



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

MARCH 2025

Volume 34 - Issue 3

Wachiska Program and General Meeting - Thursday, March 13, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also via YouTube link: <https://youtube.com/live/E5iKWy-UHqo?feature=share>

Into Whooperland: A Photographer's Journey with Whooping Cranes

by Michael Forsberg, Conservation Photographer and Co-founder of Platte Basin Timelapse

Conservation photographer Michael Forsberg spent the last five years camera-in-hand exploring the natural history of whooping cranes across the continent, meeting people who love them, and discovering how these tall, magnificent and rarest of cranes are navigating our 21st-century world. In this multimedia presentation, Mike will take you on a wild, wonderful, and sometimes heartbreaking journey from whooping crane wintering grounds along the Texas Gulf Coast to their remote nesting grounds in northern Canada, and on migration through the heart of the Great Plains.

In this remarkable book, Mike tells the extraordinary stories of tough, adaptive individual birds and the network of biologists, wildlife teams, landowners, and volunteers committed to maintaining and restoring the species. The result of his efforts is a glimpse into the lives of whooping cranes previously unknown as they are among the most endangered bird species on the planet. (See book note below.)

Michael Forsberg was born and reared in Nebraska and has been a professional photographer for 30 years. His books, articles, and films focus on wildlife and conservation stories in the Great Plains. Mike is a senior fellow with the International League of Conservation Photographers, co-founder of Platte



Michael Forsberg

Mike has accepted Wachiska's offer to sell his book at this meeting. The price is \$49 plus tax, which can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. Mike graciously offered to donate a portion of sales back to Wachiska.

Basin Timelapse, and on the faculty with IANR at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. Mike lives with his family and a collection of unruly animals in Lincoln, Nebraska.



Join Wachiska on **Thursday, March 13, at 7:00 p.m.** at Lincoln's Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, for this free, public, in-person presentation which will be live-streamed on YouTube at

<https://youtube.com/live/E5iKWy-UHqo?feature=share>

No registration is needed. This program can also be viewed at a later time. Check Wachiska's website for links to past programs.

Following the Forsberg presentation, there will be a reception for long-time Wachiska member and employee, Arlys Reitan. Arlys has managed the office, scheduled general meeting program speakers, and written *The Babbling Brook* for 30 years. Join us for refreshments, treats, and celebration.

Calendar

March

- 3 Education/Outreach Committee via Zoom, 6:00 p.m.
- 10 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 13 General Meeting, "Into Whooperland," by Mike Forsberg, 7:00 p.m., in-person meeting at Unitarian Church and also live-streamed; no registration needed (see link above)
- 13 **Spring Birdseed Sale order deadline** (pages 3-4)
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 18 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
- 21-22 **Spring Birdseed Sale distribution** (pages 3-4)

Wachiska Audubon Office: 402-486-4846

Email: Office@WachiskaAudubon.org

Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman



We are finally all moved in at Prairie Pines. The view out my office window is inspiring. One recent late afternoon, I was working and just before dark, there were 14 white-tailed deer browsing around the snow-covered woodland floor just 20 yards out my window. It was like a nature documentary. After fresh snow, it is amazing the animal tracks visible all around the office—coyote, deer, rabbit, and squirrel tracks.

Wendy Bantum has joined us. She will be taking over Arlys Reitan's duties as office manager and *Babbling Brook* editor. At the next monthly meeting we will have a reception for Arlys, so mark your calendar for Thursday, March 13, at the Unitarian Church. Michael Forsberg will be giving the program at 7:00 p.m., followed by the reception. It will be a great talk, and we can celebrate with Arlys on her many years of service to Wachiska.

We had a very successful Bird ENCOUNTER at Eiseley Library and a Nature Night at Kloefkorn Elementary School. The Kloefkorn gymnasium was packed, and the kids were enjoying the Wachiska booth. Thanks to all the volunteers at both events.

The Legislature is in full swing, and I continue to monitor bills and provide testimony for Wachiska on key bills. LB261 takes \$14M and LB264 takes 50 percent of Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) funds. LB638 requires the Department of Natural Resources to apply for \$25M in NET funds.

Be sure and stop by the new office and say "hi" and wander around Prairie Pines. You might want to wait until it gets a little warmer, but after recent snows, we have had a few cross-country skiers. Right now, trails are open 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday by Prairie Pines Partners volunteers. I am around most weekdays, but you might want to call first to make sure Wendy or I are here and not gone to a meeting. There are lots of trails to explore and wildlife to see.

Don't forget to get your birdseed orders in by March 13. Details on location and pick up times are all spelled out on pages 3-4.

Change is in the Air

by Theresa Pella, Board President

As Wachiska opened Year 2024, no one imagined where the organization would be one year later! Serving as the Board president last year was both challenging and invigorating as the Board dove into developing a new strategy plan—at the same

time diving deeper into conversations about whether Wachiska should accept Prairie Pines. This was plenty enough to think about, but the conservation and education/outreach committees further solidified commitments to improve the programs under their purview.

While Mark kept a steady hold on the many directions Wachiska was looking, long-time volunteer and staff changes I'm sure shook his foundation. Before bookkeeper Nancy Hamer stepped back to enjoy travel, music, and other fun stuff, she helped identify an accountant to support Wachiska's financial work. Terry Workentine has been with us now for about five months; her CPA background has been extremely useful in streamlining paperwork, processes, IRS filings, etc.

Linda Sullivan volunteered as newsletter layout person for ten years before stepping down last summer and Kim Stuhr came on board. Office Administrator Arlys Reitan wrote and edited the newsletter and scheduled monthly general meetings since the office opened in 1995, most of that time as the only paid staff. With her decision to retire after 30 years, through word-of-mouth, two qualified candidates were interviewed, and Wendy Bantum recently accepted the part-time position of office administrator (page 6). Her talents include newsletter development and publishing, website and other technology support, grant writing, and community interactions.

To top off the start of 2025, the office has moved to Prairie Pines, a management committee was formed to manage the Preserve, and Wachiska was selected for another three-year Nebraska Environmental Trust grant to help manage the chapter's other prairies and conservation easements. The late 2024 fundraisers were successful in providing "start-up" funds for Prairie Pines' expenses and to help ensure the chapter can continue to strive towards the Wachiska vision of **sharing the experience and love for nature and help protect its diversity.**

Thank you for being with us and supporting this adventure!

Spring Birdseed Orders Due by March 13

REMINDER: Order your spring birdseed from Wachiska RIGHT NOW. The order form is on page 3 of this newsletter with seed descriptions and particular bird species' preferences on page 4. The order form can be downloaded and printed at www.wachiskaudubon.org.

You can also order online from this site. The last day to order online is Thursday, March 13. Mail-in orders must be postmarked by March 13. You can also bring your order to the March 13 general meeting. Then **pick up birdseed orders at the former Wachiska office site, 4547 Calvert Street**, on Friday, March 21, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. or on Saturday, March 22, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. This is a major Wachiska fundraiser which began about 40 years ago. What can be a more perfect project than providing nourishment for our feathered friends! Please call the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846 if you have questions. Again, **NOTE THE LOCATION FOR PICKING UP YOUR ORDERS!!!**



Wachiska Audubon Spring 2025 Birdseed Sale Order Form

		Bag Size	Bag Code	Price Each	Quantity	Total Cost
ALL PRICES INCLUDE SALES TAX						
FEED MIXES	Standard Audubon Mix	40 lb bag	ST40	\$ 45.00		\$
	Classic Audubon Mix	20 lb bag	CL20	\$ 31.00		\$
		40 lb bag	CL40	\$ 50.00		\$
	Attraction Audubon Mix	35 lb bag	AT35	\$ 67.00		\$
	Woodpecker Gourmet	20 lb bag	WO20	\$ 59.00		\$
	Bushy Tail Treat	20 lb bag	BT20	\$ 40.00		\$
SEEDS	Millet, White (98%)	50 lb bag	MI50	\$ 44.00		\$
	Peanuts, shelled rejects	20 lb bag	PR20	\$ 55.00		\$
	Safflower Seed	20 lb bag	SA20	\$ 42.00		\$
		50 lb bag	SA50	\$ 92.00		\$
	Safflower Seed, Nutra Saff	20 lb bag		\$ 42.00		\$
	Sunflower Hearts, coarse	20 lb bag	HC20	\$ 57.00		\$
		50 lb bag	HC50	\$ 110.00		\$
Sunflower Hearts, fine	20 lb bag	HF20	\$ 57.00		\$	
Sunflower Seed, black oil	25 lb bag	SB25	\$ 28.00		\$	
SUET CAKES	High Energy Treat, 11.75 oz. cake		EN-C	\$ 2.00		\$
	Berry Treat, 11 oz. cake		BT-C	\$ 2.00		\$
Total number of bags and cost (All prices INCLUDE sales tax)						\$
Tax Deductible Donation to support Wachiska's education & conservation activities						\$
Total Enclosed. Make check payable to Wachiska Audubon Society						\$

Name (Print) _____ Email address _____ Phone Number (required) _____

Mailing Address _____

This form and your check must be postmarked by Thursday, March 13, 2025
 Mail to: Wachiska Audubon Society Birdseed Sale - 3100 North 112th Street,
 Lincoln NE 68527

ORDER PICK UP DATES - MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

PLEASE—Plan to pick up your order during one of these times

Friday, March 21

Saturday, March 22

3:00 -6:00 p.m.

9:00 -11:00 a.m.

Note: stay in car; we will bring the seed to you.

Pick up location: Wachiska Audubon Office, 4547 Calvert Street (garage located south)

Are you interested in volunteering for the birdseed pick up Yes (check box)

Wachiska Audubon Spring 2025 Birdseed Sale & Fundraiser

Wachiska's Birdseed Sales are an important part of our fundraising and offer you a great deal on birdseed! **Our prices are very competitive.** The great majority of Wachiska's budget for education and conservation programs comes from donations and fundraising, and our twice-a-year birdseed sales are two of our major fundraisers. If you feed birds regularly, or want to give it a try, please buy from Wachiska. We depend on your purchases, and so do our feathered friends! Thank you!

FEED MIXES

Standard Audubon Mix – white millet, sunflower seed, cracked corn, peanuts, oat groats

Classic Audubon Mix – sunflower seed and hearts, white millet, cracked corn, safflower seed, peanuts, oat groats

Attraction Audubon Mix – sunflower seed and hearts, safflower seed, peanuts, raisins, protein pellets

Woodpecker Gourmet – 75% nuts (almonds, peanuts, walnuts), pumpkin seed, corn, black oil sunflower seed and hearts, safflower seed

Bushy Tail Treat – peanuts, sunflower seed, whole corn, raisins, pumpkin seed, feed pellets. Treat your favorite backyard squirrels and keep them away from the bird feeders!

SUET CAKES

High Energy Treat – sunflower seeds, millet, cracked corn; enjoyed by most wild birds

NEW! Berry Treat – a wonderful winter treat

SEEDS

White Millet (98%) – popular with cardinals, mourning doves, house finches, juncos, sparrows

Peanuts (shelled) – attractive for woodpeckers and blue jays

Safflower Seed – good for house finches, chickadees, cardinals, wood peckers – NOT FAVORED by squirrels and grackles.

Nutra Saff Seed is without the hard, outer shell.

Sunflower Hearts – highly prized by birds and leave less mess—use coarse hearts for feeders with large openings that might allow fine hearts to drop out

Black Oil Sunflower Seed – favored by most seed-eating birds; high oil content for more energy

Additional copies of this flyer and the order form are available on our website:

www.WachiskaAudubon.org.

ORDER PICK UP DATES - MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

Location for
pick up:
Wachiska Audubon
Office, 4547 Calvert
Street, Lincoln.

Look for Signs

Reminder: stay in your car; we will bring the seed to you.

Friday, March 21
3:00 -6:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 22
9:00-11:00 a.m.

PLEASE—Plan to pick up your order during one of these times.

Orders that are not picked up cause a lot of extra work for our volunteers whose help we greatly appreciate! If it is totally impossible for you to pick up your seed, please email Arlys at office@wachiskaaudubon.org to make alternate pick up arrangements.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to assist, please contact Jeffrey Meyer, 402/483-2757.

Bird EnCOUNTER 2025

by Mark Brohman



On Saturday, February 15, Wachiska observed Bird EnCOUNTER at Eiseley Branch Library in northwest Lincoln. The cold and snow didn't keep 145 attendees away. Various stations were set up to

celebrate the annual Great Backyard Bird Count. At one station you could learn how to band birds. In another area, attendees could make their own bird feeder from pinecones, lard, and seed. There was an opportunity to learn how to use binoculars. At the bird adaptation station participants learned how specialized feet and beaks help birds. You could even "build a prairie" at one table. A Birdability station showed accessible birdwatching; you could even hear different bird calls. Always a favorite was the up-close views of live birds of prey from the Raptor Conservation Alliance.

There were lots of smiles from the kids. A big thank you to all of the volunteers, the Eiseley library staff, and Wild Bird Habitat Stores for sponsoring the live birds from the Raptor Conservation Alliance.

Photo above shows volunteers Sue Guild and Todd Paddock helping youngsters build pinecone feeders.

Lincoln's Sandhill Crane

by Dakota Altman and Ethan Freese

An unlikely bird sighting in Lincoln, Nebraska, might just be what you need in these uncertain times. A lone juvenile sandhill crane has been observed with a gaggle of geese hopscotching its way to different loafing and feeding areas around the city before ending up in Salt Creek to roost in the evening. Many people are familiar with the four-foot-tall gray birds and their distinctive crimson-red caps that filter through Nebraska on their northward spring migration. A stretch of shallow flowing water along the central Platte River is the pitstop for nearly one million sandhill cranes, feeding in cornfields and wet meadows and returning to roost in the Platte at night.

Two hours to the east is where we find our Lincoln crane friend next to busy streets, tall buildings, and tangles of power lines. For the last few weeks, it has made itself at home along Salt Creek, a natural corridor that stretches and weaves its way through Lincoln from Saltillo Road to Highway I-80, a 25-mile-long route. Salt Creek's appearance is not what it once was, a shallow and wide creek system, flooding seasonally, and filling wetlands on its periphery. Today it is highly incised and full of debris from our roads and lawns. However, it is also full of

wildlife and maintains easy access for biking or bird watching with a hike-bike trail system running much of its length. The local sandhill crane which uses Salt Creek to rest and sleep had also been frequenting the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East Campus cornfields, the duck pond at Saint Elizabeth's Hospital, and the large lawn space in front of the Department of Veterans Affairs facility, all with Canada geese in toe. This is a unique sighting in Lincoln, likely not occurring since before Lincoln was a city, when wetlands dotted the landscape and creeks ran wild.

Why this crane ended up with the geese is as good as ours. Did it lose its parents to a harsh winter storm? What will it do once the geese migrate north and start nesting? Maybe the crane will learn the boisterous ways of the goose and, in turn, our resident and migratory geese neighbors will learn the crane's peaceful nature. This sighting has been a welcome symbol of hope, that these stories of wildlife persevering and making a living in the face of our urban sprawl exist and will become more common as our worlds collide.

There is no use in pushing back, but instead embracing the beauty of nature that adds a wonderful shimmer to the bustling city we live in. *Photo by Dakota Altman*



Lincoln City Council Candidate Forum March 20

by Mark Brohman

Several conservation and environmental organizations, including Bluestem Chapter of Nebraska Sierra Club, Citizen Climate Lobby, Climate Justice Team - Saint Paul United Methodist Church, Coalition for Environmental Improvement, Elder Climate Legacy, Friends of Wilderness Park, Green@Heart - Westminster Presbyterian Church, Green Sanctuary Committee - Unitarian Church of Lincoln, Nebraska Interfaith Power and Light, First Plymouth Congregational Church Climate Action, Nebraskans for Peace, and Wachiska Audubon are sponsoring a Lincoln City Council Candidate Forum on March 20.

All candidates are invited to attend the forum from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln, 6300 A Street. The event is free and open to the public with light refreshments being served. The event will be live-streamed and recorded on Zoom. Following the forum, there will be a brief social to connect with fellow attendees and chat with the candidates. Randy Bretz will serve as moderator. Please RSVP at <https://forms.gle/HgNFXpwuMkNtUuxp9> if you can.

Candidates will be allowed opening and closing statements and will be given 1.5 minutes to respond to each question. People will be able to submit questions on index cards, and those online can submit questions in the chat box during the forum. Volunteers will screen them and provide them to the moderator. The filing deadline for the City Council is March 7.

Climate Change Update

by Chuck Francis

Climate Change Around the Globe ... and in our Backyards

by Chuck Francis

We have read recently about the impacts of global climate change—and specifically global warming—on susceptible places around the world. The Western Ice Sheet in Antarctica is especially susceptible to melting, with potential for disastrous consequences for coastal cities around the world. This is not just a challenge in the Southern Hemisphere, as we all will be affected.

If this ice sheet breaks loose and melts as it drifts to the north, sea levels are predicted to rise by more than five meters (sixteen feet) which will inundate many island nations. Yet it is a change that will have global repercussions. This unintended consequence will be due to changes in the atmosphere that are primarily driven by human activity. Our country will not be spared, and all low-lying coastal areas may be affected. The five-meter increase in sea level will flood much of the prime land in our three largest cities: New York, Miami, and Los Angeles.

Even the investment in mitigating engineering strategies will not be sufficient to stem this rising tide that will cause widespread economic loss and human suffering. In retrospect, it would have been foolish to invest in such a strategy with the hope that disaster could have been avoided, even through long-term planning. Thoughtful decisions to keep people and physical infrastructure out of harm's way from this this impending danger could have postponed, but not solved, the inevitable.

Potential for changing ocean currents could lead to slowing or total disruption of the Gulf Stream that cycles clockwise around the North Atlantic Ocean and brings warmer water from the tropics to heat Northern Europe. The consequences of losing this course of warmth to Europe's northern coastal ecosystem, to plants and to animal species including ourselves, could be a new Ice Age that makes these areas more difficult for animals and plants to survive.

Take a moment to look up the data and projections from earth and water scientists to check out these facts. We tend to read and speculate from science that is available and with which we agree. It is our duty to look objectively at science that we trust and begin to make long-term plans to seek a rational strategy for mitigation of pending climate changes, no matter what governments and private interests want us to believe that “a new prosperity is just around the corner.” This is erroneous, short-sighted, and hopeful thinking.

Given our focus on short-term solutions, our desire for creature comforts, and an overwhelming opinion that science and

technology will solve any challenge that nature throws at us, it is unlikely that our trajectory could have been otherwise. We serve up the model of Netherlands to illustrate that human ingenuity can help us out of any “inconvenient truth” about our capacity to maintain dominance over the planetary ecosystem. Yet we can only build the levees so high to keep out rising seas.

Dr. Martin Luther King once said to a congregation that “we need to distinguish between our wants and our needs.” It would be more valuable for our survival to shift the present modal mindset from a focus on only what is immediately desired and look toward the long-term sustainability of people and their associated ecosystems with diverse species and ecozones that can support us on this unique planet for the indefinite future. We owe this to all species on Earth including our own, and to abandon the concept that we are unique and can invent ourselves out of any dilemma.

Welcome Wendy!

Wendy Jane Bantam has been hired as Wachiska's part-time office administrator to replace Arlys Reitan who is retiring with the office move to Prairie Pines. Wendy will take over as editor of this newsletter beginning with the April issue.



Wendy Bantam

Wendy Bantam trained with the Peace Corps to serve as AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) where she provided behind-the-scenes support to nonprofit organizations by creating sustainable programs in education, conservation, and outreach to alleviate poverty.

Bantam is an AiSC (Artist-in-the-Schools-and-Communities) with the Nebraska Arts Council and the Lied Center for Performing Arts. She has been a visiting professor at the University of Nebraska - Omaha and College of Education and Human Sciences at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

Why Membership?

by Linda R Brown

Friends of Wachiska are the voting members of the chapter. They are loyal. Most respond when they get a Friend renewal letter. Foundations often use the number of members as a measure of the health of the organization. Wachiska currently has 369 members. Friends gave donations of \$25,000 in 2024.

Hired development consultant, Liz Lange, met with the Board at the February Board meeting and described the 2025 Fund Development Plan. As outlined, we will be asking for more corporate support and making more foundation grant applications. As chair of the membership committee, I was a guest. I am in favor of this plan. However, I know that if we are going to make its Friends goal of \$28,000, we will need to invite many more of you into membership. Some gave generously to Prairie Pines, I thank you. Still, I invite you to also step up to membership, as a Friend of Wachiska. Membership counts!

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 (1st District)

301 S 13th St Ste 100, Lincoln NE 68508
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 112 St
Lincoln NE 68527-9784



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.

The Babbling Brook (ISSN #1068-2104) is published monthly by Wachiska Audubon Society. The known office of publication is 3100 N 112 St, Lincoln NE 68527-9784. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Send address changes to *The Babbling Brook*,
Wachiska Audubon Society, 3100 N 112 St
Lincoln NE 68527-9784



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

3100 N 112 St

Lincoln NE 68527-9784

402-486-4846

office@WachiskaAudubon.org

www.WachiskaAudubon.org

*Spring Birdseed Sale
Order Form Inside*

WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2025

Executive Director Mark Brohman
Office Administrator..... Wendy 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 *Doug Campbell
Director at Large *Andrea Faas
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 the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846.

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.

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.

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**.

