

*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 43rd Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2016

APRIL 2016

Volume 25 - Issue 4

General Meeting — Thursday, April 14, 7:00 p.m., Union College Dick Auditorium, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln

Farming Impacts on Wildlife in Nebraska: Agroecology in the Future

by Chuck Francis

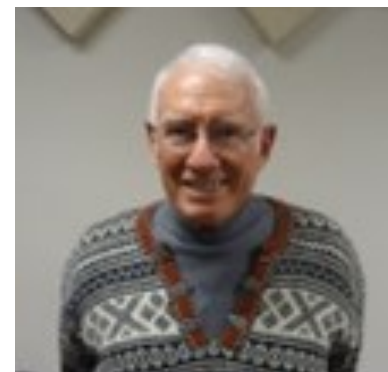
Most urban people see agriculture as a negative for wildlife, and the loss of natural habitat certainly influences populations of many wild species. Yet efficient practices today are helping wildlife in some surprising ways. We will look at both the plus and minus impacts of today's farming on wildlife at Wachiska's April general meeting.

Certainly the consolidation of fields, loss of windbreaks and farmstead plantings, and move to larger equipment all destroy many of the places where birds and other wildlife make their homes. With specialization in farming has come extensive planting of corn and soybeans. In recent years, even fields of continuous corn have become common due to short-term high prices of this commodity. One benefit is large production of dry matter in the stalks and leaves, contributing to the capture of carbon and storage in the soil. Now with anticipated lower prices and a glut of this product, there is interest in returning to crop/animal integration, alfalfa, and pastures that provide nitrogen and improve soil quality.

A major change in farming in Nebraska has been our leadership in no-tillage planting that leaves crop residues on the soil surface and preserves water lost in cultivation. The up side is grain after harvest left on top of the ground that has provided a better food supply and increased the populations of cranes and other migratory birds. There is also better habitat for ground-

nesting birds that are native to the prairie. The down side is continued use of herbicides instead of cultivation to manage weeds that compete with the crop.

Agroecology is an emerging field that researches ways to design systems that will generate their own nutrients, build on biodiversity to control pests, and work with nature rather than trying to dominate the natural ecosystem.



Chuck Francis

Successful organic farmers have found methods to produce crop yields and integrate livestock to achieve production levels nearly as high as conventional farmers. There has been limited research in this area, and in the future, this type of agriculture may be the most resilient and economically efficient because it builds on local resources and eliminates or minimizes chemical use. It is an exciting time to be in farming, and we are committed to helping the public learn more about future options with an agriculture that allows us to produce food for a growing human population while preserving a habitable environment for ourselves and other essential wildlife species.

Chuck Francis is professor of agronomy and horticulture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He teaches agroecology, organic farming, and land use courses at UNL, and agroecology: farming and food systems in Norway each year. His research centers on biodiverse farming systems, local food webs, and practical learning strategies. Chuck is a past Wachiska president and is active in our chapter's population and environment committee.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, April 14, at 7:00 p.m.** for this free public presentation in the Union College Dick Auditorium, 3800 South 48th Street, in Lincoln. Free parking is available on 48th Street and in the 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

April

- 4 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 6:00 p.m.
- 5 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 14 General Meeting, "Farming Impacts on Wildlife in Nebraska: Agroecology in the Future," by Chuck Francis, Union College, 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 23 Earth Day observance in Lincoln (page 2)
- 24 Field Trip to Table Rock WMA, 9:00 a.m. (page 2)
- 28 Legislation Committee, DaVinci's, 11th & G, 6:00 p.m.



Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Table Rock Adventure

Does exploring a picturesque 400-acre parcel of our public lands in Southeast Nebraska sound like your kind of adventure? A springtime hike at Table Rock Wildlife Management Area will showcase rolling tallgrass prairie hills, dense stands of both deciduous and cedar trees, a section along the stream, and a unique outcropping of sandstone that inspired the town of Table Rock's name. Our mile-and-a-half hike will cover a variety of terrain ranging from effortless mowed paths to more challenging unmaintained hillside deer trails. Nesting southeastern species like tufted titmice and Carolina wrens may be singing in the woodlands while hawks and sparrows might be utilizing the open grasslands.

Meet at **9:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 24**, on the south side of the State Capitol in Lincoln, at 15th and H streets across from the governor's mansion. Participants can either caravan or carpool for the 70-mile drive to Table Rock Wildlife Management Area or meet up with the group around 10:30 a.m. at the WMA's roadside parking lot on 627th Avenue. Shoes appropriate for uneven terrain and long pants for underbrush protection are recommended. Bring a water bottle, any snacks you may want, insect repellent, and binoculars if you have them. There is no fee and the public is welcome. If you have questions, call John at 402-475-7275.

Lincoln's Earth Day to be Celebrated April 23

by the Population and Environment Committee

Wachiska's population and environment (P&E) committee will again represent the chapter at Lincoln's Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 23, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Union Plaza. Highlighted will be Wachiska's role in supporting healthy prairie habitat for grassland bird species, children's books on the environment, and solar ovens to save energy.

Earth Day booth visitors will be given an opportunity to plan personal visits to eight prairies (approximately 500 acres) owned by Wachiska Audubon and managed by the chapter's conservation committee. Information regarding accessible prairie sites will be provided. Seeds and planting activities will allow children to take home prairie grasses to plant in their own yards and learn about books to read about the environment.

We have found it especially rewarding to join with children to experience their interest and excitement with hands-on activities. This year they will be able to plant grass seeds, learn about age-appropriate books from the library, decorate their own bookmarks, and ask questions about pictures of prairie plants. Many visitors of all ages are fascinated by solar-powered

ovens which will be on display, learning that it is possible to use the sun's energy to cook food outside at home.

Stop by the Wachiska booth to more fully appreciate the prairies, the books, and the ovens, and think about ways we can all reach out to the community. Even better is to join us as a volunteer! Barb Francis will welcome you and set up times if you'd like to help represent Wachiska at Lincoln Earth Day 2016. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Barb at barbfrancis8@gmail.com, or 402-483-6727.

Note: "Food Recovery" is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) theme for Earth Day 2016. Access additional information on reducing food loss and waste at <https://www.epa.gov/earthday>.

The first Earth Day and the founding of the EPA both occurred in 1970 during the administration of President Richard Nixon.

"Those who contemplate the beauty of the Earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts."

— Rachel Carson

Monarch Meeting

by Richard Peterson

The Monarch and Pollinator Conservation Summit was held February 23-24, at which I represented Wachiska Audubon. The goal of this and subsequent meetings is to build a collaborative statewide strategy to benefit monarch butterflies and other Nebraska pollinators. The 80 people in attendance met at the Embassy Suites in downtown Lincoln.

During the first morning we heard presentations by Dr. Orley Taylor, director of Monarch Watch, and on the faculty of the University of Kansas; Peter Berthelsen, director of Habitat Partnerships with Pheasants Forever; and Dr. Ted Burk on Regal Fritillaries and other pollinators from Creighton University.

That afternoon participants broke into four groups, each headed by a facilitator. We could join any group we wished depending on our interests and the ideas we had for the groups' focus. The groups were Public Lands, Private Lands, Education/Outreach/Urban Environment, and Research/Monitoring. These sessions came up with specific threats, challenges, and resource gaps. The four groups reconvened where each presented their ideas. Others not in that group could then add their ideas.

On day two, the groups listed the actions needed to address the problems outlined the previous day. Then we came together and shared our ideas and suggestions. Results were condensed into a 14-page document. The meeting planning team will meet in the near future to decide on the next course of action.

The summit ended on a positive note where the group was energized and eager to participate in the next go-round. The problem is clear; the solution, however, will involve collaboration among a wide range of groups. Stay tuned.

Walt Bagley, Co-founder of Wachiska Audubon, Passes Away

It is recognized by old-time Wachiska members that the co-founders of Wachiska Audubon in 1973 were Betsy Finch and Walt Bagley. Last month Walt passed away at the age of 99. Mark Brohman, executive director of the Nebraska Environmental Trust, offered the following comments:



Walt Bagley

"Unfortunately we lost another conservation giant recently. Walt Bagley passed away February 29. He served in WWII and Korea, taught forestry at UNL for 30 years, was a founding member of Wachiska Audubon Society, and helped establish the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and Wilderness Park. In 1992, Walt donated his 145-acre Prairie Pines farm to the University of Nebraska Foundation to be used by UNL and the public. Prairie Pines (112th and Adams streets) near Lincoln has prairie, woodlands, and crop ground. Community Crops currently operates a farmer training program on the site. Walt and his late wife, Virginia, planted over 200 species of trees on their farm as well as many native prairie grasses and forbs. The Bagleys created the first conservation easement in Nebraska."

In addition to Mark's comments above, those long-time Wachiskans will recall that Walt and Virginia started and ran the first cut-your-own Christmas tree farm shortly after settling in at Prairie Pines. Walt loved trees and could answer (or at least have a ready opinion) about any tree question one might have. Raptor Recovery had its beginning at this place. Many Wachiska picnics and walking tours took place here in the 1970s and '80s.

Walt received numerous awards including Wachiska Audubon's 1985 Earthkeeper Award for his work with trees, leadership in chapter creation and development, and conservation ethic.

A celebration of Walt's life will be held at Prairie Pines later this spring.

Backyard Garden Tour Again on Father's Day

by Anne Senkbeil, Event Chair

Wachiska Audubon's 27th annual Backyard Garden Tour will be held on June 19 from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. In keeping with our tradition, the tour will take place on Father's Day. This is a wonderful family activity that this year will feature seven beautiful gardens from the north parts of Lincoln. Included will be an experimental garden on UNL's East Campus. Mark your calendars NOW to save the date, and tell your friends to join in!

Birding Alibis

by Richard Peterson

How many times have you heard one of these? This comes from the 1959 *Audubon* magazine, Vol. 61, No.3, page 131. It was written by Edwin Way Teale.

Birding Alibis I Have Known and/or Used

"What else could it have been?"

"I was looking against the sun."

"I couldn't get my field glasses adjusted."

"It kept flying straight away from me all the time."

"If I could have heard it call..."

"My eyes began to water and I couldn't see very well."

"The strap of my glasses got tangled up just as..."

"It wouldn't hold still for a second!"

"Just when I got it in focus it flew."

"I must have been looking at a different bird."

"The wind kept blowing the branches, so I couldn't see the bird for more than a second at a time."

"If it had only turned this way!"

"This is fall. If it had only been spring..."

"I couldn't see it clearly through the curve of the windshield."

"It kept going behind that grass clump."

"I almost had it when it flew away."

"If I'd had time to check one more field mark I'd have had it!"

"You see, this bird had just had a bath..."

"I just couldn't get it in my glasses!"

"The windshield was dirty. I couldn't get a good view through it."

"It must have been a bird in immature plumage."

"If I had had the two species side by side..."

"It was preening itself so I couldn't get a good look at it."

"If I could have seen the color of its feet..."

"I forgot to take off my sunglasses. I couldn't get the colors right..."

"It must have been a hybrid!"

"The wind was blowing so hard I couldn't hold my glasses still!"

"But, what else could it be? (The last refuge of the baffled birdwatcher.) – THE END

Edwin Teale (b 1899 – d 1980) was a naturalist, photographer, and Pulitzer Prize-winning writer. In 1945, his son was killed in action in Germany. The Teales then began a series of trips across the country, in part to deal with their grief. Edwin Teale is perhaps best known for his series *The American Seasons* which documented over 75,000 miles of automobile travel across North America. He served as president of the New York Entomological Society (1944-1953), and the Thoreau Society (1953). He was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the New York Academy of Sciences and was an associate of the Royal Photographic Society. Teale is buried in North Cemetery in Hampton, Connecticut.

Birdathon Begins in April – Birdathon Weekend to be May 14-15

by Tim Knott, Coordinator

Wachiska Audubon's most important fundraising event of the year begins in April when members and friends receive their Birdathon letter. This will explain how important it is that every one of our members and supporters makes a contribution to the Birdathon, so Wachiska can continue to move forward with our education programs, active support of good legislation, great field trips, conservation of native prairies, monthly newsletter, and our general meetings with those outstanding speakers. Watch for the Birdathon letter and contribute as much as you can, but please participate at some level.

Our Birdathon birdwatching hikes will be May 14-15 and will be led by expert birders who make beginning birdwatchers feel welcome. We will follow tradition by birding Wilderness Park on Saturday and Platte River State Park on Sunday. These are among the best places to see a wide variety of birds in this area. See the May newsletter for more information.

A large number of our donors prefer the convenience of making a donation online during Give to Lincoln Day. This year Give to Lincoln Day will be Thursday, May 26. More information will be in the May newsletter, also.

Birdseed Still Available—Reserve Yours NOW

If you missed the Spring Birdseed Sale or your birds and squirrels are depleting supplies rapidly, consider reserving some of the following by calling Arlys at the office. Sales tax is included.

- 3 20-lb. bags of Classic Audubon Mix @ \$19/bag
- 4 8-lb. bags of Nyjer Thistle @ \$12/bag
- 2 High Energy Treat Suet Cakes @ \$2.50/each
- 30 Berry Treat Suet Cakes @ \$2.50/each

We didn't have as many sales this time as is often the case for the spring sale. Remember this is the time of year when bird families are forming, so consider adding to your feeders from the inventory above.

We want to thank the following workers for helping with the Spring Birdseed Sale:

Elizabeth Nelson	Bruce Wendorff
Arlys Reitan	Barb & Jan Beall
Gary Fehr	Richard Peterson
Cathy Shaner	Duane Polzien
Lana Novak	Dennis Dohner
Bill Gustafson	

Books for the Earth Stewards of the Future

by Mary King, Population and Environment Committee

From the pretty to the pedantic, there is a hope-inspiring selection of children's books with a range of environmental foci that is available through Lincoln City libraries. As Earth Day approaches, grab an engaging book—or several—for your children or grandchildren. Actually, adults would likely appreciate the messages and captivating art of the 24 selections I reviewed. Only a few follow here, but find the population and environment committee booth at the Earth Day festival April 23 for more suggestions.

On Meadow Street by Henry Cole

Caroline finds her new house in the suburbs bland, lots of mowed grass and no trees. Where is the meadow? She discovers a rogue wildflower in the yard, and her father agrees to mow around it. The flowers proliferate, a tree is planted, and a meadow grows! The book includes lovely whimsical drawings of the nature that can thrive in a suburban yard, enchanting the small and tall among us. Ages 2-5

10 Things I Can Do to Help My World by Melanie Walsh

This book, made from 100 percent recycled materials, combines a fun flap book type format with bold illustrations to expose readers to 10 simple eco-friendly routine behaviors around the house: turn off the tap when brushing your teeth, draw on both sides of your paper, walk to school, etc. The primary audience is 2-5 year olds, but accompanying factual information extends the interest to children through second grade.

Sandy's Incredible Shrinking Footprint by Femida Handy and Carole Carpenter

While visiting her grandpa who lives by the seashore, Sandy encounters disgusting litter on the beach. In the midst of her spontaneous clean up, she is confronted by an old woman who roams the shore, collecting oodles of trash along the way. The "garbage lady" introduces Sandy to the notion of her "footprint" as the "mark she leaves upon the world." This book combines simple understandable text with vibrant illustrations comprised of collages of recycled materials. Ages 6 and up

Bag in the Wind by Ted Kooser

Not surprisingly, this Nebraska poet and author has written a thought-provoking tale about something very simple, the travels of a discarded empty plastic bag. The bag is blown from the landfill to prickly plants to the hands of homeless people who value it. While fairly word dense and subtle, this book and the breezy illustrations provide opportunities for readers to think of ways to reuse resources and to be eco-friendly. Ages 9 and up

The Green Mother Goose – Saving the World One Rhyme at a Time by Jan Peck and David Davis

Mother Goose rhymes are magical and historical. In this book, favorite characters go green. Old Mother Hubbard uses a cloth shopping bag, Yankee Doodle rides in a car pool, and Jack Sprat eats fast food fat. Printed on recycled paper and illustrated with cut paper collages utilizing recyclables, Green Mother Goose is fun and educational. Ages 2-92



From the Board ...

by Lana Novak,
Membership Committee

Please consider volunteering with Wachiska Audubon by helping with something you enjoy doing. For years I'd read about Wachiska events. I was so glad to see how they were conserving the prairies. I thought I would like to join and volunteer, but being a single mom with a full-time job, yard work, and garden, it seemed I just didn't have enough time for all my interests.

A few years ago I retired and finally joined Wachiska. I have been enjoying the birding. Without these birding excursions, I might not have seen an indigo bunting, a scarlet tanager, the purple martin migrations in the center of Omaha, a saw-whet, long and short-eared owls, or a juvenile orange bellied northern harrier hawk floating over the Pioneers Park prairie. I felt I was always learning more. Walking in nearby prairies, I discovered Nebraska has ground plums, bright colored wildflowers, orchids, and many different grasses.

I had been going to Backyard Garden Tour events for years. I loved to see how creative people are with their piece of land. From flowers to wildflowers to wine themes—it was always an enjoyable time with friends and sometimes a family event for Father's Day.

Even though I enjoyed watching birds, I've never been much for feeding them, maybe because we have many squirrels and cats in my neighborhood. Instead, I have volunteered to help with birdseed sales twice a year and other small jobs in the office.

The membership committee had goals and asked if I would be willing to go the Board meetings as a member of their committee. So I agreed and have been learning more and more with every meeting I attend.

This article was written only to try and encourage more people to volunteer in whatever way sounds like something you might like to be a part. Don't wait until you retire, as I did—just get started now. Our prairies require a lot of maintenance and they are not all close to Lincoln. Our education committee, for example, would like more of our children to learn about and appreciate our prairies and wildlife. Decide what sounds most appealing to you and give it a try! Call or email the Wachiska office or approach someone whose name appears on the back of every newsletter.

Editor's Note: There is no better time to join with like-minded people by becoming a Friend of Wachiska (see application form on page 7). Then jump in as Lana explains she did to help the chapter attain the goals set by the Board and our committees. If you have a particular project or task that you'd like to work with, let it be known. There is much that can be accomplished from good ideas and a willingness to pitch in.

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

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

Native Plant Sale

The Friends of Wilderness Park, dedicated to protecting Wilderness Park and other environmentally sensitive areas, is sponsoring their annual native plant sale featuring native plant species to our area. Catalogs with beautiful hand-drawn sketches of the plants for sale and order forms will be available at the Meadowlark Coffee House and Open Harvest at 17th and South streets and the Lincoln Parks and Recreation office at 27th and A streets. Call Mary at 402-477-8282 and leave a message to order a catalog or for more information. Plant orders must be placed by April 8.

Film to Come to Lincoln Again

The Messenger is a visually thrilling ode to the beauty and importance of the imperiled songbirds and what it will mean to all of us on both a global and human level if we lose them. This award-winning documentary film will be showing at the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center, 313 North 13th Street in Lincoln, April 22 through 28. This special showing is presented by the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center, Lincoln's Wild Bird Habitat Stores, and the UNL School of Natural resources. Learn more about the film at songbirdsos.com.

Su Rynard's wide-ranging and contemplative documentary explores our deep-seated connection to birds and warns that the uncertain fate of songbirds might mirror our own fate. Moving from the northern reaches of the boreal forest to the base of Mount Ararat in Turkey to the streets of New York, *The Messenger* brings us face to face with a remarkable variety of human-made perils that have devastated thrushes, warblers, orioles, tanagers, grosbeaks, and other airborne music-makers.

Pikes Peak Birding and Nature Festival

Registration is now open for the 2nd annual Pikes Peak Birding and Nature Festival. Enjoy the birds and wildlife of Colorado's beautiful Front Range. The festival is geared to all levels of birders and has many family-oriented events offering 35 unique opportunities for participants. Twenty field trips will take you from the top of Pikes Peak to the prairie. Join an expert field trip leader for a birding experience you'll never forget. Explore the prairies, foothills, and higher elevations for a variety of birds—each species adapted to its special habitat.

To register go to www.pikespeakbirdingandnaturefestival.org. Check out all the programs, seminars, field trips, and events that will make this a special festival for you and your family.

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

In his extraordinary letter about climate change to “every person living on this planet,” Pope Francis says, “Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know—which our children will never see—because they have been lost forever. The great majority become extinct for reasons related to human activity. . . all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another. Each area is responsible for the care of this family. This will require undertaking a careful inventory of the species which it hosts, with a view to developing programs and strategies of protection with particular care for safe-guarding species heading toward extinction.”

—“On Care of Our Common Home,” paragraphs 33 and 41

Marian Langan, executive director of Audubon Nebraska, reports that a process is currently underway to refine our knowledge of habitat and the most threatened bird species in our state. One of the results will be identification of additional Important Bird Areas. Of course, National Audubon has worked on species protection for a century. “314 Species on the Brink,” the National Audubon study, shows that unless we change our fossil fuel-burning ways, half the species of North American birds can be at or near extinction by the turn of the century because of global warming.

The loss of species is the subject of a report discussed on the National Audubon website: <http://www.audubon.org/news/what-do-birds-and-bees-have-do-global-food-supply>. The report was released in February by the United Nation's Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. IPBES is an intergovernmental, international body which assesses the state of biodiversity and the ecosystem services. This study is titled “Thematic Assessment of Pollinators, Pollination, and Food Production.” The 24-page summary for policymakers is found at http://www.ipbes.net/sites/default/files/downloads/SPM_Pollinators_unedited%20advance.pdf.

More than three-quarters of the world's food crops rely, at least in part, on pollination by insects and other animals. The report finds that a growing number of pollinator species worldwide are being driven toward extinction, threatening hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of food supplies. In addition to food, pollinators contribute to crops that provide canola and palm oils, cotton and other fibers, medicines, and forage for livestock.

Climate change is one threat to pollinators, but not the only one. Changes in land use, intensive agricultural practices and pesticide use, alien invasive species, diseases, and pests are other causes, according to IPBES. The promotion of sustainable agriculture was at the top of IPBES' list of actions to protect pollinators, which would also reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fertilizer, fuel, and other farm chemicals.

Another Note from Marilyn McNabb

A blue-ribbon panel recently announced its dual goals to sustain fish and wildlife in the U.S. and to connect more Americans to the natural world. Twenty-six businesses and conservation leaders put their names to the recommendation, including CEOs of businesses serving hunting and birding, as well as representatives of Shell, Toyota, and Hess (a leader in deep-water drilling for oil). National Audubon's chair of bird conservation and public policy is a member. Others include the CEO of the National Wildlife Federation and the director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

The group spoke of accelerated extinction of species and a “conservation crisis,” but it never uttered the other “c” word: climate. The panel's purpose was to identify a new source for fish and wildlife funding. They propose that Congress dedicate up to \$1.3 billion annually in revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters. If it weren't for the greenhouse gases produced by the very energy sources targeted, this might be a good idea. It seems to me an odd dependency to cultivate.

More Friends Join Wachiska

by Joyce Vannier, Membership Chair

In the past few weeks, the following have joined our chapter as Friends of Wachiska:

Beth Coufal	Robert & Lily Hans
Theodore Browne	June Knudsen
Bruce Stephens	Marilyn McNabb
Shirley Scheer	John Yurges
Twyla & Tom Hansen	Leona & Bryson Braziel
Betty & Gail Paxton	Doug Gardels
Kayleen Angelbeck	Randy Daubert
Brian Srajhans	Ross Scott
Jane Johnson	Stan & Joan Carlson
Carla Meyer	Cliff Hollestelle
Dave Stock	Bruce & Marge Kennedy
Justin Evertson	Jami Nelson
Gladys Jones	

If you haven't become a Friend yet, please consider joining by completing the form on page 7 of this newsletter and returning it with your check to the Wachiska office.

Gifts Received in Memory of Robert Brehm

Lynne Brehm & Karl Linderholm
Jim & Laurie Brehm Haszard
Donald & Doris Sandell
Russ Eikerman
Dorothy Applebee & Susan Krause

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 at website: <http://sasse.senate.gov>

Senator Deb Fischer

440 N 8th St Ste 120, Lincoln NE 68508
Lincoln phone: 402-441-4600 Fax: 402-476-8753
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-6551 Fax: 202-228-0012
E-mail at website: <http://fischer.senate.gov>

Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (1st District)

301 S 13th St Ste 100, Lincoln NE 68508-2537
Lincoln phone: 402-438-1598
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4806 Fax: 202-225-5686
E-mail at website: <http://fortenberry.house.gov>

Congressman Brad Ashford (2nd District)

7126 Pacific St, Omaha NE 68106
Omaha phone: 402-916-5678
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4155 Fax: 202-226-5452
E-mail at website: <http://ashford.house.gov>

Congressman Adrian Smith (3rd District)

416 Valley View Dr Ste 600, Scottsbluff NE 69361
Scottsbluff phone: 308-632-3333 Fax: 308-635-3049
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-6435 Fax: 202-225-0207
E-mail at website: <http://adriansmith.house.gov>

Capitol Hill Switchboard

888-436-8427 or 202-224-3121

Governor Pete Ricketts

Capitol Bldg, PO Box 94848, Lincoln NE 68509-4848
Phone: 402-471-2244 Fax: 402-471-6031
E-mail at website: <http://governor.nebraska.gov>

State Senator _____

District ____ State Capitol, PO Box 94604, Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

State Capitol Switchboard

402-471-2311

Lancaster County Commissioners

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10th St Rm 110, Lincoln NE 68508
Phone: 402-441-7447 Fax: 402-441-6301
E-mail: commish@lancaster.ne.gov

Mayor Chris Beutler

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10th St Rm 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

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 _____

E-mail _____

- _____ \$25 Individual/Friend
- _____ \$35 Family Friend
- _____ \$50 Black-capped Chickadee Friend
- _____ \$100 Northern Cardinal Friend
- _____ \$250 Western Meadowlark Friend
- _____ \$500 Bald Eagle Friend
- _____ \$1000 Peregrine Falcon Friend

Select the level of support that is right for you and make your check payable to **Wachiska Audubon Society**. All funds remain with our local chapter and are tax deductible. Mail to:

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

_____ I prefer to receive my newsletter by email.

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



American Goldfinch family

Become a Friend of Wachiska to Continue Receiving this Newsletter

As explained in the March *Babbling Brook*, those wishing to continue receiving this newsletter in their mailbox or via email each month will need to become a Friend of Wachiska, which is a local membership category. See page 7 for the reminder.

Printing and postage costs have made this new policy necessary as financial support from National Audubon no longer sufficiently covers increases in production.

To date, 270 Auduboners have joined the ranks of Friends. The Board and chapter leaders are encouraged by this response, and It is hoped that all of you will appreciate this opportunity to support your local chapter. Again, use the form on page 7.

Thank you for your continued support of Wachiska.



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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 - 2016

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Director at Large.....	*Roxanne Smith	402-477-1319
Director at Large.....	*vacant	
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	*Tim Knott	402-483-5656
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	*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
Publicity/Public Relations.....	Jeanne Kern	402-423-0428

*Denotes Board member

OTHER ASSOCIATES

Bird Questions	Kevin Poague	402-797-2301
Facebook Coordinator	Benjamin Vogt	402-499-5851
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	Glynnis Collins	402-797-2301
Webmaster	Dan Staehr	402-440-5869

NEBirds Website

Check out the email discussion at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NEBirds> to learn of the latest sightings and interesting tales of Nebraska's most avid birders and those interested in Nebraska birds and their ecology. Posts change daily—and even more often when excitement arises. Offerings of recent sightings, questions, and new photos are all welcome.

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

A Gift to the Future

A bequest to Wachiska Audubon Society is a gift to future generations enabling our natural heritage to continue. For wills, trusts, and gifts, our legal name is **Wachiska Audubon Society**. Our Federal Tax ID number is **51-0229888**.