



Wachiska  
Audubon Society

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

# The Babbling Brook

Our 51<sup>st</sup> Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2024

MAY 2024

Volume 33 - Issue 5

Wachiska Program and General Meeting — Thursday, May 9, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also via YouTube link: <https://youtube.com/live/3aEA7XwhNgc?feature=share>

## Nebraska's Pollinator Community Science

by Cody Dreier, Pollinator Ecologist, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Many insect populations have taken a turn for the worse over the last century. Some of the best tools to monitor these populations are community-based science projects. This talk will focus on pollinator community science opportunities in Nebraska.



The first project is Nebraska's Big Butterfly Count, the brainchild of Joanne Langabee, a master naturalist from Omaha. It involves walking self-selected trails, identifying and counting each butterfly seen. This year the survey training will focus on common eastern and central Nebraska butterfly species and will be held May 4 from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Whitney Education Center at Aurora. This is before my talk, so be sure to get signed up ahead of time.

My primary duty is to run the Nebraska Game and Parks' Monarch and Regal Fritillary Survey. This community science

project involves walking assigned 200-meter-long transects looking for monarchs and regal fritillaries. A quick habitat, vegetation, and management assessment is done on the return trip. There are two training sessions for this survey. The first is at Homestead National Historic Park near Beatrice, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. on May 18; the second is at Schramm Education Center near Gretna, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. on June 1. If you are unable to make an in-person training date, there is a recorded training on YouTube.

The last project I want to highlight is the Nebraska Bumble Bee Atlas, a community science project focused on tracking native bumble bees. Volunteers catch bumble bees and put them on ice to immobilize them. Once asleep, the bees can be safely handled, identified, and photographed. Bees are not harmed during surveys. After the data is collected, the bees wake up and fly away. For more information on how to get involved, check out the Atlas website.

My presentation to Wachiska Audubon will be a deeper dive into how to get involved with pollinator community science in Nebraska. If you are unable to attend the May meeting, contact me to find the community pollinator science project that is right for you. Email me at [cody.dreier@nebraska.gov](mailto:cody.dreier@nebraska.gov).

Cody Dreier grew up in Humboldt, Nebraska. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska-Kearney before earning his master's from UNL. He is now the pollinator ecologist for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Cody enjoys spending his free time with his wife and three children and playing board games with his friends.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, May 9**, at Lincoln's Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, to learn more about these projects and many more in which you can participate. This free, public, in-person talk will also be live-streamed on YouTube at <https://youtube.com/live/3aEA7XwhNgc?feature=share> No registration is needed. The program can also be viewed at a later time. Check Wachiska's website for links to past programs.

### Calendar

#### May

- 3 - 5 Nebraska Birding Bowl (mentioned on page 2)
- 6 Education Committee via Zoom, 6:00 p.m.
- 9 General Meeting, "Nebraska's Pollinator Community Science," by Cody Dreier, 7:00 p.m. in-person at Unitarian Church and also live-streamed; no registration needed (see above)
- 11 Field trip to Fontenelle Forest, 8:00 a.m. (page 4)
- 11 Birdathon field trip to Wilderness Park, 8:00 a.m. (page 2)
- 12 Birdathon field trip to Platte River State Park, 8:00 (page 2)
- 13 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 21 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
- 30 Give to Lincoln Day (page 2)

#### June

- 22 "Tour the Wild Side," 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. (save the date)

## Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman

Our April general meeting program featured Dr. Tom Gannon speaking about his book *Birding While Indian*. Tom grew up in South Dakota and has birded across the Midwest. We had 49 people in person and another 17 online for the presentation. If you missed it, be sure to go to our website and watch the program on YouTube.



April was a busy month having a booth at Return of the Thunderbirds at the Indian Center, Lincoln Earth Day at Innovation Campus, Arbor Day at Antelope Park, and four Nature Nights around Lincoln. I want to thank Tim Knott for overseeing our education events and a big thank you to the volunteers who helped us run the Wachiska booth.

The Legislature has finally concluded, and you can read about the results in my article on page 3. Conservation did not fare well, but I guess you can always say it could have been worse.

Tim Houghton will be hosting a birding trip at Fontenelle Forest on May 11 (see page 4). Bluebirds Across Nebraska is dedicating a chimney swift tower at Hardin Hall on May 11 at 10:00 a.m.

The solar eclipse was April 8, and I did get to southeast Missouri for a three-minute full eclipse. I can't put my finger on it, but I have become an eclipse geek after the 2017 eclipse. The weather was ideal with very few clouds in the Missouri sky. As a bonus, I was able to fish for largemouth bass in the morning before the eclipse and was very successful.

We have Give to Lincoln Day coming May 30, but donors can give all month and our annual Birdathon fundraiser is underway. You should have gotten Wachiska's letter about the events. We always appreciate our great donors, not only for Birdathon and Give to Lincoln Day, but year 'round.

The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union is holding its spring meeting in Lincoln at the Holiday Inn, 2500 Tamarin Ridge Road, on May 3 - 5. They are celebrating their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They will also help kick off the Nebraska Birding Bowl, a month-long birding competition for beginning and experienced birders with prizes including bird feeders, binoculars, and cash prizes. To learn more and register, go to <https://birdtrail.outdoornebraska.gov/birdingbowl/>.

Put "Tour the Wild Side" on your calendar for Saturday, June 22, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. This free, self-led tour across Lincoln highlights the efforts of seven landscape owners to integrate native plants into urban landscapes to diversify nature and aid insects, birds, and plants. The Tour is entering its fourth year and has averaged over 500 attendees each year.

## Birdathon 2024 and Give to Lincoln Day

by Tim Knott



This year marks the 36<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of Wachiska's Birdathon. Wachiska Audubon has depended on the annual Birdathon as the most important fundraising event of the year. Now, combined with Give to Lincoln Day on May 30, it makes all the things we do as an organization possible. Donations during this time make our education and outreach events such as "Tour the Wild Side," Prairie Discovery Days, Nature Nights, Bird EnCOUNTER for kids, and many other activities happen. It enables us to continue regular monthly meetings with programs as well as our work with the state legislature. Perhaps just as important is that this support provides for the long-term sustainability of our chapter. You should have received your Birdathon fundraising letter in late April. If you prefer, you can give online or via our website.

If your choice is to participate in Give to Lincoln Day on May 30, they specialize in online giving through their website. You can also send your check to the Wachiska office postmarked by May 25 and make it payable to Lincoln Community Foundation with "Wachiska Audubon" on the memo line. We will deliver the checks to the Foundation. All contributions will be proportionately matched by Foundation funds. You can also work directly with the Lincoln Community Foundation for qualified IRA and investment fund contributions to the event.

Whether you donate directly to Birdathon or elect to do so with Give to Lincoln Day, we send a BIG THANK YOU to all Wachiska members and Friends for your continued support as Wachiska makes its way to our 52<sup>nd</sup> year.

## Birding Field Trips Celebrating Birdathon

by Tim Knott

The weekend of May 11 and 12 should be one of the best birdwatching weekends of the year. It's migration time when some of the first warblers, rose-breasted grosbeaks, indigo buntings, and other migrants make it to Nebraska. That Saturday is International Bird Migration Day.

Join us on Saturday, May 11, at 8:00 a.m. at Wilderness Park. Meet at the South 14<sup>th</sup> Street entrance, just north of Rokeby Road and south of Pine Lake Road. Todd Paddock will lead the trip for both beginners and more experienced birders.

On Sunday, May 12, Jeff Meyer will lead a birding hike at Platte River State Park. We will meet at the observation tower at 8:00 a.m. Platte River State Park is about four miles east of South Bend on Highway 66. It is a great place to see tanagers, vireos, flycatchers, and warblers. If you are birding on your own on May 11 and 12, keep track of the bird species you see and turn them in to Ken Reitan at the Wachiska office. This is the weekend we would like to get as large a list of total bird species as possible.

## Legislation 2024

by Mark Brohman

The 2024 legislative session has come to an end. The last day of the 60-day session was April 18. Some believe we may have a special session with at least two subjects being talked about, additional property tax relief and “winner take all” when it comes to dividing the State’s Electoral College votes to reflect the results in each of its congressional districts. Since LB388 was withdrawn on the final day, a special session on property tax relief is almost guaranteed.

The biggest disappointment of the session was the passage of LB1335 that changes provisions and exemptions of the Nebraska Nongame and Endangered Species Act. It exempts the rights-of-way (ROW) from being critical habitat for State listed threatened and endangered (T&E) species, so the Department of Transportation (DOT) and their agents do not need to survey for those species in existing ROW. ROW in many instances can be thousands of feet wide and acres of habitat. Almost 40 percent of Nebraska’s documented T&E species have been found in the ROW, and the ROW owned by the DOT is over 120,000 acres. Several conservation groups came together to fight the bill, but it was eventually passed.

LB1370 was a bill that the Natural Resources Committee turned into their omnibus bill that ended up containing LB120, LB956, LB969, and LB1260. A downside with the bill is that on-demand generation facilities must be replaced with equal or greater on-demand generation capacity prior to decommissioning. This will make it difficult to decommission coal plants and may even require one to be replaced with another coal plant. A positive part of the bill is LB956 which replaces continuously blinking aviation warning lights mounted on top of wind turbines with light-mitigating technology systems approved by the Federal Aviation Administration. Another addition, LB1260, would allow a director of a public power and irrigation district to discuss and vote on issues where they have a residential lease agreement or a water service agreement with such district.

LB388 was one of the massive tax bills containing a provision that would tax lottery tickets. Since Powerball and Mega Millions tickets are part of a nationwide ticket sales program, the states can only charge \$2 for each ticket, so the Nebraska Lottery will have to absorb the sales tax, and it will come out of the revenue given to the Nebraska Environmental Trust, public schools, the State Fair, and Problem Gamblers. There would have been fewer dollars for the Trust to distribute through grants. Many other items previously exempted from sales tax would have been eliminated and now be taxed, including soda, candy, and veterinarian care of small animals (pets). Senator Linehan pulled LB388 on the last day when she realized she did not have the needed votes.

A small victory this session was the successful elimination of cash fund raids at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

One of the mainline appropriation bills, LB1413, was drafted to take multiple cash funds being held by state agencies. Originally, the legislature was going to take \$7M from the State Game Fund and \$2.5M from the Nebraska Habitat Fund. Fortunately, when legislators learned of the millions of dollars of federal matching funds that would result, they eliminated those takes. There were recycling cash funds held by the Department of Environment and Energy that were also spared when the true impact of lost matching funds was pointed out.

LB218 passed to double the state funding for management of vegetation within the banks or the floodplain of a natural stream from \$3M to \$6M annually. Conservation groups will need to monitor these projects to make sure too much vegetation and productive habitat is not disturbed. It will help with invasive species control of plants like salt cedar and purple loosestrife.

Several good bills were not able to make it to the finish line because of lack of time and prioritization and died at the end of the session. They can be reintroduced in the next session. LB1243 would have created a Wildland Fire Response Team and set up teams and provided equipment that could have aided in prescribed burns as well as wildfires. LB655 would have appropriated additional funding to the State Fire Marshal for Community Wildfire Defense Grants, established two statewide firefighting crews, and assisted in prescribed burns for cedar control. LB576 would have limited liability and nuisance lawsuits related to land management burning. LB1119 would have limited homeowner’s associations’ restrictions on solar and wind collection devices. LB831 would have established a “restricted” plant list to prohibit selling and distributing harmful plants that are not considered noxious. LB828 would have established a Pollinator Task Force.

As the old saying goes, “The only time the State is safe is when the legislature is not in session.”

## Spring Birdseed Sale Report

by Cathy Shaner, Coordinator

Thanks to Dean Cole, Dave Barnhouse, Mark Brohman, Jeff Meyer, and Dwayne Wilson for assisting me to unload, sort, and load seed into customers’ vehicles during the March 15 - 16 Spring Birdseed Sale. Thanks to Jeff Meyer for coordinating the volunteers for this event. I want to give a shout out to Nancy Hamer, Linda Sullivan, Roxanne Smith, and Arlys Reitan for assistance with the website and emails.

Thanks to all! Before expenses, a total of \$5,294 of seed was sold which included 110 bags and six cases of suet. After expenses, including seed, sales tax, shipping, and fees, we **netted \$2,586.30**. In addition, two membership renewals and \$111 in donations were received. Every bit helps the cause—and the birds are especially grateful!! Thanks once again to everyone who helped in various ways.

## Fontenelle Forest Wetland Field Trip

by Tim Houghton

Come explore Fontenelle Forest's wetland on Saturday, May 11. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the wetlands (*not* the visitors' center). Once at the area, take Childs Road into the park, past the train tracks, and to the parking area on the left. Bring binoculars. Think about your footwear, as some places could be muddy. An admission fee is required for nonmembers, payable at the site or at the visitors' center later. This may be the best spring migration spot in Nebraska, especially for warblers and other song birds. For any questions, contact Tim at [timhoughton@comcast.net](mailto:timhoughton@comcast.net) or 443-883-6886.

## Thank You Open Harvest

by Mark Brohman

Wachiska was selected to be Open Harvest's SEED recipient for the month of March. The SEED program allows customers to "round-up" their grocery bill for local nonprofit organizations.

Open Harvest said a big part of being a food co-op is actively pursuing their mission of creating a vibrant community, upholding their cooperative values, and building strong partnerships to better serve customers. Wachiska received a check for \$1,350.97 from Open Harvest's March sales contributions.

Open Harvest Co-op Grocery recently moved from their long-time location at 17<sup>th</sup> and South streets to their new home at 330 South 21<sup>st</sup> Street in the Telegraph District. Their operating hours are 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Next time you are shopping there, tell them you appreciate their "round-up" program.

Wachiska Board Secretary April Stevenson and Executive Director Mark Brohman accepted the check (below).



## Return of the Thunderbirds

by Mark Brohman

The third annual Return of the Thunderbirds event was held Saturday, April 13. This free event was held at the Indian Center, Inc. in Lincoln. There were over 530 attendees enjoying music, arts, food, dancing, vendors of all kinds, speakers, live birds from the Raptor Conservation Alliance, and more. Over 30 booths were present.

The main sponsors were Humanities Nebraska, Spring Creek Prairie, Wachiska Audubon, Kiwanis, Great Plains Nursery, Lincoln Arts Council, Ho-Chunk Inc., and the Indian Center. Wachiska sponsored the Raptor Conservation Alliance birds of prey exhibit. The Alliance had several birds on display all day with their peregrine falcon on stage. The great horned owl, turkey vulture, and leucistic red-tailed hawk were favorites.

This event celebrates the coming of spring, rains, thunder, and birds returning to the Great Plains from Indigenous partners and conservation organizations. It celebrates the renewal of the earth and thanks the Thunder beings or Thunderbirds.

The Many Moccasins Dance Troupe was a huge hit with native dancers ranging from under two years old to adults. Seeing their regalia was a real bonus, and many attendees were able to participate in dance activities. The troupe has toured Asia and Europe, as well as all over the U.S.

Other performers and speakers were Renee Sans Souci, Lena and Marci Black, Standing Eagle, Tom Gannon, Brandon Cobb, Oscar Rios, Cory DeRoin, Sue Bad Moccasin and Margaret Jacobs. A special thanks to Jason "the bird nerd" St. Sauver for the work he and his helpers put into pulling off this interesting event (dancers and kids' activities pictured below).



## Fireflies

by Richard Peterson



Fireflies, lightning bugs, or any other name—what would a calm, warm, summer evening be without them? But flies or bugs they are not. They are soft-bodied beetles in the Family Lampyridae.

They are not the beetles

with the hard wing covers with which we are acquainted, but a variant that occurred along the evolutionary path. There are over 2,000 species of lightning bugs found on all continents except Antarctica. Fossils of them have been found in Myanmar (Burma) amber which date to the Late Cretaceous, 99 million years ago.

Favoring temperate and tropical regions, many live near marsh or moist wooded areas suitable for larval development. Eggs are laid on or just below the soil surface. Larvae hunt prey using a hypodermic-like injection strategy similar to that of bees. They feed on snails, slugs, worms, and other larvae until the end of the summer. Then most will hibernate, and the adults will emerge in the spring. All firefly larvae are light-emitting (aka glowworms) but only some species emit light as adults. Those that do not usually fly during the day.

This chemical process of light production (bioluminescence) occurs in light-emitting organs, usually on the lower abdomen. The enzyme luciferase, magnesium ions, oxygen, and adenosine triphosphate (ATP) combine to produce the light. Firefly luciferase is used in forensics as a marker to detect blood clots, tag tuberculosis virus cells, and monitor hydrogen peroxide levels in living organisms. The light can be either yellow-green, orange, turquoise, or bright poppy-red, and it can be synchronized depending on the species. This occurs in a number of places around the world. One of the most famous places in the U.S. where fireflies blink in unison occurs annually near Elkmont, Tennessee, in the Great Smoky Mountains.

The light is thought to warn off predators, but more often to attract mates. The adult is distasteful to predators because of a steroid in the beetle which is similar to one found in some poisonous toads. Males cruise for mates flashing species-specific patterns. An interested female will reply, thus helping the male locate her resting on nearby vegetation. Adult diet varies, with some species being carnivorous predators feeding on mites and others feeding on plant pollen and nectar; some do not feed at all.

In Japan, the emergence of fireflies signifies the anticipated changing of the seasons, with firefly viewing being a special aesthetic pleasure of midsummer and celebrated in parks that were created especially for that experience.

Fireflies face threats of light pollution, habitat loss and degradation, pesticide use, poor water quality, invasive species, over collection, and climate change. Recent IUCN Red List assessment for North American fireflies has identified 18 taxa as threatened with extinction.

*Editor's Note: The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species, also known as the IUCN Red List or Red Data Book, was founded in 1964 and is an inventory of the global conservation status and extinction risk of biological species.*

### Book review:

#### ***Flight Paths* by Rebecca Heisman**

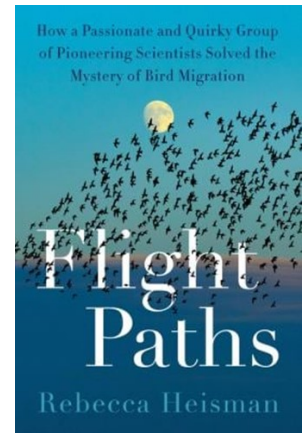
reviewed by Kevin Cole

*Flight Paths* by Rebecca Heisman (Harper Collins 2023) chronicles the people who used technology to study bird migrations. There is passion and inventiveness here, starting with leg bands introduced over 100 years ago.

The first evidence that migrating birds crossed the Gulf of Mexico at night came from counting birds silhouetted against the full moon. Most technology for tracking birds was adapted from other uses. For example, weather radar developed after World War II showed migrating birds as well as rain clouds. This was a boon to birders, but the weather people needed to learn how to subtract the birds from the images before sharing them on the TV news.

As another example, you can geolocate anywhere on Earth if you know the exact time of sunrise and sunset. For tracking birds this way, the first challenge is to combine a light sensor and an accurate clock in a package that a bird can safely carry. Another challenge is to recapture the same bird later in the year to recover the data. As electronics have miniaturized, smaller birds have carried sensor packages to uncover more migration routes.

Community science is also featured, such as the Breeding Bird Survey which recently celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year. As an engineer, I very much enjoyed learning about the technology of bird tracking, but I also enjoyed stories of the people whose drive and devotion to ornithology made it all possible.



### Cookie Donors Still Needed Each Month

Contact Arlys or Mark in the Wachiska office when you can provide 2-3 dozen cookies or other treats for the social time after monthly general meetings. We have a sign-up sheet.

# Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

Let's start with some exercise. National Audubon has asked us to thank our House member, Rep. Mike Flood, for the passage of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Enhancement Act on April 9. The bill extends a program for five years that provides competitive grants for habitat conservation in the Western Hemisphere. It enables the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to support conservation partners along migratory flyways.

The bill's primary sponsor was a Republican from Florida and was cosponsored by 17 Democrats and seven Republicans. It was approved on a voice vote, so we don't know how Mike Flood voted, but we can still thank him for the passage, assume the best, and praise bipartisanship.

Why do this? If several of us do it, it communicates to Rep. Flood that he has constituents who care about birds and the environment and who follow congressional actions. A handwritten note is great. If you use email, it takes maybe only five minutes. I know because I got this note off by email in five minutes—not great literature, but it does the job:

Congressman Flood: I was pleased to see that on April 9, the House passed The Migratory Birds of the Americas Act, HR4389, by voice vote. I hope you were one of the voices in support. I believe this subject can be nonpartisan/bipartisan/not polarizing, and I am glad to see the House recognized that. You probably know the bill was sponsored by a Republican from Florida, Rep. Maria Salazar, and was supported by both parties. Thank you for your attention to the welfare and future of wildlife.

The second part of the exercise—also requested by National Audubon—is that we write our U.S. senators, urging speedy passage there. The Senate bill is S4022, again with bipartisan sponsorship—a Democrat from Maryland and a Republican from Arkansas. The bill was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. Senator Pete Ricketts is a member of this committee. Wouldn't it be terrific to get his support?!

How does this relate to climate change? It supports bipartisan action which is what we will need for future congressional action to lower greenhouse gas emissions sufficiently and soon enough. The bill also supports Audubon's strategic plan.

Global temperatures are hotter than predicted. Cities tend to be hotter by several degrees than their surroundings because of the high thermal mass of concrete and asphalt which absorbs solar radiation and release it slowly; however, "Green

Spaces Can Help More than We Thought" as the March 4 *Science* magazine summarized from a study published by the journal *Innovation* found here: <https://www.zmescience.com/science/cities-are-vulnerable-to-heatwaves-but-green-spaces-can-help-more-than-we-thought/>.

As Lincoln and surrounding towns look at our futures, we need to be planting mini-forests. As Julie Diegel writes, "Mini-forests start with selected native trees and shrubs, planted close together in heavily amended and mulched soils that grow to "climax" forests in decades rather than centuries. [Benefits include] rapid carbon sequestration, support for native pollinators, infrastructure protection, and cooling of urban heat islands." A good video on mini-forests is found at: <https://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2023/0922/Miyawaki-A-little-forest-with-a-towering-task-video>. A good book is *Mini-Forest Revolution* by Hannah Lewis. Julie Diegel is a Lincolnite who is provoking thought and action and can be reached at [jkdiegel@gmail.com](mailto:jkdiegel@gmail.com).

## Climate Signs Still Available from Wachiska

Join friends and neighbors to show your concern about our climate and our elected officials. Stop by the Wachiska office and pick up your Climate yard sign.



Yard signs that say "VOTE with CLIMATE in Mind" are available for \$10 each. They are made of material that will hold up well to the elements and come with a metal holder to push into the ground. You are encouraged to put your signs out now for the spring elections. Since they are so durable, they could easily last three or four years even if kept out all year.

## Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Upcoming Programs

Saturday, May 4 – Beginner Accessible Bird Outing, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. In partnership with the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union.

Saturday, May 11 – Super Bird Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Activities include a Birding by Ear workshop (8:00 - 9:00 a.m.), a Slow Birding outing (9:00 - 10:00 a.m.), and a Family Bird Fair (10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon). Free admission.

Sunday, May 19 – Prairie-to-Prairie 2024: Run-Bike-Run. This non-competitive race is a fundraiser for the Haines Branch Corridor project. Register through the Lincoln Parks Foundation at [https://www.lincolnparks.org/what\\_you\\_can\\_do/prairie-to-prairie-2024-run-bike-run.html](https://www.lincolnparks.org/what_you_can_do/prairie-to-prairie-2024-run-bike-run.html).

Tuesday, May 21 – Third Tuesday Bird Outing, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. Join an experienced guide. Free admission, registration preferred.

More details on these and other events at <https://springcreek.audubon.org/events>; 402-797-2301.

## Public Officials

### **President Joe Biden**

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 13<sup>th</sup> St Ste 100, Lincoln NE 68508 (1<sup>st</sup> 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> District)**

13906 Gold Cir Ste 101, Omaha NE 68144  
Omaha phone: 888-221-7452  
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4155 Fax: 202-226-5452  
E-mail at website: <https://bacon.house.gov>

### **Congressman Adrian Smith (3<sup>rd</sup> District)**

416 Valley View Dr Ste 600, Scottsbluff NE 69361  
Scottsbluff phone: 308-633-6333 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 10<sup>th</sup> St Rm 110, Lincoln NE 68508  
Phone: 402-441-7447 Fax: 402-441-6301  
E-mail: [commish@lancaster.ne.gov](mailto:commish@lancaster.ne.gov)

### **Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird**

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10<sup>th</sup> St Rm 301, Lincoln NE 68508-2828  
Phone: 402-441-7511 Fax: 402-441-7120  
E-mail: [mayor@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:mayor@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lincoln City Council**

402-441-7515  
E-mail: [councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lincoln Journal Star**

Letters to the editor, 21<sup>st</sup> and N St, Lincoln NE 68508  
E-mail: [oped@journalstar.com](mailto:oped@journalstar.com)

## **Join now! Become a Friend of Wachiska Audubon Society!**

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

### **Friends of Wachiska (local membership)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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  
4547 Calvert St Ste 10  
Lincoln NE 68506-5643



**American Goldfinches**

\_\_\_ **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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Lincoln NE 68506-5643



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

## 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 will continue to collect 2024 calendars until further notice if they are dropped off at the office.

## WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2024

Executive Director ..... Mark Brohman  
Office Administrator..... Arlys Reitan

### OFFICERS

President..... \*Theresa Pella  
Vice President ..... \*Andrea Faas  
Secretary ..... \*April Stevenson  
Treasurer/Finance..... \*Carol Bodeen

### STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large ..... \*Dakota Altman  
Director at Large ..... \*Ann Briggs  
Director at Large ..... \*Doug Campbell  
Director at Large ..... \*Ethan Freese  
Director at Large ..... \*Stu Luttich  
Director at Large ..... \*Tom Lynch  
Director at Large ..... \*Mercy Manzanares  
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.

## 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.

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

402-486-4846  
office@WachiskaAudubon.org  
www.WachiskaAudubon.org

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](http://www.WachiskaAudubon.org).

Wachiska is participating with Give Nebraska. Through a payroll deduction system, your donations will be automatically withdrawn from your paycheck. There are 75 nonprofit agencies that are beneficiaries, and more than 100 worksites participate. You can give a little each paycheck, and your contributions can add up. Your donations through Give Nebraska are tax deductible. Check with your employer to see if they are part of Give Nebraska.

***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**.

