, you may want to give it special attention.

Danger to birds from climate change was well established in Audubon's 2019 study, *Survival By Degrees*. It found that two-thirds of North American bird species will be vulnerable to extinction if temperatures continue to rise at the current rate.

The new Audubon report says, "No matter how affordable and efficient clean energy becomes, it will not work unless we can connect it to an electricity grid that can move clean energy the often long distances from high resource areas to population centers. It is clear that, to decarbonize our economy in time to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, we need to significantly upgrade the U.S. transmission grid. According to experts, the U.S. will need to add enough new transmission capacity to effectively double or even triple the transmission capacity of the current grid in order to safely and effectively connect the amounts of new renewables required to reach net-zero emissions." See also <https://www.osti.gov/biblio/1885591/>.

The report explores the best practices grounded in science on how to abate the risks of damage to the natural world from transmission. It also identifies effective bird-friendly solutions both during planning and post construction. The report says, "Designed and constructed the right way, a new grid will decrease greenhouse gas emissions; provide cheaper, more reliable energy; withstand climate threats like increasingly severe storms and wildfires; [and] minimize bird impacts from transmission lines." Within the article, Table II summarizes preconstruction and postconstruction strategies to protect birds.

There is also a discussion of needed federal actions on page 28. Write your Congressman!

The report offers an example of Audubon's contribution to transmission planning in New Mexico and Arizona and looks to a future of being "part of the conversations that speed the deployment of the many transmission projects we need to reach our climate goals while simultaneously creating a more bird-friendly grid."

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Why can't we use a lot less plastic? Or none? Here's a clue: "The petroleum industry is producing more plastic than ever, almost none of which is recycled. . . . Exxon is the largest producer of origin polymers which are derived from petrochemicals and used in plastic (*New York Times* "Climate Forward" 2-7-23).

Judith Enck, a former EPA official and founder of Beyond Plastics, argues that no amount of money could meaningfully expand plastic recycling beyond No. 1 and No. 2 bottles and jugs. Even when plastics can be reprocessed, it is more expensive than making it new (*New York Times* "Climate Forward" 9/12/23).

## In the Past Century

by Arlys Reitan

In the early days of Wachiska, there were many more tasks, committees, activities, and general fun stuff in which to participate, and there was something for everyone who enjoyed and appreciated nature.

Larry Einemann headed up the phone tree which really buzzed back in the day of no Internet, social media, or cell phones. We called one another in an organized fashion and left messages (yes, there were answering machines) when there was a rare bird alert in the area, a hearing that needed attendees at the Capitol, or a letter campaign that had to be set up and monitored to be sure the right bureaucrat was aware of our concerns. IT WORKED!! Within a few days (sometimes weeks) it was evident that Wachiskans had done their homework. National Audubon's legislative department in Washington, DC would let us know that they had been contacted from Nebraska's delegation about an issue. Many times I would receive a call from Lincoln and Omaha newspapers wanting more information or a contact for a particular issue.

For a time it seemed that Tim Knott, Kevin Poague, and I were the unofficial booth sitters. We would set up shop at any bazaar, trade show, conservation or education venue where like organizations were invited to participate. We made sure we always had a pad and pencil to take names and phone numbers of interested people for our next event. Many of those "strangers" became active, lifetime members and personal friends. One example that stands out in my memory was while Tim and I were being interviewed by KLIN downtown at the train depot (outside on a fall Saturday morning). A pick-up pulled up and Carolyn Hall leaned out the window to let us know she heard us on the radio, recognized my voice, and headed down to support the chapter.

For 15 years Wachiska held a prairie festival at Nine-Mile Prairie during September. Ernie Rousek would mow narrow paths with his tractor to enable guests to roam the prairie. Again, you'd find Tim Knott and many others leading kids and adults up and down the trails and showing them the different native plants or the burrow of a critter. Once the committee went all out and scheduled a two-day affair. About noon on Saturday, the skies darkened with a sudden downpour. Lyle Vannier and I were ticket-takers during that time and scurried under our tables to lessen the drench. A highlight was when Betsy Finch and the raptor group were to release a red-tailed hawk, Betsy handed the rehabbed bird to me! It was the first and only time I've held one so closely.

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# Field Trip to Little Salt Fork Marsh

by Tim Houghton, Leader

Join me on Saturday, October 21, for an easy walk at Little Salt Fork Marsh, a bit north of Lincoln. We'll begin at 8:30 a.m. looking for sparrows, water birds, and others. It is strongly urged that participants wear long pants and use repellent. Waterproof footwear is also advisable. Park in the lot on the north side of Raymond Road, about a half mile or so west of 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Please **REGISTER** for the trip by contacting me, preferably by email at [timhoughton@comcast.net](mailto:timhoughton@comcast.net) or by cell phone at 443-883-6886 (if email doesn't work for you).

(continued from page 3, column 2)

## Focus on New Laws

This legislation encouraged, but did not require, local government authorities to consider permitting Florida-friendly landscaping, including the use of more native plants and grasses in residential yards. Similarly, in 2021, Maryland passed House Bill 322, which prohibited homeowners' associations from imposing unreasonable limitations on low-impact landscaping.

The Minnesota bill follows the nationwide trend but expands its authority significantly by not merely encouraging the use of native plants and grasses or limiting only homeowners' associations from restricting such landscaping choices but requiring cities to allow them and setting height requirements for turf-grass surfaces.

## Next step for cities

The League of Minnesota Cities recommends that cities and their attorneys review their local codes and ordinances to determine whether they have contradictory policies on the books.

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"Wachiska, thank you for all that your organization does to support conservation efforts and care for all beings. This was my first experience with "Tour the Wild Side," and it was simply amazing and heartwarming in every way!

"Thanks to the homeowners, businesses, and volunteers for making this possible for our community. Thank you for the door prize of a Hub Café gift card, one of my favorite places when I come to Lincoln.

"I learned so much from the friendly and knowledgeable Wachiska volunteers and everyone involved. I'm excited to support and become a member of such a wonderful organization."

Sincerely, Lisa Kallhoff, Springfield, NE

## Public Officials

### **President Joe Biden**

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 Deb Fischer**

1248 O St Ste 1111, 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>

### **Senator Pete Ricketts**

139 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510  
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-4224 Fax: 202-224-5213  
E-mail at website: <http://ricketts.senate.gov>

### **Congressman Mike Flood**

301 S 13<sup>th</sup> St Ste 100, Lincoln NE 68508 (1<sup>st</sup> District)  
Lincoln phone: 402-438-1598  
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4806 Fax: 202-225-5686  
E-mail at website: <http://flood.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 Jim Pillen**

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 Leirion Gaylor Baird**

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: [councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lincoln Journal Star**

Letters to the editor, 21<sup>st</sup> and N 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_ \$25 Individual/Friend
- \_\_\_ \$35 Family Friend
- \_\_\_ \$50 Black-capped Chickadee Friend
- \_\_\_ \$100 Northern Cardinal Friend
- \_\_\_ \$250 Western Meadowlark Friend
- \_\_\_ \$500 Bald Eagle Friend
- \_\_\_ \$1,000 Peregrine Falcon Friend

Select the level of support that is right for you and make your check payable to **Wachiska Audubon Society**. All funds will 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



**American Goldfinches**

\_\_\_ **I prefer to receive my newsletter by email.**

Please note: If you are already a member of National Audubon Society (NAS) you automatically become a member of Wachiska, but not a Wachiska Friend member. Only Wachiska Friends receive the printed newsletter each month. If you wish to join NAS or receive *Audubon* magazine, please contact the National Audubon Society directly.

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Lincoln NE 68506-5643



*The Babbling Brook* is printed on recycled and recyclable paper.



## Nematodes

Last month an exhibition at the WallSpace-LNK Gallery, 1624 South 17<sup>th</sup> Street in Lincoln, featured nematodes from eight prairies in Nebraska and Antarctica, and included Wachiska's Knott Prairie. Dr. Tom Powers, a nematologist at UNL, featured the microscopic worms that play an important role in soil. The exhibition also featured several prairie photos by Wachiska Board Member Ethan Freese.



**Dr. Tom Powers and Tim Knott**

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

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

## WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2023

Executive Director..... Mark Brohman  
 Office Administrator ..... Arlys Reitan

### OFFICERS

President ..... \*Theresa Pella  
 Vice President..... \*Andrea Faas  
 Secretary ..... \*April Stevenson  
 Treasurer ..... \*Dylan Aufdenkamp

### STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large ..... \*Dakota Altman  
 Director at Large ..... \*Ann Briggs  
 Director at Large ..... \*Doug Campbell  
 Director at Large ..... \*Ethan Freese  
 Director at Large ..... \*Stu Lutich  
 Director at Large ..... \*Mercy Manzanares  
 Director at Large ..... \*Kris Powers  
 Conservation..... \*Ross Scott  
 Education/Outreach ..... \*Tim Knott

\*Denotes voting Board member

For contact information of officers and committee chairs, call the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846.

Wachiska is participating with Give Nebraska. Through a payroll deduction system, your donations will be automatically withdrawn from your paycheck. There are 75 nonprofit agencies that are beneficiaries, and more than 100 worksites participate. You can give a little bit each paycheck, and your contributions can add up. Your donations through Give Nebraska are tax deductible. Check with your employer to see if they are part of Give Nebraska.

***Wachiska Audubon Society's financial records are available for examination in the office.***

## Mission Statement of the Wachiska Audubon Society

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

## 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**.

