



Wachiska
Audubon Society

Wachiska Audubon Society's vision:
To share the experience and love for nature—and help protect its diversity

The Babbling Brook

Our 52nd Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2025

DECEMBER 2025

Volume 34 - Issue 12

Holiday Potluck and Speaker Series — Thursday, December 11, 5:30 PM, Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also via YouTube link: <https://youtube.com/live/E84QbSzNuoo?feature=share>

WINTER BIRDING & THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY SCIENCE with Jason “the Birdnerd” St. Sauver

Jason “the Birdnerd” St. Sauver came to Audubon in 2013 after a ten-year career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Starting at Mitchell Lake Audubon Center and joining Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center staff in 2015, St. Sauver has been the lead Education staff at Spring Creek creating programs for all ages and audiences, like the international, *Let's Go Birding Together* and more recently, the *Wildlife Explorers* curriculum for middle and high school-aged students. Through *Wildlife Explorers*, students experience field surveys as an Ornithologist, Botanist, and Entomologist on field trips and through after-school programming. He is also co-creator of community events like *Return of the Thunderbirds*, *SparrowFest*, and Wachiska's own *Tour the Wild Side*.

Originally from South Dakota, “the Birdnerd” grew up loving not only birds, but the outdoors. He credits his Grandmother for introducing him to his spark bird, the Dark-eyed Junco. Jason has an over 10 year career in music and theatre before his environmental education work, performing in such off-off-Broadway musicals as *Footloose* and writing and directing *Dracularama*. St. Sauver was the 2018 winner of Audubon's Chotzen Educator of the Year award and is locally known as a



Jason “the Birdnerd”. Photo by Mike Fernandez/Audubon.

birding-by-ear expert. Along with birds, he loves travel, reading, and horror films.

Join Jason “the Birdnerd” St. Sauver, Sr. Education Manager at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, to learn about some of your favorite local winter resident and migratory birds like woodpeckers, creepers, longspurs, and snow buntings.

Explore what birds may be around your feeders this winter and fun facts about them and let's connect all of our love of birds to the importance of

community science like the *Christmas Bird Count*, *Great Backyard Bird Count*, and using *eBird* and *Merlin*. Please bring your questions and requests for bird sounds and trivia to our holiday potluck and Speaker Series and join Wachiska on **Thursday, October 9 at 7:00 PM** at Lincoln's Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street. This will also be live-streamed on YouTube at:

<https://youtube.com/live/E84QbSzNuoo?feature=share>

No registration needed.

Check Wachiska's website for past programs.

WACHISKA'S DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 8 Conservation Committee. 6:30PM, ZOOM**
- 11 HOLIDAY POTLUCK & SPEAKER SERIES w/ Jason “the Birdnerd” St. Sauver. Potluck at 5:30PM. Speaker Series at 7PM. Unitarian Church, 6300 A St. Lincoln.**
- 15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE. 12PM.**
- 16 Board Meeting 7PM ZOOM**

Prairie Pines Partners Events

DECEMBER

21 Winter Solstice Hike. 1PM-3PM. Free

Join Nebraska Master Naturalists on a hike as we experience the winter woods and celebrate solstice. Meet at the Visitor's Center, walk the woods and grasslands and discover the subtle signs of nature's adaptations to the winter season. Come, bundle up, escape cabin fever, stretch your legs and enjoy some crisp air. Following the hike, you are invited to join us indoors for hot chocolate, cider and sweet delights.

Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman

It is a perfect time of the year to get out and enjoy some of Wachiska's prairies, especially Lamb Prairie because it was not hayed this year. Klapka Prairie is wonderful too, and has a variety of habitats to hike through. Don't forget to visit Prairie Pines, we are open on Friday and Saturday 9am-5pm and 1pm-5pm on Sundays. Many of the leaves have already fallen, but a few, especially the oaks, are holding on. Bare trees make it easier to spot birds and squirrels. Come explore the many trails and we do have some areas that were not hayed, so you can see the fall colors of the prairie.

Community Crops have put their fields to bed for the winter, but they will be bustling again in the spring. We have several species of woodpeckers and nuthatches visiting the feeders, as well as the juncos have returned, and we still have a number of blue jays and cardinals that have been with us all fall. Our pair of crows show up a few times a week at the birdbath for a quick drink, but they have stopped leaving me presents of bones and corncobs.

This fall has claimed a few of my conservation heroes.

Jane Goodall:

I have always admired Jane and was fortunate to have met her several times and even share lunch with her on the Platte River. Her research, advocacy and speeches around the world have touched so many people.



Mark Brohman, Jane Goodall

Gayle Malmquist:

Gayle was a friend and a huge advocate of the Missouri River. I served on the *Back to the River* board with Gayle for over 25 years.

Peg Fletcher:

A true friend and conservationist, Peg Fletcher, owned and cared for Fletcher Prairie with the help of her husband, Dr. Larry Fletcher. Peg was an example of how one person could affect so many in a local area. The kids she introduced to nature will cherish prairies and nature for their lifetimes.

Please read more about Peg and Fletcher Prairie in this newsletter. A big thank you to Larry Fletcher for thinking of Wachiska by dedicating memorials to Wachiska and other worthwhile service organizations.

We want to thank the volunteers who have helped with projects this fall at Prairie Pines, the donations of funds and equipment, and those of you who took metals to **Alter Metal Recycling** and donated the proceeds to Wachiska. Also, a huge thank you to those of you renewing your **Friends** memberships. It is truly a blessing to have such dedicated friends and members.



Gayle Malmquist

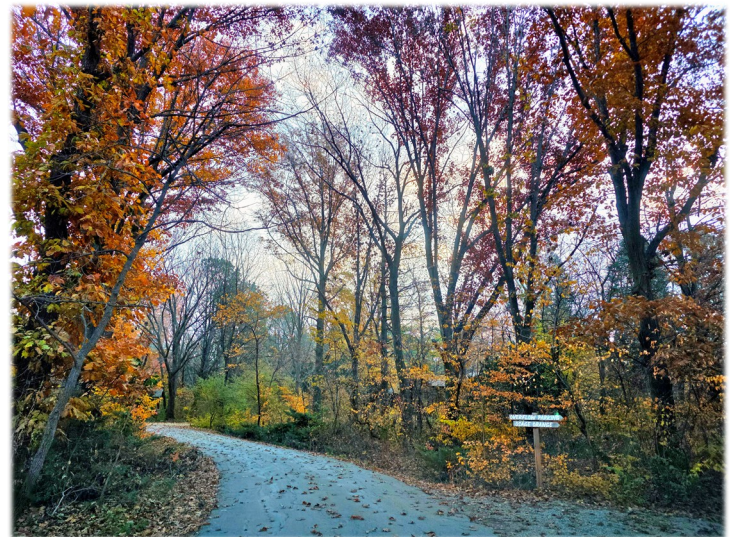


Peg Fletcher

Poet Twyla Hansen gave a great presentation at our October monthly meeting. We also added three new board members (Nancy Bare, Al Davis, and Alyx Knight)! They will begin their service on January 1st, and we have three current members renewing for another two years, Carol Bodeen, April Stevenson, Andrea Faas. A huge thank you to outgoing directors Stu Luttich, Dr. Kris Powers, and Doug Campbell, for their service.

ANNUAL POTLUCK HOLIDAY MEAL & SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

We have invited the ever-entertaining and talented, Jason "the Birdnerd" St. Sauver to present at our **Annual Potluck Holiday Meal and General Meeting** on December 11th! Jason is the Senior Education Manager at Spring Creek Prairie. For our meal that evening, be sure to arrive at 5:30pm. Bring a covered dish to share with everyone and dinnerware for yourself. We hope to see you December 11th at the Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street in Lincoln! All are invited!



South Entrance to Prairie Pines. Photo by WJ Bantam.

RECYCLE FOR WACHISKA

Alter Metal Recycling at 6100 N 70 ST will accept your scrap metals and give the proceeds to Wachiska. They accept aluminum cans, tin, brass, iron, copper (including wire with plastic coating and extension cords), vehicle batteries and all kinds of steel and iron.

**Alter Metal Recycling is open
Monday through Friday, 8AM to 5PM. When you turn
in your metal items, have them credit
"Wachiska Audubon WAS000."**

IMPORTANT NEWS:

The software we use to create this newsletter, Microsoft Publisher, is being retired by Microsoft in 2026. In the coming months we'll move to a new publishing program. The newsletter's look will change as we adjust to new formatting software. We wanted to update you as you will notice style changes to your newsletter.

Thank you for your patience, wonderful readers!

A REFLECTION OF THE SKY IN YOUR WINDOWS

by WJ Bantam

Occasionally we will get a call at the Wachiska office from someone hoping to make their office building or home friendlier for the birds. It's always good to hear from people who are thinking about nature and how to be more bird friendly! Earlier this year, out at Prairie Pines Nature Preserve, children were given bars of soap to draw on the windows of Walter Bagley's home (now also home to the offices for Wachiska) to dissuade birds from flying into the windowpanes. Soap drawings keep birds away by creating a physical, visible barrier that breaks up reflections on the glass.

It was fun to see what the children drew with soap; some drawing cartoons, scribbles and some drawing games of Tic Tac Toe on the glass. Even with all the drawing, it didn't dissuade one particular feathered friend, an immature male cardinal. I listened to him most of the summer knocking against the window, attacking his own reflection. Because I was new to the world of birds, I foolishly thought he was asking to come inside. I wrote a lot of knock-knock jokes.

"Knock, knock." "Who's there?" "Cardinal."

"Cardinal who?" "Cardinal see me knocking?
Open up and let me in!"

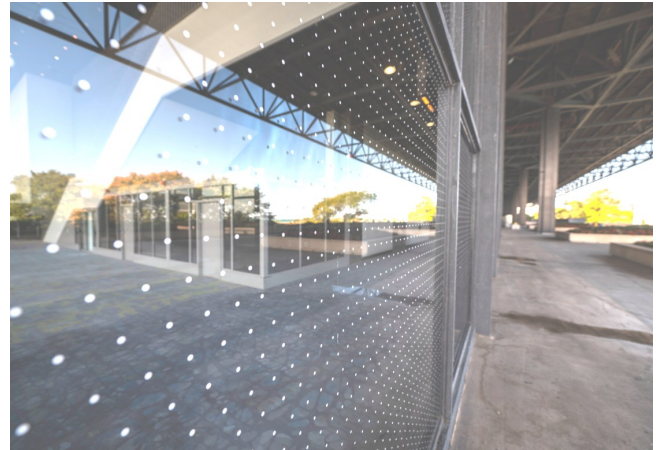


Hundreds of millions of birds die each year in the United States from colliding with buildings, a tragic toll that is considered one of the primary factors in the nearly 30 percent decline of North American bird populations since 1970. Chicago, with its towering skyline and position along a major migratory pathway, has long been a particularly dangerous city for these travelers of the sky. Among its many structures, one building stood out for its lethal reputation: McCormick Place's Lakeside Center. But a simple, yet significant, change has made a world of difference, demonstrating a powerful and effective model for bird conservation.

The Lakeside Center, located on the shore of Lake Michigan, has a massive glass facade—roughly 120,000 square feet, or the equivalent of two football fields. Its location and design created a deadly combination for birds migrating along the lakefront, who often become disoriented by city lights and fail to perceive the transparent glass. For decades, the building's threat to avian life was well-known to conservationists. A retired ornithologist from the Field Museum, David Willard,

spent over 40 years documenting the problem, recovering more than 40,000 birds from the site over that time.

The issue came to a head in October 2023, when a single, tragic night resulted in nearly 1,000 bird deaths at the building, an event described as one of the deadliest in its history. This catastrophe spurred the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA), which owns and operates McCormick Place, to take immediate and decisive action. They collaborated with wildlife experts and conservation groups to find a lasting solution.



McCormick Place. Public Domain Photo.

The chosen remedy was an innovative yet straightforward one: installing a special window film with a pattern of tiny, opaque dots. The dots, spaced two inches apart, are designed to be visible to birds, allowing them to perceive the glass as a solid object rather than a clear path or a reflection of the sky. The \$1.2 million project to cover the building's vast glass surfaces began in the summer of 2024 and was completed in time for the fall migration season.

The results have been nothing short of remarkable. Preliminary data collected by researchers at the Field Museum for the 2024 fall migration showed a reduction in bird deaths of more than 95% compared to the two previous autumns. This success was not only due to the window film; McCormick Place also implemented other bird-safe policies, such as turning off nonessential exterior lights and closing blinds at night. The success of this project has garnered national attention, with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service praising McCormick Place for its leadership and for creating an effective model that can be replicated by other buildings across the country. The dot pattern on the glass, while unobtrusive to humans, has become a symbol of what is possible when a community commits to protecting its wildlife.

The anti-collision stickers are effective when they use ultraviolet (UV) reflective coatings, which are invisible to humans but glow brightly to birds, or when they are applied in a high-density pattern to create a visual barrier. For maximum effectiveness, these markers must be placed on the exterior surface of the window with no more than two inches between each marker.

Search on Amazon for anti-collision window decals. They really do the trick!



FLETCHER PRAIRIE, A LABOR OF LOVE

by Tim Knott

For many years, Peg and Larry Fletcher had a dream. They wanted to protect wildlife habitat, and they wanted to help kids learn and appreciate the tallgrass prairie, eastern Nebraska's native ecosystem. In 1994, they found the land they were looking for: a 30-acre piece of cropland east of Lincoln near Walton, Nebraska. It was for sale by the great-grandson of the original homesteaders, the Hornby family. And, it was adjacent to the new MO PAC trail on the north and a wooded stream on the south. Recreating a real native prairie and woodland from a piece of cropland was not going to be easy, but they got started.

Bill Whitney of the Prairie Plains Institute in Aurora, Nebraska, taught them how to collect and store native seed for prairie reconstruction. Throughout the summer and fall of 1994, they collected or purchased seed from many places: from the Henry Wulf Prairie east of Lincoln, from the Schneecloth Prairie near Bellevue, from the Werhmann Prairie near Red Oak, Iowa, and from road ditches and railroad rights-of-way in almost every county in southeastern Nebraska. Peg Fletcher always insisted that they get permission before collecting, and never take more than a third of the available seed.

In 1995, the Fletchers sowed their first 3 acres. First, the acres were disced and harrowed by a neighboring farmer; then, they sowed their seed by hand; and finally, had the land lightly harrowed again. Now, only 22 acres more seeding remained to be done on their 25-acre prairie. Each year between 1995 and 1999, Peg and Larry would sow patches of approximately 4 acres. In 1995, they purchased 50 bales of native hay from Henry Wulf Prairie and scattered the hay across another 4 acres. It turned out to be one of their most successful plantings.

By about 2005, their planting was completed, and the prairie was growing well, thanks to a lot of volunteer help from many friends and help from some hired workers. Over 23 species of native grass had been planted and over 180 species of forbs and trees. Peg Fletcher then took the next step in her dream. She opened her school for young people who wanted to learn reading and writing, and also wanted to learn about the animals and plants of Nebraska. The school was established in the Fletcher's barn and operated for a number of years, teaching young students from Lincoln and the surrounding area.

On January 29th, 1997, Larry and Peg Fletcher took another step. They signed a conservation easement agreement with the Wachiska Audubon Society. In the agreement, Wachiska Audubon promised that our organization would protect the Fletcher Prairie from development (and encourage its use in nature education) now and far into the future. We are keeping that promise.



RECONSTRUCTION OF THE PRAIRIE

Excerpt on the history of Fletcher Prairie

by Peggy and Larry Fletcher

Seed collection was collected from virgin prairie sites and remnant prairie sites which we believed were virgin areas. We would start collecting early cool season forbs and grasses in late spring and then continue collecting seeds throughout late fall.

All seeds were collected with the ethical standard of no more than 1/3 of any species in any area. We had permission to collect on all sites apart from roadsides, trails outside of Nebraska and some cemeteries. Collection sites were mostly within a 25 miles radius of Lincoln, with some sites within 100 miles. We purchased Prairie Hay from Wolfe Prairie, machine collected seeds from Wearing Prairie in Red Oak, Iowa and Buffalo grass seed from Miller Seed Co. The buffalo grass was machine drilled into our next tree area in 2003.

After collecting the seeds, we dried them out in paper bags and then stratified them in metal garbage cans outside during the winter months. We scarified the species that required it in April and May. The week before planting we would distribute each species seed into 5 gallons buckets. This would require breaking up all composites seed heads to free the seeds and other seeds encased in hard seed cases. Forbs and grass were kept separated. Plantings were done at the end of May or first part of June.



Each acre to be planted was separated into 4 equal sections and buckets were distributed to each section so we would have enough to cover the area. Forbs were hand sowed first and then the grasses were over seeded.

We also replanted prairie sod removed from the Hickman Road and Hiway 77 prairie, when it was destroyed during the Hiway 77 widening. We transplanted a total of 24 sections which were all very successful.

We also planted another acre using prairie hay using bales from our prairie when it was mowed. We also gave away several of these bales to Spring Creek Prairie and to other people who wanted to start a prairie. We had many friends and hired other people to help us collect the prairie seeds.

We love this Land and wanted to be able to preserve it for future generations. There is such a fine line between balancing nature and life in general. We wanted to be able to protect our commitment to stewardship of the land. We approached Wachiska Audubon about a conservation easement in 2001. The process has been positive, and we are comfortable in our decision to proceed.

We wanted people experiencing Nebraska's earth song when they step into the swaying green ocean of a tall grass prairie. Listening to the bird trills, the insect clicks and buzzes and the grasses singing in the wind.

THE FOX SQUIRREL

by Richard Peterson

The cheeky fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*), aka the eastern fox squirrel, is a rodent, from the Latin meaning “to gnaw”. Rodents have an upper and lower pair of incisor teeth which continue to grow longer throughout the animal’s life. To live, the fox squirrel needs to gnaw, if not on nuts and other food, then on your trees, deck, picnic table, garage door, top edges of fence boards, and the trim on your home.

Their total length, with the tail, can reach 30 inches. Both body and tail are of about equal length. The body is rusty brown-gray to brown-yellow with a typically brown-orange underside. The large tail is tipped with yellow-tan hair. There is no sexual dimorphism. They weigh up to 2.5 pounds. The black squirrels you see occasionally are a genetic aberration. Fox squirrels have excellent vision and a well-developed sense of hearing.



These squirrels are most abundant in open tree stands with little understory vegetation. Little in the way to prevent them from scurrying around. The suburban setting is ideal. They often forage some distance from the nearest trees. Food choices, besides the range of the usual tree nuts, include insects, tubers, bulbs, bird eggs, and seeds from trees including maple, ash, locust, and others. They bury caches of fat rich food items for later consumption, usually during the winter. They utilize two types of shelter: tree cavities and leaf nests. Natural cavities and those abandoned by a woodpecker or flicker will suffice. They are as happy nesting in your attic as in a hollow tree. Leaf nests are easily seen in the forks of deciduous tree near the canopy. Fox squirrels do not hibernate in winter but instead hunker down in their shelter of choice.

Fox squirrels are diurnal and spend more of their time on the ground than other tree squirrels. Unlike most mammals, they can climb down a tree head-first. They do this by rotating their ankles 180 degrees, enabling the hind feet to point back and grip the tree from the opposite direction. These critters can jump, easily spanning fifteen feet in horizontal leaps and free-falling twenty feet or more to a soft landing on a leafy limb or tree trunk.

They are not overly gregarious; in fact, some have described them as solitary and asocial. When confronting another squirrel, they stand upright with their tail over their back and flick-twitch the tail. They may vocalize an assortment of clucking and chucking sounds, perhaps culminating in a distress cry.



Fox Chasing a Fox Squirrel. Photo by Hoan Luong

Few predators can capture an adult fox squirrel. Nestling and young squirrels, however, are vulnerable to climbing raccoons and opossums. Squirrels were an important source of meat for European explorers and settlers in the 17th and 18th centuries.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

If you'd like to come out to Prairie Pines Nature Preserve and help us with painting, carpentry or any odd jobs (indoors or out) we'd love your company and help over the winter months!

Please feel free to call Mark Brohman at 402.525.1504

CONSENSUS CLEAR ON GLOBAL WARMING

by Chuck Francis

Education and Outreach Committee

Reporting on the climate crisis in the Lincoln Journal Star on 24 September 2025, an article cites the global workshop in New York City leading up to a United Nations climate summit featuring ‘hundreds of leaders from government and businesses concerned with our global warming threat.’ The focus is for countries to move away from fossil fuels and embrace renewable options such as wind and solar energy, and to consider nuclear sources as an alternative.



CLIMATE SUMMIT 2025/ UNITED NATIONS: Parties announced updated national targets for climate action, reaffirmed their support for multilateralism and science, and demanded immediate action to prevent the irreversible damage resulting from a rapidly heating planet.

The article states that many countries have committed to moving toward these renewable sources that are now over 40% cheaper than traditional fossil fuel alternatives. The report continues that “Last year the world invested \$2 trillion in renewable energy, twice as much as invested in the fossil fuels that spew heat-trapping gases” into the atmosphere. It is clear from the actions of forward-thinking businesses and governments worldwide that this is the only viable future to sustain a livable environment on the planet. Most thoughtful and informed leaders are convinced, and are buying into this new reality with solid commitments for change.

In early 2025 the International Court of Justice ruled that all countries need to act on climate change. In fact, many island countries are facing an existential crisis of rising ocean levels due to melting of polar ice caps and glaciers worldwide. Global warming is causing temperatures that fuel this crisis, and all countries are urged to establish strategies to reverse the trend.

China and the European Union, two of the largest emitters of carbon dioxide, are soon to announce rough sketches of their

plans for the immediate future. Unfortunately, the current U.S. government has scoffed at these efforts, and in fact is pushing the development of more facilities to process and transport fossil fuels across the country. This is not only a non-sensical decision for economic reasons, but also sets an unrealistic pattern for continued reliance on fuels that will continue to harm the environment for decades into the future. We all need to heed the current science that provides rational and non-political recommendations about future energy sources, and discard short-sighted and politically motivated strategies that will keep our country decades behind others that are pursuing future-oriented plans to change our global energy economy.

SPRING CREEK AUDUBON SPECIAL EVENTS:

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, Dec. 7, 1-4PM

Location: Spring Creek Audubon.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (Help us help the birds!)

Saturday, Dec. 20, ALL DAY!

For over 120 years birders and bird lovers have helped count birds with Audubon over the holiday season by participating in the Christmas Bird Count. The count is designed to help us understand our bird populations better and is one of the biggest and longest running community science projects in the world! Lincoln’s count will be Saturday, Dec. 20th this year, and we need help counting, both in the field and especially at your own feeders or local parks!

All levels of birding skills are welcome, and we’ll even have an accessible birding station at Oak Lake Park that day from 9-10:30AM. If interested in counting, please email Jason the Birdnerd from Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center:

scp@audubon.org



Went to collect my recycle bin a few minutes ago, and this fella was sitting on a fence across the alley. He didn’t fly far, so might have a nest in the area? Location was between 46th and 47th streets, and between Baldwin Ave and Huntington Ave.

Red-tailed hawk. Sighting and Photo by Charles Orem

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 Deb Fischer

1248 O St Ste 1111, Lincoln NE 68508
Lincoln phone: 402-441-4600 Fax: 402-476-8753
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-6551 Fax: 202-228-0012
E-mail at website: <http://fischer.senate.gov>

Senator Pete Ricketts

1248 O St Ste 1000, 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://ricketts.senate.gov>

Congressman Mike Flood

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

Congressman Don Bacon (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 Jim Pillen

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

State Senator _____

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

State Capitol Switchboard

402-471-2311

Lancaster County Commissioners

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

Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird

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: councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln Journal Star

Letters to the editor, 21st and N St, Lincoln NE 68508
E-mail: oped@journalstar.com

Join now! Become a Friend of Wachiska Audubon Society!

This local chapter membership provides you with voting privileges and access to all our events, programs, and committees, **plus 100 percent of your membership donation goes directly to the Wachiska chapter.** In addition, Friend members receive our monthly newsletter, *The Babbling Brook*, in their choice of print or electronic form.

Friends of Wachiska (local membership)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

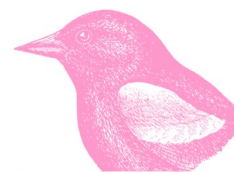
Phone _____

Email _____

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

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

Wachiska Audubon Society
Attention: Membership Committee
3100 N 112th Street
Lincoln, NE 68527



Red-winged blackbird

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

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

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The Babbling Brook is printed on recycled and recyclable paper.



REMEMBERING WACHISKA'S HISTORY

Wachiska means “stream” or “creek” in the languages of Indigenous people of eastern Nebraska, the Omaha and Ponca.

The environmental stewardship efforts of the Wachiska Audubon Society take place on the past, present, and future homelands of the Pawnee, Ponca, Otoe-Missouria, and Omaha Peoples, as well as those of the relocated Ho-Chunk, Sac and Fox, and Ioway. We humbly join our efforts with theirs in honoring and stewarding this land of prairies, rivers, and streams.



Wachiska Audubon Society

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www.WachiskaAudubon.org

WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2025

Executive Director Mark Brohman
Office Administrator..... WJ Bantam

OFFICERS

President *Theresa Pella
Vice President *Ann Briggs
Secretary *April Stevenson
Treasurer/Finance *Carol Bodeen

STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large *Dakota Altman
Director at Large *Andrea Faas
Director at Large *Doug Campbell
Director at Large *Ethan Freese
Director at Large *Stu Luttich
Director at Large *Tom Lynch
Director at Large *Roxanne Smith
Director at Large *Kris Powers
Conservation *Ross Scott
Education/Outreach..... *Tim Knott
Membership..... Linda Brown

***Denotes voting Board member**

For contact information of officers and committee chairs, call or email the Wachiska office.

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



Babbling Brook Newsletter: OPEN CALL TO WRITERS, ILLUSTRATORS, PHOTOGRAPHERS & SPEAKERS

Would you like to submit your writing, art, or suggest a speaker for Wachiska's Speaker Series?

EMAIL:
OFFICE@WACHISKAAUDUBON.ORG
We love to read about what you've seen, and what you've been working on; including environmentally based illustration and photography!

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

Mission Statement of the Wachiska Audubon Society

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

A Gift to the Future

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



Our events are listed on our Facebook page, along with weekly updates and news! Stay current and follow us on FACEBOOK at: Wachiska Audubon!