



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 46th Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2019

MAY 2019

Volume 28 - Issue 5

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

The Missouri River: A Floodplain Habitat Update

by Scott Luedtke, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Historically, the Missouri River has provided highly diverse and ever-changing habitats supporting an abundance of fish and wildlife species. Changes to the river and its floodplain have been occurring for over 150 years in an effort to make the river more reliable for economic purposes. Efforts to stabilize the river have been successful at times but have also failed catastrophically at other times.



Scott Luedtke with Pallid Sturgeon

More recently there has been a recognition that the resulting changes to the river and its floodplain have caused significant reductions to various fish and wildlife populations. At the same time, there have been recurring social impacts and costs from multiple flood events. Impacted landowners have been provided with habitat program options by a collaboration of federal, state, and non-governmental organizations as an alternative to the economic impacts of continued flooding.

When landowners choose to enroll in these programs, differing habitats are created based on the program, existing habitat components of the site, and the site's relationship to the river and its floodplain. During this Wachiska program, examples of Nebraska habitat recovery projects will be presented along with habitat benefits.

While flood risk continues to be a reality of land ownership in the Missouri Valley, some of the program options discussed have been limited more recently. There is still need for these large-scale programs that have the potential to provide landowner options and long-term social benefits, including reducing social costs associated with disaster payments, increasing recreational access, and cumulative habitat benefits. Future direction of these programs will be discussed.

Scott Luedtke is a district manager with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, working in Southeast Nebraska. He has a bachelor's degree in natural resources with a wildlife emphasis. Scott was hired in 1988 as a habitat manager for public lands and transitioned to his current role in 1995, focusing on private lands habitat programs and interagency habitat initiatives. He has been involved with Missouri River floodplain habitat development and management issues since that time.

Scott Luedtke will speak to Wachiska Audubon at **7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 9**, at Lincoln's Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street. Free parking is available in the church lot with overflow parking in the Pius High School lot across the street to the west. There is easy access to the church with no steps and plenty of space for visiting with the speaker and mingling with friends while enjoying refreshments after the program. Bring family, friends, and colleagues to this free public presentation.

"Green is the prime color of the world, and that from which its loveliness arises."

— Pedro Calderon de la Barca

Calendar

May

- 9 General Meeting, Missouri River Update by NGPC's Scott Luedtke, Unitarian Church, 7:00 p.m.
- 11-12 BIRDATHON WEEKEND** (pages 2, 3)
- 11 Field Trip to Platte River State Park, 8:00 a.m. (page 2)
- 12 Field Trip to Branched Oak Lake SRA, 8:00 a.m. (page 2)
- 13 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 14 Finance Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 21 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 23 Legislation Committee, DaVinci's, 11th & G sts., 6:00 p.m.
- 30 GIVE TO LINCOLN DAY** (page 3)



Field Trips

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Birdathon + Mother's Day Weekend = Mother Nature Celebrations

Mother Nature is certainly deserving of some spring festivities, and Birdathon weekend events are a great way to celebrate everybody's mother without even having to purchase a greeting card. Wachiska's annual Birdathon fundraiser provides an opportunity for all bird lovers to contribute their observations during a weekend-long treasure hunt to accumulate the maximum number of species for donation pledges based on our collective species total. Field trips on both Saturday and Sunday will feature favorite birding hotspots with a diversity of quality habitat that can broaden our group species list. Recommended items for field trips are water bottle, insect repellent, and binoculars if you have them; additionally, birders in attendance at Branched Oak Lake are encouraged to bring a spotting scope if they have one. The public is welcome. Anyone wanting to share their personal May 11 and 12 species observations for Wachiska's Southeast Nebraska region can send their list to office@WachiskAudubon.org to increase the Birdathon species total. Questions, call John at 402-475-7275.

Platte River State Park – Saturday, May 11, 8:00 a.m.

There's a couple of reasons why this state park is a special place for birds and birders. Mature oak trees in a closed-canopy forest attract both summer and scarlet tanagers, and a unique perennial headwater stream is irresistible to nesting Louisiana waterthrushes as well as a delightful list of bathers ranging from Kentucky warblers to tufted titmice. Our hike will start at the observation tower and follow Stone Creek. We'll meet in the parking lot by the observation tower and Scott Lodge restaurant. From I-80 turn south at exit #426 and follow Road N-66 past South Bend to the park entrance. Road work is in progress between South Bend and Road N-50 so allow additional travel time in case a pilot car causes a delay. A state park vehicle permit is required; a daily pass is available for \$6/vehicle.



Tufted Titmouse

Branched Oak Lake State Recreation Area – Sunday, May 12, 8:00 a.m.

This lake is one of those locales that always yields great waterbirds even if they're not what one is looking for. The numerous bays are a popular stopover for springtime migrants like egrets, pelicans, and cormorants with sometimes even a single Neotropic cormorant shrimp tagging along with the double-crested. The lake is located northwest of Lincoln, and we'll meet in the Area 14 parking lot at the southeast corner of the lake and dam, just north of the intersection of Northwest Crouse Road and West Raymond Road. A state park vehicle entry permit is required; a daily pass is available for \$6/vehicle.

Mire

by Richard Peterson

Feeling a bit mired down by the national news? All this talk of “draining the swamp”? We need to identify the swamp. We're bogged down for sure, but there is a way out of this mire. I'm not sure this column will help clarify our national predicament, but let's see if we can get headed in the right direction and get through the confusing terminology.

A “mire” is a type of wetland. There are four types of mire: bog, fen, marsh, and swamp. All types by definition must be actively forming peat which is an accumulation of dead plant material.

Bog – These obtain most of their water from rainfall. Bogs are acidic and nutrient poor. The dead plants are often mosses—in particular, the genus *Sphagnum*. Sedges are one of the most common herbaceous species present. Other plants include sundews (*Drasera*) and pitcher plants (*Sarracenia*). Water flowing out of a bog has a characteristic brown color from the dissolved peat tannins. Bogs can be classified by their location in the landscape. Types can include valley bog, raised bog, blanket bog, quaking bog, and cataract bog. In addition, these types can be classified by the nutrient content of the peat: eutrophic, mesotrophic, or oligotrophic.

Fen – Fens are typically located on a slope or depression and get most of their water from mineral-rich surface water, groundwater, and, to a lesser extent, rain. They may be slightly acidic, neutral, or alkaline. Fens occur along large lakes and rivers when seasonal changes in water level maintain wet soils with few woody plants. Fens have a high diversity of plants including the genera *Carex*, *Potentilla*, *Pogonia*, and carnivorous plants such as the genus *Pinguicula*.

Marsh – Here we have wetlands with vegetation rooted in mineral soil. They are dominated by herbaceous rather than woody species and are often found on the edges of lakes and streams where they form a transition between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Marshes are often dominated by grasses, rushes, and reeds. Plants must be able to survive in wet mud with low oxygen levels. Examples include cattails, sedges, papyrus, and sawgrass. Types of marshes include salt marsh, freshwater marsh, freshwater tidal, prairie pothole, and riverine wetland.

Swamp – Swamps are characterized by their forest canopy and where the water is typically of higher pH and with more nutrient availability than, say, a bog. The two types of swamps are “true” or swamp forests and “transitional” or shrub swamps. The water of a swamp may be fresh, brackish, or saltwater. Many swamps occur along large rivers where they are dependent on natural water fluctuations. The Atchafalaya Swamp at the lower end of the Mississippi River is the largest swamp in the U.S.

Explore online the new words underlined above to learn more about our wetlands. Help preserve our heritage.

Birdathon 2019 – Wachiska’s 32nd Birdathon

by Tim Knott, Birdathon Guru

May is the biggest month for our chapter’s yearly fundraiser, the Birdathon. This is not only because contributing directly to Wachiska Audubon is important and fresh in everybody’s mind and our popular bird walks are scheduled for May 11 and 12 (field trips, page 2), but a most important event, Give to Lincoln Day, sponsored by the Lincoln Community Foundation, is scheduled for May 30.

When Wachiska members and friends donate online at the Give to Lincoln Day website, they have the opportunity to increase their gift significantly. Donations will be partially matched with money from a \$450,000 Give to Lincoln Day matching fund. All these funds will then become part of Wachiska’s Birdathon.



Donors can contribute online any time during May by googling the Give to Lincoln Day website and finding the Wachiska Audubon webpage. You can also mail or hand-deliver your check to the Wachiska office, and we will personally deliver it to the Foundation’s office on May 30. If you contribute by check, please make your check payable to LINCOLN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION and write “Wachiska Audubon” on the memo line. Any other configurations will disqualify Wachiska from the matching fund distribution.

These donations and the matching money are a very important part of our annual fundraising efforts. Regular Birdathon donations are welcome at any time. Be a regular donor to Wachiska’s annual Birdathon. It is the fundraiser that makes all our special activities, educational programs, prairie preservation, and legislative advocacy possible. When everyone donates their share, you can be confident the funds will be well spent, and you can be proud that you are making a difference in the protection of birds, prairies, and Nebraska’s natural heritage.

Watch for Follow-up Meeting of PCRC Later this Summer

The second meeting of the Prairie Conservation Review Committee originally scheduled for May 15 at Gere Library has been changed due to the number of tasks needing to be fulfilled prior to that meeting. The follow-up meeting is now scheduled for Wednesday, September 11, at 6:00 p.m. at the same location. Gere Library is scheduled to be closed for repairs during August. About 18 people attended the first meeting and will receive a reminder email sometime in August. All Wachiska members are welcome to join this group at that time.

What is a Citizen Scientist and Do You Qualify?

Merriam-Webster dictionary defines citizen as “a civilian as distinguished from a specialized servant of the state.” The same source defines scientist as “a person learned in science and especially natural science: a scientific investigator.”

Do you participate in bird surveys or grow plants? Are you interested in butterfly migrations or enjoy watching movies? If you answer “yes” to similar questions, you qualify to be a Citizen Scientist. Work can be done in the comfort of your home as well as out in the field—it’s your choice.

The term Citizen Scientist has been in use for several years and simply refers to individuals who gather data or interpret existing data and record results in a central location. One opportunity recently rolled out by NET and PBS is called Nature: American Spring LIVE. The effort focuses on six projects, including “Track a Lilac” and “Bird Cams Lab.” Neither mandates a minimum of time for the citizen scientist, only that he/she has access to a computer and Internet service. Observations will help professional scientists enhance research and knowledge for public interest. For more info, go to <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/american-spring-live/>.

Another project that has been in place for a few years is “inaturalist.” It allows you to share your observations in one place that is accessible for scientists and the public. There are experts who can help with identification difficulties, so you don’t need to be “the subject expert.” Refer to <https://www.inaturalist.org/>.

The Master Naturalist Program has about 400 members and many of them do citizen science projects. Every time a Wachiskan goes on a bird walk and enters information in ebird, that is citizen science. Beyond that there are several organized citizen science projects. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission asks folks to watch for spotted skunks, do monarch tagging, compile salamander surveys, etc. Breeding bird survey monitoring routes are organized by the U.S. Geological Survey. National Audubon sponsors Climate Watch.

These are just a few options; there are others. The objective is to find some piece of the natural world that interests you and then do research of your own regarding how you can contribute to science. We’ll all be better off for your efforts! If YOU are interested in working with such a project, let Arlys know and we’ll see if we can get a group together; of course, you can certainly work on your own, too. We would be interested to know how many projects are being done so we might publish a list in a future newsletter.

Editor’s Note: The above was contributed by Theresa Pella, Lana Novak, and Kristal Stoner.

30th Annual Backyard Garden Tour on Father's Day

by Ann Renli, Garden Tour Committee

Don't miss Wachiska's annual Backyard Garden Tour to be held again on Father's Day, Sunday, June 16. This will be the 30th year our chapter has featured Lincoln area gardens. Many of them are planted for wildlife needs and human pleasure. Our committee works year-round to identify yards that create color, habitat, food, water, and shade for our wildlife friends. Plan to come and share in this celebration and fundraiser. Gardens will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Father's Day, so include the entire family for this event. Watch next month's newsletter for locations, directions, and more details. But mark your calendars to save the date now!

Please let Anne Senkbeil know ASAP if you can help that day. Call or email Anne at 402-423-524 or asenkbe@lps.org. Thank you. Hope to see you all on Father's Day.

May Programs at Spring Creek Prairie

by Kevin Poague

Super Bird Saturday, May 11— Four great programs!

Birds & Bites, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Enjoy a guided bird walk with donuts at the end. \$2/suggested donation.

Family Bird Fair, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 pm. Festival of bird games, a kids' bird walk, bird crafts, and more for the whole family. Free admission.

Book Signing, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Paul Johnsgard will sign copies of his new Spring Creek Prairie book which will be available for purchase.

Birds & Brews, 2:30-4:00 p.m. Join us and Zipline for happy hour on the prairie and hear about how birds got their crazy names. \$15/adult.

Third Tuesday Bird Walk – Tuesday, May 21, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. Join us for a leisurely stroll through the prairie with an expert bird guide. Tuesdays are always free admission! Registration preferred (free bird walks each third Tuesday through October).

Birds & Brews @ The Happy Raven – Wednesday, May 22, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Great brews will be on tap, and Jason "the Birdnerd" will present general bird trivia and prep guests for an all-bird-themed Trivia Night at the Raven on June 3. Free admission.

Check out full details of these and other programs at springcreekprairie.audubon.org. Register at 402-797-2301; scp@audubon.org.

What's the True Meaning of Pura Vida?

by Elizabeth Nelson

My husband and I were fortunate to spend time in Costa Rica this past winter, and I'd like to share one of my favorite bird experiences. Early one morning, swimming in calm Samara Bay (ok, not really swimming, but deep-water stretching with my head up so I could watch the birds), I was joined by a single pelican circling in my vicinity, head cocked, looking for fish. As she spied a glint in the water, she lowered her beak and dived, wings slightly open to limit the dive's depth, never submerging totally beneath the water. After the dive, she settled on the surface, shaking the water from her feathers, gular bulging with fish and a gallon or more of water. Several times she was so close I could see the fish wiggling in her gular before she raised her beak, draining the water, sliding the fish into her stomach. I wondered what the still wriggling fish felt at the sudden change of environment. She fished around me the entire time I swam, about 40 minutes. I swear she was showing off for me, catching my eye as she circled, looking proud each time she swept up a fish and seemingly slightly embarrassed when she missed, peering sideways like "so, how did that one get away?"

Later in my swim, two terns began fishing as well—streamlined white bodies tipped in black, brilliant maize-yellow bills, smoothly gliding 15 feet above the surface, eyes turning side to side to look for the smaller fish. When a fish was spotted, the entire attitude of the tern changed from the smooth glide to short, rapid wing bursts best described as helicoptering. The tern virtually froze its position in space, head and beak pointed strait down, wings rapidly helicoptering till he collapsed into a vertical bullet targeting the small silver glint. A quick splash and he returned to the air, a bright slit of silver captured in his beak if the strike was successful. It is a joy to watch these acrobats.

This was our fourth winter in the little village of Samara on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica. The beach was as beautiful as ever, and it is lovely being among a community of like-minded souls who lift our spirits. But there are more people and cars than in years past. A new larger supermarket is now in town. Many roads have been repaired, so it is smooth sailing from the airport to the coast, and the dirt roads between beaches are no longer the teeth-rattling washboards of the past. The beaches hold more visitors, multiple homes are under construction, and there are 40 acres of prime beachfront real estate listed for sale. Things here are changing. While I love to watch my pelican friend, in prior years there would have been a dozen pelicans fishing each morning; the most I saw was four at one time.

I consider my presence, our demand for services, our airline flight carbon output. Are we contributing to the decline of the pelicans? Probably. In the future, should we stay home? Yet I never feel healthier than when we are there (fresh food, abundant exercise, many friends, no snow or ice). I'm torn between rejuvenation and global impact. We now have months to consider what we will do next winter. I will sign off with the ubiquitous Costa Rican greeting, "Pura Vida," pure life or simple life. This phrase has now, in my mind at least, taken on a more cautionary meaning in our increasingly complicated world.

A Guide to Luring Warblers, Vireos, Orioles, Tanagers, and Grosbeaks to Your Yard

by Tod Winston

Living in New York City, I've learned to keep my early May calendar as clear as possible. From guiding bird walks in Central Park, I've learned to count on oaks—the same trees that grew in my neighbor's forest—to find warblers, vireos, orioles, tanagers, and grosbeaks during spring migration. Why? It's simple: Oaks are full of bugs, and those bugs make up the majority of most songbirds' diets in spring and summer.

In addition to oaks, there are many other plant species that provide migrating birds with insects and other critical resources, both in spring and fall. Here's a quick rundown of native plants you can grow to attract—or, if you don't have the space, use to find—some of your favorite migrants. Use National Audubon's native plants database to identify the best plants for your area. <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>



Black and White Warbler

Oaks are big attractors of spring-migrating warblers, as well as cryptic vireos and many other songbirds. According to the pivotal work of entomologist Douglas Tallamy, oak trees host more than 550 species of butterfly and moth caterpillars—essential fodder for both

migrating and nesting birds. The bugs don't stop there. Oaks host hundreds of other arthropod species that birds love, including ants, bees, beetles, aphids, sawflies, and leafhoppers.

Other tree species are important insect hosts, too: willows, poplars, and birches are songbird favorites. Spruces host the spruce budworm, a treat that might bring coveted Cape May warblers flocking.

A related tree tip: If you have woods, leave the trees where they fall. Termites overwinter in fallen wood and debris, and on a warm spring day, a termite "hatch-out" may provide close-up views of warblers as they gorge themselves on the freshly hatched critters.

When it comes to orioles, cottonwoods are king, followed closely by willows, sycamores, and maples. These tree species provide not only the insects that orioles seek, but the long branches the species prefer for weaving their nests, should you be so lucky to have orioles stay and breed.

Orioles enjoy a diverse diet: They also love nectar, particularly from sturdy flowers they can



Red-eyed Vireo in burr oak



Hooded Oriole

perch on. In the West, hooded or Bullock's orioles may visit agave and ocotillo, while in the East, Baltimore and orchard orioles feed from trumpet creeper or coral honeysuckle vines. And all orioles adore fruit—particularly dark, ripe fruit. Mulberries and grapes are bona fide favorites. Finally, if you plant milkweed, an oriole pair may use fibers from the stems and seed pods of this important monarch butterfly host plant to weave their nest.

During spring and summer, tanagers are insect specialists. They're experts at harvesting bugs from leaves, branches, and trunks and are particularly adept at catching bees in mid-air. Cherry and plum trees not only host over 450 caterpillar species for these bug lovers, but they also provide rich fruit, which tanagers increasingly rely on as summer turns to fall.

Western tanagers also frequent evergreen trees such as Douglas fir and pines, which they prefer for nesting habitat. While eastern scarlet and summer tanagers prefer large mixed woodlands for breeding, like their western cousins, they will often stop in smaller parks and gardens during migration to refuel. Serviceberries are another favorite; the shrub's sweet fruit attracts all tanager species.



Western Tanager

Eastern and Midwestern birders are familiar with the chink! call of the rose-breasted grosbeak, a striking species that's often



Evening Grosbeak

heard but rarely seen as it forages for insects at the very tip top of an oak or beech tree. Both the rose-breasted and closely related black-headed grosbeak consume great quantities of insects in spring and fall and add fruit to their diets as the year goes on. Elderberries, blackberries, and crabapples are all favorites. If you live in areas where evening or pine grosbeaks might visit, these birds feast on much of the same fare while also feeding on the seeds and/or leaf buds of oaks, maples, box-elders, and elms. All grosbeaks also seek out the seeds of sunflowers and other garden plants.

(This article was adapted from National Audubon's website.)

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

Your Vote Matters!

Consider the difference in the answers to these questions in the Lincoln *Journal Star's* Voter's Guide: "Is climate change real and what are its likely causes? Does the city have any role in trying to help curb climate change?" One candidate responded, "Our accelerated rate of climate change is real and man-made, and we must do our part to mitigate the risks . . .", praising action on solar projects, LED street lights, and the city's Environmental Action Plan. The other one answered, "Regardless of an individual's personal belief on climate change, the solutions generally proposed are incredibly complex and expensive."

National Audubon's website has a number of excellent articles about the connections among our yards, birds, insects, native plants, water, and climate change. One by Marina Richie offers this vision of our future yards: "Each patch of restored native habitat is just that—a patch in the frayed fabric of the ecosystem in which it lies. By landscaping with native plants, we can turn a patchwork of green spaces into a quilt of restored habitat." You can start small.

According to an article by Janet Marinelli on the National Audubon website about yards and climate, small, off-road engines like mowers, blowers, edgers, trimmers, whackers, chippers, shredders, rototillers, and the like account for four percent of U.S. CO₂ emissions. You can reduce your yard's contribution to climate change just by reducing your use of machinery.

Synthetic fertilizers are extremely energy intensive to manufacture, according to Marinelli. For every ton of nitrogen made, four to six tons of carbon typically end up in the atmosphere. Nitrous oxide is also produced with 300 times more heat-trapping ability than CO₂. Organic fertilizers don't have the large CO₂ emissions with manufacture, and if you can use DIY compost from your backyard, you don't use materials and energy for packaging and transportation.

Just as monarch butterflies need milkweeds, birds need bugs—and bugs need the plant species they have co-evolved with. On the National Audubon website, Richie writes, "With 96 percent of all terrestrial bird species in North America feeding insects to their young, planting insect-proof exotic plants is like serving up plastic food. No insects? No birds." Hardy, beautiful native plants, insects, and birds can be stitched back into a quilt of restored habitat.

Other yard infobits: Richie tells us that, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, watering lawns uses 30 to 60 percent of fresh water in American cities. (Some estimate about half of that is wasted in evaporation, overwatering, or

runoff.) Homeowners, Richie says, use up to 10 times more pesticides per acre on their lawns than farmers use on crops.

For more on why local native plants are better: Douglas Tallamy, *Bringing Nature Home*. For more on yards, gardens, and climate, see Lincoln's own Benjamin Vogt, *A New Garden Ethic*.

Type in your zip code and e-address at <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants> and get a list of native plants and the birds they attract in your area. Purchase native plants at the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum at <https://plantnebraska.org/store/plant-sales.html>. For native plants selected for local genotypes, check out Kay Kottas' business, Prairie Legacy Inc., at <https://prairielegacyinc.com/>.



Celebrating the



You are invited by Mayor Beutler and the Lincoln Parks Foundation to a special event on Tuesday, May 14, at the Martin Prairie at Pioneers Park Nature Center to explore the Prairie Corridor. Visit the Hudson Cabin, explore the Heritage School, discover the prairie scavenger hunt for kids. Tour the Prairie Corridor Trail via pedicab or BikeLNK bikes. Experience the prairie from a drone's perspective, learn about native birds while strolling through the prairie. All activities are on the Martin Prairie. Dress appropriately.

The new conference will Mayor Beutler will begin at 4:00 p.m. A reception will follow from 4:30 to 5:30 with a public celebration 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. On-site parking will be available for vehicles and bicycles.

Rain location for a news conference and reception will be Bryan Health Zone at Pinnacle Bank Arena.

For more information, call 402-441-8258. Check out this website: PrairieCorridor.org.

"It is Spring again. The Earth is like a child that knows poems by heart."

— Ranier Marie Rilke

"The sun does not shine for a few trees and flowers, but for the wide world's joy."

— Henry Ward Beecher

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 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 Don Bacon (2nd 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 (3rd District)

416 Valley View Dr Ste 600, Scottsbluff NE 69361
Scottsbluff phone: 308-633-6333 Fax: 308-633-6335
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-6435 Fax: 202-225-0207
E-mail at website: <http://adriansmith.house.gov>

Capitol Hill Switchboard

888-436-8427 or 202-224-3121

Governor Pete Ricketts

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

State Senator _____

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

State Capitol Switchboard

402-471-2311

Lancaster County Commissioners

County-City Bldg, 555 S 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 301, 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)

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- ___ \$35 Family Friend
- ___ \$50 Black-capped Chickadee Friend
- ___ \$100 Northern Cardinal Friend
- ___ \$250 Western Meadowlark Friend
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- ___ \$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 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

___ **I prefer to receive my newsletter by email.**

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



American Goldfinch family

Garden Tour Needs Volunteers NOW

Several more people are needed to help at various locations for the Father's Day Backyard Garden Tour. Duties include passing out maps, answering simple questions, directing visitors to the distinctive features at that site, and just talking to people, in general. A couple of hours would be all that's needed, and you could be on your way to visit other gardens on the Tour.

Can Anne NOW at 402-423-6524 if we can count on you to help on Sunday, Father's Day, June 16, some time between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. THANKS MUCH!



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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

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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**.

