

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 42nd Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2015

DECEMBER 2015

Volume 24 - Issue 12

Holiday Potluck Party— Thursday, December 10, 6:15 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 3825 Wildbriar Lane

Nebraska Weather, a Diary of our Lives

with Nancy Gaarder, Author and Reporter for the Omaha World-Herald

Life in Nebraska is defined in large part by the weather. Nebraskan's can't stop thinking about the weather for a simple reason: It's impossible to ignore. Freezing cold can replace blistering heat in just a few days' time. A single storm can unleash a blizzard, tornadoes, and flooding as it crosses the state. *World-Herald* weather reporter **Nancy Gaarder** explains in her book, *Nebraska Weather*, why Nebraskans can't stop watching the skies. In this book, *World-Herald* photographers show how the state's wide-open landscape provides the perfect stage for spectacular storms overhead and the sunset encores as the clouds pass.



The price is \$29.95 plus tax. Nancy will sign copies which will make wonderful gifts. Preview the book by visiting <https://www.owhstore.com/shop/>. Note that books will be available from Wachiska only on this evening.

Nancy Gaarder has been with the *World-Herald* for 20 years, starting as a local editor and moving into reporting, which she has done for about 15 years. She began reporting as the energy/environment/weather reporter. Most recently Nancy has served as the weather and social services reporter.

This graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism has interests and hobbies which focus on bicycling and bike touring, gardening, and hiking/walking with her husband and their dog. As an aside, the newspaper has several reporters who write occasionally about birds and birding; Nancy tends to be the purple martin reporter.

Ms Gaarder will be our speaker for the holiday potluck program December 10. Using this book as reference, we'll look at why Nebraska has such extreme weather and how that compares to other parts of the globe. Spoiler alert: We're special! Some of the major events to be covered will include the 1913 tornado, the 2011 floods, the 1930s heat and drought. The book (pictured above) will be available for sale as a fundraiser for Wachiska.

Gaarder is a member of the board of the Society of Environmental Journalists. Some of the awards she has received are the National Weather Association's Walter J. Bennett Public Service Award and the Nebraska Forest Service's Media Award.



Please join us for our annual holiday potluck on **Thursday, December 10, at 6:15 p.m.** at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 3825 Wildbriar Lane. The church is located one block north of the intersection of South 40th Street and Old Cheney Road. (There is road construction taking place on Old Cheney Road, so allow extra time to navigate, or come from Highway 2 and then turn south at 40th Street to avoid the orange cones.) We have met at this location many times. The building easily accommodates wheelchairs. Bring family and friends along with a favorite dish or two to share and your own table service, including a glass or cup. Wachiska will furnish the beverages. The public is invited to this free event which will include a silent auction during the evening.

Calendar

December

- 1 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m. (due to holidays)
- 10 **Annual Holiday Potluck, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 3825 Wildbriar Lane, 6:15 p.m., program by Nancy Gaarder, Omaha World-Herald**
- 17 Legislation Committee, DaVinci's, 11th & G, 6:00 p.m.
- 19 **Lincoln Area Christmas Bird Count** (page 2)
- 21 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.

NO Education Committee meeting in December
NO Population/Environment Committee meeting scheduled

The 116th Annual Christmas Bird Count

by Lauren Dinan

Summer Field Trip Summaries

by the Field Trip Committee

Reminder to all birders! Time is nearing for Audubon's 116th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC), one of the longest running citizen science projects in the world. The CBC is an exciting event where birdwatchers from across the nation collect bird counts from both the field and yard feeders over a 24-hour period from December 14 to January 5. Data collected provide a snapshot of the status and distribution of various bird species that can be used to track long-term trends in bird populations to guide future



conservation efforts. This annual data is available online and is being used by many to better understand population trends.

The CBC has become an annual holiday tradition for thousands of birders; it is easy to participate and is a fun and rewarding way to contribute to bird conservation each year.

Join us for the Lincoln area Christmas Bird Count on **Saturday, December 19**, and help us continue the annual holiday tradition of collecting vital bird data. Participants are needed at all birding levels. Arrangements can be made to pair up novice observers with more knowledgeable birders.

If you are interested in participating in this year's Lincoln area Christmas Bird Count, and have not already signed up to participate, please contact me at lauren.dinan@yahoo.com now, so territories can be assigned.

Note: Any rescheduling due to inclement weather will be communicated via email.

How to Protect Birds Where You Live

1. Reduce or eliminate pesticide and herbicide use to help keep birds, pets, and your family healthy.
2. Plant native plants. Native flora provides birds with food in the forms of fruit and seeds and is home to tasty invertebrates like bugs and spiders.
3. Identify the non-native invasive plants in your region, and work to remove them from your yard. Be careful not to bring any new invasives into your backyard habitat.
4. Attract hummingbirds with sugar water. Never use honey, artificial sweeteners, or food coloring.
5. Make your windows visible to birds to prevent crashes. Put up screens, close drapes and blinds when you leave the house, or stick multiple decals on the glass.

Frequently, field trip committee members, participants, and staff are asked what transpires during Wachiska's monthly field trips, what bird and plant species are seen, and whether there are unusual and exciting experiences taking place. For these reasons, the committee hopes to have monthly reports on a timely basis that might entice others to come out and take a look for themselves either on an official field trip or by themselves. Following are brief summaries of the past several field trips.

June – Indian Cave State Park

This trip included 10 participants who had to deal with muddy trails and lots of mosquitoes. Many bird species were seen, but one of the highlights was a female scarlet tanager. The group also got to see a completed pileated woodpecker nest hole that was first seen in April. Pileated woodpeckers typically make a triangular hole. The real stars of the trip were the 17-year cicadas which were present in huge numbers and had the forest humming.

July – Spring Creek Prairie

The group's search for prairie birds took them to a section of prairie that had not been recently mowed or burned and provided good breeding habitat for bobolinks and Henslow's sparrows. Prairie species chose areas with cover to house their nests, and both species were found in the tallgrass at the south end of the property. The 16 participants also enjoyed seeing grasshopper sparrows and sedge wrens and views of a juvenile Henslow's sparrow. SCP's "bird nerd" Jason St. Sauver shared his expertise and found an active dickcissel nest which was exciting to see in the middle of the prairie.

August – Platte River connection bridge and Omaha martin roost

An afternoon stroll on the Mo-Pac Trail at South Bend provided an opportunity for the 10 participants to see a yellow-billed cuckoo as well as a few migrant warblers. After scoping the river from the bridge, the group headed to Omaha to watch tens of thousands of purple martins flock into their evening pre-migratory roost trees.

September – Eastern Rainwater Basin

Marsh birds were very cooperative on a visit to several Rainwater Basin wetlands, and eight participants heard numerous soras at every unit and got great views and photos of marsh wrens. Wilson's snipes were loafing near the road and treated observers to close looks at their oversized bills. White-faced ibis offered tantalizing glimpses of their exotic silhouettes as they landed in the distance, while yellow-headed blackbirds added their quirky songs to the stands of cattails.

"The air is like a butterfly with frail blue wings. The happy Earth looks at the sky and sings."
—Joyce Kilmer

"The moments of happiness we enjoy take us by surprise. It is not that we seize them, but that they seize us." —Ashley Montagu



From the Board ...

*submitted by
Donor Development Committee*

Your Year-end or Estate Gift Will Help Wachiska Protect Tallgrass Prairie

*Donor Development Committee members: Elizabeth Nelson,
Linda Brown, Joe Francis, Richard Peterson, and Gary Fehr*

As we mentioned in this column last month, Wachiska has kicked off a three-year fundraising effort to raise \$1 million to establish a Prairie Management Fund. See November's newsletter for complete details on how this fundraising effort will allow Wachiska to effectively meet our responsibilities to protect our nearly 1,000 acres of tallgrass prairie.

This month, we'd like to encourage Wachiska members to support this fundraising effort with a year-end gift. While writing a check is always much appreciated, there are many ways you can give to Wachiska—some of them you may not have considered before.

Gifting stocks, bonds, or mutual funds is an effective way to support Wachiska. When you donate appreciated assets to the Prairie Management Fund, you not only help our chapter, it may provide significant financial benefits to you and your family through savings on income taxes, capital gains, or estate taxes.

There are also a variety of ways you can make a gift to Wachiska from your estate:

Bequest – Name Wachiska Audubon Society in your will or trust.

Retirement Plan – Designate Wachiska Audubon Society as a beneficiary (the percentage of your choice) on a retirement plan or IRA.

Charitable Gift Annuity – Receive a guaranteed lifetime income payment in return for a transfer of cash, stock, or real estate to Wachiska Audubon Society.

Charitable Remainder Trust – Establish a trust during or after your lifetime that provides income to the beneficiary of your choice (may be yourself), and the remaining value of the trust to Wachiska Audubon Society.

Life Insurance – Name Wachiska Audubon Society as a beneficiary or contingent beneficiary on a life policy.

Life Estate with Remainder Interest – Give future interest in an asset, e.g., a home) to Wachiska Audubon Society, while retaining the right to use that asset for your lifetime.

Your contributions, whether given now or through your estate, will help Wachiska continue to protect and preserve tallgrass prairie in Nebraska, a legacy dear to all those who value protecting our natural environment.

For more information how you can give, please contact anyone on Wachiska's Donor Development Committee, the Lincoln Community Foundation, or your attorney.

Wachiska Audubon Society was chartered in 1973 as an independent chapter of the National Audubon Society. Wachiska is a qualified 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization, TIN 51-0229888.

Thank You, Cookie Bakers!

by Arlys Reitan, Office Administrator

Cookie bakers provided homemade (mostly) treats again each month for the general meetings this past year. Along with coffee and hot teas, regular attendees always look forward to tasting our members' favorite recipes while visiting after the program.

Thank you once again to our members who shared their talents and goodies with us this past year (no doubt, some of them numerous times). Cheryl Moncure continued to lead this committee. We appreciate your efforts, Cheryl. Thank you.

It would be wonderful to be able to have more cookie volunteers to call upon so each would only need to contribute once in a while. Please let Cheryl know if you can provide about three dozen home-baked cookies, bars, quick breads, etc. She can also use some help at the monthly meetings. You can also call or email the office, and I'll get the word to Cheryl (phone on back).

The following people provided refreshments for the 2015 general meetings:

Mitzi Wiggle	Linnea Fredrickson
Bud Dasenbrock	Camy Svoboda
Colleen Geisel	Clare Sward
Loris Purtzer	Shannon Moncure
Barb Francis	Cheryl Moncure
Sharon Johnson	

Auction at Holiday Party—Can You Help Me?

by Arlys Reitan, Office Administrator

Throughout the year I come across books, feeders, t-shirts that have been donated or have remained after a program or sale. It's been decided to hold a silent auction in conjunction with our holiday potluck party on December 10. It would be wonderful to have two or three people step forth to help with this activity which would amount to coming to the office one afternoon to help me gather items and make bid sheets. Then a day or so before the event, someone would pick up the items in the boxes we've provided and take them to the church to set up in a classroom. I would estimate there might be 25-30 items. We did this a couple of years ago at the same location and it worked.

Please email me or call me weekday afternoons if you can help—office@wachiskaadubon.org or 402-486-4846. Thank you for your consideration. There are some great gift items.

Hawk's Challenge

by Dora Read Goodale



Winter or Summer, what care I?

The tilled or untilled plain?

My lot is cast in the blue abyss,

And the lordly sun's domain.

Over the broad campaign I float,

And over the sparkling sea;

I mount at will to the peak of heaven,

And rejoice that I am free

Ko, keeo, kilio, keeo!

I exalt that I am free!

Like a bolt I plunge to the land outspread,

From the desert realm of air,

To dip my beak in the hot, red blood

Of my little earth brother there;

I pounce, I seize, and I tear, - why not?

For the law is aye the same;

And storm and battle, pillage and wrack

Are all a part of the game.

Ko, keeo, kilio, keeo!

They are all a part of the game.

Ko, kileo, ye groundlings born,

Of the tribes that reap and sow,

Blessing and ban to me are one,

As up and aloft I go!

There are quaking hearts below, I ween,

For this black shape in the sky;

For the Hawk's breed has a Hawk's blood,

And a Hawk of the Hawks am I.

Ko, keeo, kileo, keeo!

A Hawk of the Hawks am I!

By 1909, *Bird-Lore* was publishing fewer poems. This one written by Dora Read Goodale was from that year in Volume XI, Number 5. Dora (b 1866 – d 1953) and her sister Elaine Goodale Eastman (b 1863 – d 1953) were poets. Dora published her first book of poetry at age 21. She taught art and English in Connecticut. Later, she was a teacher and director of the Uplands Sanatorium in Pleasant Hills, Tennessee. Elaine started a school on a Dakota reservation in 1886 and by 1890 was superintendent of Indian education for the Two Dakotas. She married Charles Eastman (b 1858 – d 1939), a Santee Sioux who was among the first Native Americans to graduate medical school (Boston College) and become a doctor.

The above poem is submitted by Richard Peterson.

Record Gayfeather Harvest for Wachiska

by Ernie Rousek

On October 18, 66 stalwart Wachiska volunteers gathered to strip seeds from my six-acre gayfeather field. It was a sunny day, though a bit windy, and in a matter of 3 1/2 hours they stripped the field bare. The next day I hauled a full pickup load of heaping sacks to the Stock Seed Farms near Murdock. The scale indicated a weight of 427 pounds of seed and chaff. (Ron Klataske of Audubon of Kansas contacted me about buying a sack of this seed for plantings in Kansas, so I saved a 30-pound sack for him; this weight should be added to the above figure.)

In the previous 17 years of gayfeather harvesting, the biggest yield was in 2011 when we harvested 361 pounds of seed and chaff and netted just over 130 pounds of cleaned seed. At the 2011 price, Wachiska received \$5,275.

This year, due to the increased concern regarding the lower populations of pollinating insects, more flowering plant seeds are being included in farm CRP and other plantings. Because of this increased demand, the price offered for gayfeather seeds is up to \$60/pound. Stock Seed Farms still must do the cleaning and germination testing of seeds this winter, so Wachiska should receive payment sometime next spring.

While we still don't know the weight of the cleaned seed, this year's harvest is likely to nearly double what we earned in 2011. Many thanks for the great turnout of volunteers who made this harvest possible. The photo below shows only a portion of the many who attended.

President's Response: Thank you, Ernie, and an amazing team of seed gatherers!

Ernie Rousek has invited Wachiska to harvest seeds from his gayfeather field for many years, and his donation of the sale of those seeds is often our single biggest one-day fundraising success. However, none of this would be possible without the participation of an incredible team of seed gatherers.

This year 66 names appeared on the sign-in sheet, and we probably missed a few. This volunteer effort was a fantastic success. Many thanks to the dozens of volunteers who showed up, and to Arlys Reitan who urged, cajoled, and motivated people to help in this effort.

So to Ernie, Arlys, and the many volunteers seed gatherers:
Thank you, Thank you! — Elizabeth Nelson, Wachiska President



Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

National Audubon has asked us to take action to protect the birds we love from their greatest threat: climate change. The action is to sign a petition to world leaders at the Conference Of Parties, COP21, from November 30 to December 11, in Paris. The petition calls for decisive action to keep global warming below two degrees Centigrade. Find the petition by Googling "One Voice, One World, Audubon." Another click will let you sign up for National Audubon emails on birds and climate—highly recommended! NAS is providing high-quality information.

Audubon California's director of public policy, Michael Lynes, said, "It's a really big deal." He was talking about the closing down of a large part of the Altamont Pass Wind complex, one of the oldest wind projects in the country, and probably the very worst for the number of bird deaths. When it was built in the early 1980s, little attention was paid to wind turbines' impact on birds. Audubon brought attention to the golden eagles, a protected species; raptors; burrowing owls; and other birds killed by the project. Bird deaths numbered annually about 4,500; some estimates run higher. The good news is that the second largest of four wind companies making up the project, Altamont Winds, shut down its operations at the end of October. It turned off its 800 turbines. (There are 3,000 in the whole complex.) This came as a surprise because the company had received an extension to operate until 2018, despite local Audubon opposition. Even more of a surprise is that the company stated that "the reduction of avian impacts" was the main reason for closing down. So after many years of dialogue, protest, a lawsuit, and frustration, the wind company did the right thing for the right reason—or at least it knew the right reason to write in an email to U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

An excellent report from the executive director of Golden Gate Audubon is shown at <http://goldengateaudubon.org/blog-posts/altamont-winds-inc-to-shut-down-its-bay-area-turbines/>. At the bottom of the blog is a link to an equally excellent video from the local public TV station where it discusses "repowering" which will occur for the other companies at Altamont Pass. Repowering means taking out the old turbines and replacing them with many fewer units, at a ratio of 300 to 10. When originally installed, impact of placement on birds was not a consideration. Much has been learned since then about affected species' habits, especially the golden eagles. With Altamont Winds having turned off 800 turbines, many fewer turbines in the future, and better placement of the new turbines, the outlook for birds co-existing with wind generation at Altamont Pass is much brighter, and that's a really big deal.

I'm writing the day after the Lancaster County Board set sound levels so low it is impossible to place wind turbines in the AG zoned areas of Lancaster County, which is the most rural of the rural zoning districts. My experience with the Wind Energy Text Amendment Working Group was disappointing. It seemed

impossible to develop common understandings. For solid facts on the key issues, here are two of the best sources I have found.

The first is about sound. It is a talk at the 2015 Wind Conference by Peter Guldberg who has 40 years of experience in evaluating sound and degrees from MIT and the University of Michigan. He balances his consulting practice between working for regulators and wind companies. He has completed sound and shadow flicker studies for 85 wind projects in 15 states. Check out <https://youtu.be/13962zVq8Nw>.

The second source is a study of health effects of sound from wind turbines at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/noise-bruit/turbine-eoliennes/summary-resume-eng.php> or Google "Health Canada Wind Turbine Noise and Health Study."

New Faces at Spring Creek Prairie

by Marian Langan, Executive Director, Audubon Nebraska

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center is delighted to welcome Glynnis Collins as its new director. Glynnis comes to SCPAC from the Prairie Rivers Network in Champaign, Illinois. She spent 10 years on the staff of the clean water advocacy organization, first as a staff scientist and then over the past seven years as executive director. She holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in biology



Glynnis Collins

from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry and the University of Southern California, respectively. Her work in the conservation field began in California's water regulatory arena as a permit writer at two state agencies. Glynnis is delighted to be at Spring Creek Prairie, further pursuing her calling for conservation nonprofit management. Glynnis lives in Lincoln with her husband, Nick, and three children.

We are also so pleased to welcome Ed Hubbs as the new habitat program manager. Ed has a wide range of habitat management background, doing tallgrass prairie work for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and most recently habitat work for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. A native Nebraskan, he has a B.S. in fisheries and wildlife from the University of Nebraska.

Stop in to say hello and welcome Glynnis and Ed!



Ed Hubbs

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

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

Members Sign Up to Receive *The Babbling Brook* Online

You can help Wachiska save paper and reduce the cost of printing and mailing *The Babbling Brook*. Each month's newsletter will be posted online by the first day of the month. Our electronic subscribers will receive an email the first of each month with a direct link to the online newsletter.

If you would like to join the 170+ other *Babbling Brook* readers and switch from paper to online delivery, please send an email to newsletter@wachiskaaudubon.org and put "Electronic Newsletter" in the subject line. Be sure to include your name and phone number.

Remembering Mort

In July, Wachiska Past President Morton Stelling passed away while living in the Seattle area. Mort was president of Wachiska in 1990-91 and served as chair of the Nebraska Audubon Council the next two years. It was Mort who instigated our chapter's strategic planning meetings where it was originally decided to embark on what is now our prairie preservation project. He also challenged us to think big, with the result being that the chapter agreed to open an office in 1995.

Even though he hadn't been a physical presence in Wachiska since 2000, few weeks went by that someone active in our chapter didn't hear from Mort, whether it was with a membership renewal, monetary donation, sage advice we asked for (or didn't!), or just to "check in." His children have given Wachiska his slide projector and hundreds of slides which we hope to use for making a bird ID show, notecards, or other nature-related items.

Memorials to Mort's memory have been received from Lynn Darling, Phyllis Reagan, and Ken and Arlys Reitan.

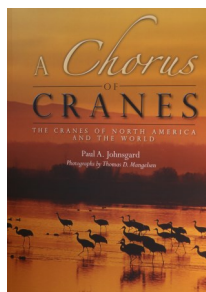
Thanks to YOU—All of You

Wachiska leaders probably don't thank our members, friends, and supporters often enough for the encouragement, well wishes, monetary donations, hours of voluntary work on various projects, and in many ways that are unique to just one individual but impactful to the entire chapter. Thank you again and again. We hope to see all of you sometime in 2016 and would welcome you with open arms if you haven't yet taken that first step.

Wachiska is a diverse group of birders, talented speakers, writers, generous donors, and just fun, well-meaning folks with the overall passion to protect and preserve our natural world. THANKS!!

Johnsgard to be Featured at Badgers Bookshop

Dr. Paul Johnsgard, Wachiska member and noted Nebraska ornithologist, has published a new book on cranes, with photography by Tom Mangelsen. *A Chorus of Cranes* will be



available for purchase in December at Badgers Bookshop, located at 4730 Cooper Avenue, just west of the Union College campus. Dr. Johnsgard will talk about the book and sign copies January 14 at Badgers Bookshop from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Wachiska members and friends are invited to attend prior to our January general meeting to listen and have a chance to get an autographed copy of the book. You may

reserve a book and seat at the reading by calling Will Lock, owner of the bookstore, at 402-314-6602. Will is a Wachiska member as well and carries other books of interest on birding and natural history.

Smart Ways to Stay Warm

Heating your home uses a lot of energy, so making a few changes can add up to noticeable savings on your energy bills. Here are some money-saving tips:

- Take advantage of the sun's radiant heat energy. Open blinds and shades on sunny days to make use of those rays.
- Add insulation to attics and exposed walls.
- Clean or replace furnace filters regularly.
- Program or adjust your thermostat to no higher than 68 degrees during winter months for maximum cost savings. Make sure to turn the temperature down a few more degrees when you leave the house.
- Hot air travels upward. If you have high ceilings, use your ceiling fans on a low, clockwise setting to circulate that heat back down.
- Close heat registers and doors of unoccupied rooms during the winter months.
- Check around windows and doors for drafts. A tube of caulk and weather stripping can go a long way to seal your home from blustery winds.
- Though small in size, space heaters are not efficient, they are difficult to control, and are a cause of many fires. Most space heaters use 600-1,500 watts of electricity. Homeowners using a 1,500-watt space heater 12 hours/day for a month would spend about \$72 for this additional electricity.

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

Membership

Wachiska offers two choices of membership—many people choose both. Local membership, called Friends of Wachiska, includes receiving *The Babbling Brook*, our chapter's monthly newsletter. It also includes voting privileges and attendance at monthly meetings, programs, and field trips. All local membership dues remain with Wachiska to support chapter activities such as prairie preservation and education.

Membership in the National Audubon Society also includes membership in our local chapter, Wachiska. You will receive *Audubon* magazine from National Audubon along with *The Babbling Brook*.

Friends of Wachiska (local membership)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Recruited by _____

E-mail _____

_____ \$20 Individual/Friend _____ \$50 Sustainer
_____ \$30 Families _____ \$100 Patron

Make checks payable to **Wachiska Audubon Society**. All funds remain with our local chapter. Mail to:

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

As a conservation organization, our goal is to use our natural resources wisely. Materials and postage are considerable, and we do not want to waste them. When your address changes or if you are receiving *The Babbling Brook* and would rather not get it, please notify us at office@wachiskaaudubon.org or 402-486-4846.

AND / OR

National Membership in National Audubon Society

Dues from new (introductory) memberships and for first-time gifts will be returned to Wachiska if this coupon is used:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Recruited by _____

E-mail _____

Enclose introductory membership fee of \$20.

Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society** and mail to:

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

C5ZP040Z

Members Recycle Cans for Wachiska

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

Owners Ben and Connie Dahlberg 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 aluminum cans from virgin materials. Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for over two hours.



The Babbling Brook (ISSN #1068-2104) is published monthly by Wachiska Audubon Society. The known office of publication is 4547 Calvert St Ste 10, Lincoln NE 68506-5643. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Send address changes to *The Babbling Brook*
Wachiska Audubon Society, 4547 Calvert St Ste 10
Lincoln NE 68506-5643



The Babbling Brook is printed on recycled and recyclable paper.



Wachiska Audubon Society

4547 Calvert St Ste 10

Lincoln NE 68506-5643

402-486-4846

office@wachiskaaudubon.org

www.wachiskaaudubon.org

WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2015

OFFICERS

President	*Elizabeth Nelson	402-770-3485
Vice President	*Jessi Umberger (Otoe)	402-580-3057
Recording Secretary	*Bob Boyce	402-770-6865
Treasurer	*Gary Fehr	402-570-4382
Immediate Past President	*Arnold Mendenhall (Hickman)	402-525-4884

STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large	*Joe Francis.....	402-489-7965
Director at Large	*Richard Peterson.....	402-489-2996
Director at Large	*Mitch Renteria	402-483-7275
Conservation	*Stu Luttich (Geneva)	402-759-3597
Education	*Lauren Dinan.....	308-390-3961
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.....	Joyce Vannier.....	402-570-8469
	*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**.