



*Wachiska*  
Audubon Society

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

# The Babbling Brook

Our 44th Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2017

APRIL 2017

Volume 26 - Issue 4

Awards Banquet and Potluck Dinner —Thursday, April 13, 6:15 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, Lincoln

## Changing Climate is Greatest Single Threat to Birds

by Matthew Anderson, Vice President of Climate, National Audubon Society

**O**ur changing climate looms as the single greatest threat to birds and people. According to Audubon's 2014 *Birds and Climate Change* report, 314 North American species are at increased threat of extinction unless we begin to see clean energy solutions rapidly increase. In response to this threat, Audubon seeks to mobilize the vast, centrist network of bird-loving conservationists throughout the U.S., including places like Nebraska, to create a demand for solutions while also taking those actions today that can make the biggest difference.



Matthew Anderson

Learn more about Audubon's science, its ambitious grassroots work to seek solutions, and what conservationists and bird lovers of all political stripes are doing today to make a difference for tomorrow. [You are, after all, what hope looks like to a bird!](#)

**Matthew Anderson**, vice president of climate for the National Audubon Society, will be our speaker at Wachiska's awards banquet on April 13. Matthew will be making his second trip

to Nebraska this spring, having been here in March to see the Sandhill Cranes.

Matt joined Audubon in the spring of 2013 as the executive director of Audubon Minnesota. While serving as a state director, he was one of the original four-member work group that developed Audubon's Climate Initiative. He began serving as the director of Audubon's Climate Initiative in September 2015. He brings a wealth of experience in constituency building, grassroots mobilization, campaign planning, fundraising, and program development. Matthew was able to solidify Audubon's regional relationship with Aveda and then deepen the relationship and negotiate a cause-partnership between Audubon and Aveda around addressing climate.

Matthew has a rich background working with diverse communities on climate change issues and nearly a decade of experience working with the religious community in particular. Anderson graduated from Dartmouth College with a B.A. in environmental studies and received the Downy Family Prize.

Anderson will be the guest speaker for Wachiska's awards banquet/potluck on **Thursday, April 13**. We'll begin at **6:15 p.m.** with a potluck dinner at the Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, in Lincoln where there are no steps and wheelchairs are easily accommodated. Parking is provided in the church lot with overflow parking across the street west at Pius High School. Bring family and friends along with a favorite dish or two to share and [your own table service](#). Beverages will be provided. The public is invited to this free event as long as you bring food to share for dinner; if you cannot come to eat, the program should begin around 8:00 p.m. You are welcome to drop in for the program. Throughout the evening a silent auction will be in progress, so bring your checkbook!

### Earthkeeper Award

Wachiska's Earthkeeper Award will be presented to **Marian Langan**, executive director of Audubon Nebraska. Marian has led Nebraska Audubon in numerous projects and campaigns throughout her tenure. The surprise President's Award will also be announced at this time.

### Calendar

#### April

- 3 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 6:00 p.m.
- 10 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 13 **Awards Banquet/Potluck/Silent Auction**, Unitarian Church, National Audubon speaker, **6:15 p.m.**
- 17 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 18 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Population/Environment Committee, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 22 Earth Day Celebration, Union Plaza, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (page 3)
- 23 Field Trip to Neale Woods, 8:00 a.m. (page 2)
- 27 Legislation Committee, DaVinci's, 11<sup>th</sup> & G sts, 6:00 p.m.



## Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

### Spring Hike at Neale Woods

Ranging from uplands to bottomlands, the mature forest at Neale Woods provides excellent habitat along the Missouri River corridor at the north edge of Omaha. We'll take a spring hike through both the picturesque hills and the massive old trees along the river, and keep our eyes peeled for resident Pileated Woodpeckers and early migrants such as sparrows and warblers. While this private nature preserve straddles the county line, the majority of our hike will be in Washington County.

Meet at **8:00 a.m.** on **Sunday, April 23**, on the south side of the State Capitol in Lincoln at 15th and H streets across from the governor's mansion. Participants can either caravan or carpool to our destination. Anyone preferring to meet in Omaha can join the group around 9:15 a.m. at the Krimlovsky parking lot on the east side of Road P51 next to its intersection with Road P40. Suggested items to bring include a water bottle, insect repellent, and binoculars if you have them. Admission fees are: free for Fontenelle Forest members; for non-members, \$9.50 adults, \$8.50 seniors (62+), \$7.50 child/student (2-17), and free for children under 2. The public is welcome. If you have questions, call John at 402-475-7275.

### Lincoln's People's Climate March

The Lincoln People's Climate March is scheduled for Saturday, April 29. Step off from UNL's Main Campus Student Union at 10:30 a.m. March down Centennial Mall to the Capitol. This march is expected to end by 12:30 p.m. Lincoln's march is a "sister march" to the People's Climate March scheduled in Washington, DC the same day.

### Hummingbirds Are Fascinating and Beautiful

1. Hummingbirds hear better and see farther than humans.
2. A hummer can remember every flower it visits—and knows how long it will take that flower to refill.
3. Hummingbirds are the only bird species that can fly backwards.
4. They can twist their wings 180 degrees, creating lift in both the upstroke and the downstroke.
5. They have weak feet and cannot walk very well.
6. Hummingbirds can see ultraviolet light.
7. Flight muscles make up 30 percent of their weight.
8. These tiny creatures can fly 30 mph and dive 60 mph.
9. Hummers have the highest metabolism of any animal.
10. Igor Sikorsky considered their exceptional hovering ability when developing his pioneering designs for helicopters.

## Gifts Received in Memory of Shannon Moncure

As reported last month, on February 15, active Wachiska member and chapter leader Shannon Moncure passed away. Shannon was formerly our chapter's hospitality chair before going back to school for her Ph.D. Even so, she often still assisted her mom, Cheryl Moncure, with refreshment duties. She could also be found in the Wachiska office working on various computer projects with her spouse, Gary Fehr, currently chapter president.

In remembering Shannon, many people have given memorial gifts to Wachiska recently. We wish to thank each of the following donors for remembering a dear friend in this way:

Colleen Babcock	Ruth McLaughlin
Bud & Betty Dasenbrock	Marlene & Tom Novotny
David & Lona Dearmont	Bill Oberg
Krissy Divis	Ken & Arlys Reitan
Mildred Gardner	Ernie & Audrey Rousek
Karen Houser	Bob & Cheryl Saathoff
Christopher & Stephanie Huntzman	Roxanne Smith
John Jackson & Hoainam Nguyen-Jackson	Chris, Vicki, Eli, & Ben Sommerich
Luke & Lori Jacobson	Larry & Lanette Stec
Donnie & Mary Johnson	Walt Stroup & Ellen Paparozzi
Troy & Susan Kash-Brown	Brian & Sheila Sutter
Chris & Amanda Kenney	Sam & Ida Truax
Evrett & Ruth Chantry Lunquist	Joyce & Lyle Vannier
Tyler & Denise Mainquist	Ira Zimmer

### A Must Watch—Bald Eagles at Their Best

You owe it to yourself to take two minutes to view a video of a fisherman causing a Bald Eagle feeding frenzy on a ship. Go to <http://1funny.com/fisherman-bald-eagle-feeding>. Don't be in a big hurry—give your computer a chance to load the audio and visual effects. Click on the arrow in the middle of the picture. If this link is unsuccessful, just Google "fisherman feeding bald eagles." I was able to get the video using both of these methods. Enjoy!! —*Editor*

Jessie Peck has many bald eagle friends when he walks out on the deck of this fishing boat in Dutch Harbor, Alaska, with a pan full of fresh fish. At first you see a few eagles on deck. Then the camera pans around and WOW! Dozens are perched all over the boat and flying above. As an added bonus, hear the music "Free Bird" by Lynyrd Skynyrd playing.





## From the Board ...

### Interested in Helping with Prairie Seed Collection and Related Activities?

*by Rachel Simpson, Recording Secretary and Beth Coufal, Conservation Committee*

Seed-harvesting season will be here before you know it, and Wachiska needs your help! We hope to build our pool of volunteers to prepare for expanding seed collection efforts in this and coming years. If you would like to be “in the know” when opportunities arise, email Beth to be added to the contact list: [bethngaryc@windstream.net](mailto:bethngaryc@windstream.net).

As Wachiska members know, prior to European settlement, Eastern Nebraska supported vast expanses of tallgrass prairie. Today tallgrass prairies prevail mostly as tiny remnants. Restoring prairies to the landscape necessitates lots of plant seed requiring lots of hands to collect! Local ecotype seeds (seeds from plants adapted to local conditions) are especially prized. Seeds from a number of wildflowers are sold to raise funds for Wachiska’s prairie management. Last year volunteers raised \$500 from seeds they collected on a Wachiska prairie.

Seed collecting presents a unique opportunity to learn about the natural history of these rare landscapes while helping restore and preserve them for future generations. It is an easy, fun experience for people of all ages. This is also a great way to learn to identify prairie plants.

If you belong to an organization or group which might be interested in participating, we would appreciate if you would add your name to our contact list so you can share invitations with your group.

Wachiska has ongoing prairie management duties. Opportunities to assist with other activities that arise will also be posted on the Wachiska Prairie Volunteer Opportunities email list. Join us!

### National Audubon Members

If you have questions concerning your membership in the National Audubon Society, want to receive fewer renewal notices, or to discontinue receiving *Audubon* magazine in the mail, etc., try this toll-free telephone number: 1-844-428-3826. It is our understanding that members can now choose between several options to tailor their needs.

*“Every flower is a soul blossoming in nature.”*  
-- Gerard de Nerval

## Volunteers Needed for Lincoln’s Earth Day Observance

*by Colleen Babcock, Chair  
Population/Environment Committee*

Earth Day Lincoln will be celebrated on Saturday, April 22, at Union Plaza from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Wachiska’s population and environment committee will again represent the chapter. Visitors to Wachiska’s booth will have the opportunity to build bee houses to help support local bee populations. The bee houses will be easy to build and install and are the simplest of many models of bee houses.

This activity complements Duane Hovorka’s “Monarch Miracles” presentation at Wachiska’s March general meeting. In addition to food provided by pollinator gardens, some species of bees benefit from shelter/nesting sites provided by bee houses.

Stop by the Wachiska booth to build a home for bees and access information about Nebraska bees, bees in general, and prairie habitat owned/managed by Wachiska Audubon.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Barb at [barbfrancis8@gmail.com](mailto:barbfrancis8@gmail.com) or 402-483-6727, or Colleen at [cbabcock@windstream.net](mailto:cbabcock@windstream.net).

### Wachiska's Latest New Friends

*by Jami Nelson, Membership Chair*

Wachiska is happy to welcome the following new members to our chapter who have either joined as new Friends or rejoined after an absence:

Ed & Madalyn Allen	Michelle Johnson
Leona Andes	Sandy Lewis
Larry & Kendra Angle	Bill & Wilma McCamley
Kathy Barber	Geraldine Meyer
Pat Bennett	Dale & Sharon Nielsen
Liz Conley	Robert & Nancy Sorensen
Bernie & Kim Egenberger	Julie Thornburg
Elaine Hiatt	Melinda Varley

These are new memberships between January 1 and March 15, so if you believe your name has been left off the list, please notify the Wachiska office and we'll check our records. We encourage you to participate in some chapter activities related to your interest in birds and the natural world. There are opportunities to participate in field trips, monthly programs, and special events, as well as volunteering to serve on any of our committees listed on the back of *The Babbling Brook*.

For those who are not members of Wachiska but are reading this issue of *The Babbling Brook*, you can become a Friend of Wachiska by completing the form on page 7 and mailing it with your check to the Wachiska office. Thanks to everyone who currently supports our chapter.

## Wachiska's Birdathon Fundraiser Begins April 1

by Tim Knott, Birdathon Campaign Organizer

It's that time of year when things begin to green up. The grass starts growing, the trees begin to leaf out, and so it's natural to expect that Wachiska's bank account should begin to green up, too. But, of course, it doesn't just happen; that depends on you and Wachiska's other friends and supporters. We need your donations to the **Birdathon** so Wachiska can continue to grow, bloom, and produce accomplishments in 2017. You and all our members play a vital role in the success of Wachiska's programs and activities each year.

Keep your eyes open for the annual Birdathon appeal letter the beginning of April. The Birdathon is our one official fund drive of the year, and we count on your continued generosity to pay for our office and overhead, our insurance, and other ongoing expenses as well as our education and conservation programs. Please be as generous as you can and send your gift directly to the office in the envelope which will be provided.

Wachiska will be participating in **Give to Lincoln Day** again. This occurs during our Birdathon time, so it gives donors a choice in the method they prefer to use. This is an easy way to donate online to Wachiska at the same time you are giving to other local nonprofits on May 18. Give to Lincoln Day is sponsored by the Lincoln Community Foundation. This year Firespring, a local web host, will be handling the online processing transactions. The fee will be 2.9 percent, much less than previously. Again this year, all participating nonprofits will be eligible for a portion of a \$350,000 challenge match fund.



**Chestnut-sided Warbler**

If you are planning to ear-mark your donation to go to Wachiska's dedicated Prairie Management Fund at the Lincoln Community Foundation rather than Wachiska's general fund, be



**Scarlet Tanager**

sure to make a note of that fact on your check or on your donation page.

Plan to participate in our **Birdathon Weekend Birding Hikes**, too. We often see birds that many birders may never have seen such as Scarlet Tanagers, Chestnut-sided

Warblers, or a family of Cooper's Hawks. This year our Saturday hike will be at Wilderness Park's 14<sup>th</sup> Street entrance at 8:00 a.m. on May 13. Our Sunday hike at Platte River State Park (meet at the observation tower) will begin at 8:00 a.m. on May 14. More details next month.

## Fallen

by Nancy Gergen Savery,  
Platte River, West of Doniphan

*I saw the driver of a tan van  
climb out by a shallow ditch  
at the edge of a graying stubble field.*

*Moments later I stood beside him,  
watched him gently touch  
with wonder and sorrow  
a dying Sandhill Crane.*

*"Poor thing must've hit  
that power line just above us,"  
he gestured and  
walked silently back to his van.*

*I stood beside her, her dark  
legs still moving slowly  
in helpless sockets,  
breast upturned, injured neck skewed.*

*Her eyes were already closing.*

*The grayish-rust plumage  
of her breast feathers scalloped  
in a delicately layered lace  
and I stroked her helplessly,  
feeling the life forces ebb.*

*In awe I carefully stretched out a  
powerful wing, a last effort  
to urge her skyward,  
this wing that had beat in graceful  
agile flight over thousands of miles,  
had carried her over fields and towns  
following the ancient flight path  
of her species.*

*I searched the sky,  
knowing a life-long mate or parents  
would search the sandbars for her tonight,  
would call out in loneliness.*

\* \* \* \*

*A final pat of her feathers  
reminded me of the **fragility** of life  
and the **finality** of death,  
even more so on this Easter eve  
of the life-death cycle and the carrying onward  
of all followers.*

*And as I later heard her kind fly overhead  
returning to the river of their destination,*

*the spirit of the fallen one  
once again rose  
and flew.*



# Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

## “Climate Solutions Don’t Have a Party”

That was the headline announcing Audubon’s response to a proposal from the Climate Leadership Council for a revenue-neutral carbon tax as a way to stabilize climate. The plan was brought by some of the most experienced leaders of the Republican Party. They included two former secretaries of the treasury, James Baker and Henry Paulson, two former secretaries of state, George P. Shultz and James A. Baker, and two well-known Harvard economics professors, Martin Feldstein, and N. Gregory Mankiw, who served as Chair of the President’s Council of Economic Advisors.

Audubon President and CEO David Yarnold said that the fact that climate solutions don’t have a party was shown “when Republican leaders proposed a robust market-based plan for reducing greenhouse gas pollution. It’s a serious and thoughtful idea that Republicans have talked about for years, and we applaud the courage and conviction the Climate Leadership Council showed today. It could be a game-changer.”

Named a “carbon dividends” plan, it would place a fee at the mine, well, or port (upstream) for coal, oil, and gas and distribute the “dividends” collected to everyone with a Social Security number [<https://www.clcouncil.org/>]. The prices of gas and electricity would rise, but about 70 percent of Americans would come out ahead and the other 30 percent could more easily afford rising prices. A similar plan has been endorsed by the new CEO of ExxonMobil and the CEO of Royal Dutch Shell, the first and the second largest publicly-traded oil companies in the world. Audubon in Washington State worked for a comparable state level ballot initiative this fall. A similar national plan is promoted by Citizens’ Climate Lobby, a grassroots group.

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### We Do Know for Sure, Mr. Pruitt: It’s Us

Having largely evaded the question in his confirmation hearing, the new head of the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt, announced in March his opinion that human activity is not “a primary contributor to the global warming that we see.” In response, Audubon’s climate change editor, Hannah Waters, wrote a clear, succinct, and balanced survey of the issue titled “An Open Letter to Scott Pruitt, Denier of Basic Science.” You can find it on National Audubon’s website at [audubon.org](http://audubon.org).

Here is the heart of Hannah Waters’ explanation:

“There is, in fact, ample evidence that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases unleashed by fossil fuel-powered humans are warming the planet. Back in the 1800s, scientists calculated that our planet should be colder than it is, considering its distance from the sun. They hypothesized that our atmosphere must contain some sort of insulation that traps heat and maintains a temperature toasty enough for life.

“By the mid-1800s, they identified water vapor and carbon dioxide as potential heat-absorbing insulators and, by 1900, recognized that burning fossil fuels could increase their concentrations enough to warm the planet. Throughout the 1900s, we went ahead and combusted enough coal, oil, and gas to test this great hypothesis.

“Just as those 19th-century scientists predicted, a more carbonated atmosphere caused the Earth’s temperature to rise. We know the insulating carbon pollution comes from our energy sources because fossil fuel-based carbon carries a certain signature—a human signature—which increased in the atmosphere alongside our emissions. We know the same carbon pollution traps heat in the atmosphere, too; satellite measurements show that as insulating carbon pollution builds up in our atmosphere, less heat escapes to space. Thousands of observations and experiments performed by scientists around the world confirm these results.”

Waters acknowledges that honest debate can be had about how fast we need to reduce or eliminate burning fossil fuels. But the basic science is not in doubt.

## SCPAC Events for April

by Jason St. Sauver, Community Education Director

With the arrival of April, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center has tons of things happening to welcome in the spring season and the birds back from migration. Space is limited for all classes below, so register by calling 402-797-2301 or [scp@audubon.org](mailto:scp@audubon.org).

Discovery Leader Training – Monday, April 17, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. This training is open to the public and helps the center find and train volunteers to help facilitate our spring field trips for local schoolchildren.

Third Tuesday Bird Walks – Tuesday, April 18, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Starting in April and running through October, we’ll be offering free, guided morning bird walks. This month we’ll be looking and listening for the return of migratory friends like Brown Thrashers and Grasshopper Sparrows.

Words 4 Birds! – Sunday, April 23, 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. To celebrate National Poetry Month, join us and Nebraska poets Sarah McKinstry-Brown and Matt Mason for this family-fun event. In the morning there will be poetry writing workshops, one for adults and one for kids. Following a bring-your-own-lunch picnic, we’ll end with readings by the poets. Free admission, donations welcome.

We hope to see you in April for one or all of these programs at Spring Creek Prairie. Happy birding!

## Black Tuesday

by Richard Peterson

For those who voted for Trump, this is your reward. Many of his cabinet officers chosen to lead our nation to “greatness” are suspect at best. The impact they will have on the environmental movement and the mission of Wachiska is a real concern. Three in his cabinet will advocate policies that will undermine the strides we've made in recent years.

Scott Pruitt will lead the Environmental Protection Agency. The former Oklahoma attorney general has for six years repeatedly sued the EPA over its efforts to regulate mercury, smog, and other forms of pollution. He believes the EPA has overstepped its authority, hampering the fossil fuel industry with unnecessary regulations. At the core of what Pruitt and the conservatives believe is that the states, not the federal government, should regulate their own environment. One group said that he would “restore the balance” to environmental regulation. To be clear, the “balance” for them is when big business and the oil and coal industries have a free hand in driving their own agendas. Environmental groups are gearing up to oppose him and are eager to litigate over any rollback of existing regulations.

Rick Perry, the former governor of Texas, will head up the Department of Energy. Rick ran for president in 2011. Once he said he wanted to eliminate the very department he will be leading. He is another of the oil boys—you remember the group that surrounded George H. W. Bush. Perry supports extraction and drilling. The future of clean alternative energy sources is in jeopardy. In truth, the large majority of what his department does is play a leading role in designing nuclear weapons, limiting their proliferation, and insuring the safety of our nuclear arsenal. The last two energy secretaries were Ernest J. Moniz of M.I.T. and Steven Chu of Stanford. Both obtained doctorates in physics, had academic credentials, and the latter received a Nobel Prize. Will Perry's bachelor's degree in animal science from Texas A&M serve him well in his new position?

Ryan Zinke heads the Department of the Interior. A first-term Montana congressman, he's a westerner, but not like us. A recent article in the Lincoln *Journal Star* suggested that Zinke and Theodore Roosevelt were peas in a pod. Their love of horses was where the comparison ends. His appeal to Republicans is that he believes federal regulations on the extraction of coal, natural gas, and minerals on public land hurt corporate revenue and profits. Conservation groups suspect that the Endangered Species Act could be on the chopping block. His supporters believe the act impedes land management plans, housing development, and grazing access. He and Trump have in the past agreed to keep federal land—but for what purpose? Should we believe what they've said?

How many times before an election have we heard: “guess I'll vote for the lesser of two evils” or “one party is just as bad as the other”? Then there is the issue of low voter turnout which seems to be an American tradition. For those of you who did not vote, the Trump administration is the result. The next four years will be a trying time for America and its role in the world.



## Yampa Valley Crane Festival 2017

The Colorado Crane Conservation Coalition would like your help in spreading the word about the annual Yampa Valley Crane Festival taking place this year August 31-September 3.

The mission of the organization and the crane festival is to educate the public about the Greater Sandhill Cranes that breed and stage in Northwest Colorado and to promote conservation of their habitat.

The festival is a four-day event featuring guided crane viewings, nature and bird walks, expert speakers, films, crane and bird art, workshops, children's activities, a live raptor booth presented by HawkQuest, ranch tours, a community barbecue at The Nature Conservancy's Carpenter Ranch, and more. This year's keynote speaker will be George Archibald, co-founder of the International Crane Foundation. Other talks will be presented by crane experts and photographers Sandra Noll and Erv Nichols along with Ted Floyd, editor of *Birding* magazine. Questions: [coloradocranes@gmail.com](mailto:coloradocranes@gmail.com).

## Don't Let Congress Gut the Endangered Species Act

Congress is moving quickly to dismantle the Endangered Species Act (ESA), America's strongest and most important law for protecting our wildlife.

The ESA has a proven track record of success in providing a safety net that protects our most vulnerable wildlife. It has prevented 99 percent of the species under its care from going extinct, including America's national symbol, the Bald Eagle. We should allow this critical law to continue to protect wildlife for future generations—not undermine it.

Ask Members of Congress to oppose efforts to weaken the Endangered Species Act. (See page 7 for contact information for our public officials in Washington, DC.) It seems to be most beneficial to contact their local offices which you can do via phone or email; but you can also contact their DC offices, if that is your preference. Emails go directly to their offices or staff. Always try to leave your name and the fact that you are a constituent of that senator or representative.

## 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: 308-632-3333 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 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 208, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**

## Members Recycle Cans for Wachiska

Thanks to all members and friends who are recycling aluminum cans at A-Can Recycling Center, 3255 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, in Lincoln.

The new owners have set up an account for Wachiska whereby anyone can bring in their cans and specify that the proceeds should be credited to the Wachiska Audubon account.

Stop in Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Please call the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846 if you have questions.

Recycling aluminum cans saves 95 percent of the energy used to make them from virgin material.



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



**Wachiska Audubon Society**  
**4547 Calvert St Ste 10**  
**Lincoln NE 68506-5643**

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## WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2017

### OFFICERS

President.....	*Gary Fehr.....	402-570-4382
Vice President.....	*Stu Luttich (Geneva).....	402-759-3597
Recording Secretary .....	*Rachel Simpson.....	402-742-7991
Treasurer .....	*Bill Gustafson.....	402-488-1585
Immediate Past President.....	*Jessi Umberger (Otoe).....	402-580-3057

### STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large.....	*Lana Novak .....	402-475-8693
Director at Large.....	*Richard Peterson .....	402-489-2996
Director at Large.....	*Roxanne Smith .....	402-477-1319
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Education .....	Sue Kohles (Palmyra).....	402-780-5558
	*Tim Knott.....	402-483-5656
Field Trips.....	John Carlini .....	402-475-7275
	*Ken Reitan .....	402-423-3540
Hospitality.....	Cheryl Moncure.....	402-488-0036
Legislation .....	Bruce Kennedy (Malcolm).....	402-796-2114
	*Sam Truax .....	402-325-9012
Membership .....	*Jami Nelson .....	402-488-1598
Monthly Programs/General Meetings .....	Arlys Reitan .....	WAS office 402-486-4846
Newsletter Editor.....	Arlys Reitan .....	WAS office 402-486-4846
Population/Environment.....	*Colleen Babcock .....	308-850-0445
Publicity/Public Relations.....	Jeanne Kern .....	402-423-0428

\*Denotes Board member

### OTHER ASSOCIATES

Bird Questions .....	Kevin Poague .....	402-797-2301
Facebook Coordinator .....	Benjamin Vogt .....	402-499-5851
Raptor Recovery .....	Betsy Finch (Elmwood).....	402-994-2009
Interim Executive Director Audubon Nebraska .....	Bill Taddicken .....	308-468-5282
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Director .....	Glynnis Collins .....	402-797-2301
Webmaster .....	Dan Staehr .....	402-440-5869

## NEBirds Website

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

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

## A Gift to the Future

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