



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 50th Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2023

MAY 2023

Volume 32 - Issue 5

Wachiska Program and General Meeting — Thursday, May 11, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street and also via YouTube link: youtube.com/live/J72O52T-WiU

Flying Squirrels Come to Lincoln—Charismatic Microfauna in Urban Environments

by Dr. John P. Carroll, Director, School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

There are two species of flying squirrels covering much of eastern North America. They are woodland species which historically followed trees westward into the Great Plains. There are some early 20th century records of the southern flying squirrel along the Missouri River bottoms. We know that all of our land use changes in the Great Plains create problems for some species and opportunities for others. Flying squirrels have a fairly long history of being kept as pets and, along with other species of squirrels, were the most common household pet in the early 20th century. Making this more intriguing is the origin of the Lincoln southern flying squirrels. Are they released pets from elsewhere or is it a range extension from populations that were not far away? In addition, the discovery has led to our interest in how this species represents urban wildlife issues. For example, people love them until they are in the attic. For urban forestry,



Southern Flying Squirrel

the trees flying squirrels need are a safety hazard, which is how we found them on campus in the first place. So, challenges can be opportunities for a unique species and how we might manage them to be a positive member of our biodiversity. This program will include some of their unique life history biology, including the recent discovery that they fluoresce under UV lights.

Dr. John Carroll is a wildlife biologist who has focused on avian biology over the last 30+ years. Before his position at UNL, he was on the faculty at the University of Georgia and PennWest University and a research scientist with the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust in England. Dr. Carroll has worked on bird conservation issues globally and is presently the co-chair of the IUCN-SSC Galliformes Specialist Group. Because of his interest in African wildlife, John has undertaken research on some of the charismatic megafauna there, including lions and hyenas. He currently has two PhD students focusing on captive elephant reproduction and parenting. When not working, John enjoys gardening, woodworking, fishing, sailing, snowboarding, scuba diving, and especially cycling.

Calendar

May

- 1 Education/Outreach Committee via Zoom, 6:00 p.m.
- 8 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 11 General Meeting, "Flying Squirrels in Lincoln," by Dr. John Carroll, 7:00 p.m. in-person at Unitarian Church and also live-streamed; no registration (see above)
- 13-14 BIRDATHON WEEKEND
- 13 Birdathon field trip to Wilderness Park (page 2)
- 14 Birdathon field trip to Platte River State Park (page 2)
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 16 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
- 24 12th Annual Give to Lincoln Day (page 3)

We will continue showing the short videos on wetlands immediately following the main presentation for those who wish to stay. May's topic will be Sandhills Wetlands, a 30-minute video produced by Mariah Lundgren. This will be the third in a five-part series. This film will highlight conservation efforts and the challenges that Sandhills wetlands face today and the species and people who call this area home.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, May 11, at 7:00 p.m.** at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln, 6300 A Street. This free public in-person talk will also be live streamed at youtube.com/live/J72O52T-WiU. No registration is necessary. The program can also be viewed at a later date. Check Wachiska's website for links to past programs.

Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman

April was a very busy month with Return of the Thunderbirds, two nature nights, an Earth Day celebration, an event at Pioneer's Park, an Arbor Day celebration in Antelope Park, a tree-cutting party at Arnold Elementary School, and a couple of prairie burns. In May we have Birdathon and Give to Lincoln Day. Wachiska will also be promoting Give Nebraska where folks can donate through their employer. Contributions from these invaluable sources allow us to preserve prairies and educate the public about the wonders of those prairies. Wachiska members and Friends are the heart and soul of our organization; without your support, we wouldn't be able to carry out our mission. We thank you all for your continuous generosity.



Audubon and our partners are working to support actions that foster on-the-ground conservation, recovery of bird populations, and protection and restoration of the habitats they need to thrive. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) is a key part of this effort, and bipartisan support for the bill has been growing every year. The legislation almost passed last year but was pulled at the last minute from a very large piece of legislation. Several conservation organizations are working hard to get RAWA passed this year, and we encourage everyone to contact your congressional representatives asking for their support. It is estimated that around \$14M would come to Nebraska for conservation work.

The Nebraska Legislature has completed 70 days of this 90-day session to end in early June. Wachiska continues tracking several pieces of legislation. We will continue to monitor bills dealing with natural resources, energy efficiency, climate change, and public power. One bill of great concern is LB814, a main appropriations bill which will need to be passed to keep the State government running. We have concerns about a provision currently in the bill that takes \$14M from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) and gives it to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. These are funds that should be distributed via the grant process for environmental projects across the State. In the past, the NET distributed \$18M - \$21M annually; the past two years they have failed to award all of their available funds.

Travel safe as summer is just around the corner.

May Hikes Celebrating Wachiska's 35th Birdathon

by Tim Knott

The weekend of May 13 and 14 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 others make it back to Wilderness Park.

Join us on **Saturday, May 13**, at **8:00 a.m.** at **Wilderness Park**. Meet at the South 14th Street entrance just north of Rokeby Road and south of Pine Lake Road. We welcome beginning birdwatchers and will have a bird expert or two on hand.

On **Sunday, May 14**, birdwatchers have a chance to see summer tanagers, great-crested flycatchers, a variety of sparrows, warblers, and maybe Louisiana waterthrushes at **Platte River State Park**, one of the best birding spots in eastern Nebraska. The park is about four miles east of South Bend on Highway 66. We will meet at **8:00 a.m.** near the observation tower. Todd Paddock will lead this birding hike. A \$6 daily auto pass is required which admits everyone in the vehicle or a \$30 annual permit can also be purchased at that time.

If you are a backyard birder or visit the salt marshes north of Lincoln, the Jack Sinn area, the wetlands near Utica, or the Salt Valley Lakes, keep track of the birds you see. Send your species lists to Ken Reitan at the Wachiska Office. We would like to identify as many species as possible during Wachiska's 50th anniversary year.

Nebraska Birding Bowl Highlights May as Bird Month



The moment you have all been waiting for is finally here! The Nebraska Birding Bowl, a statewide birding competition, is launching this month. Participation is free! There is a competition category for everyone no matter your skill level or lifestyle. Everyone who registers and participates has a chance at winning incredible prizes including binoculars and a \$1,000 cash prize. To learn more and to register, visit this new website: <https://birdtrail.outdoornebraska.gov/birdingbowl/>.

Energy Efficiency Tip

This planting season include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your house can reduce surrounding air temperatures by as much as six degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees on the east, west, and northwest sides of your house to create soothing shade from the hot summer sun and to reduce air conditioning costs. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter, allowing sunlight to warm your home. (Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov))

2023 Birdathon and Give to Lincoln Day Frequently Asked Questions

by Mark Brohman, Executive Director

This time of year, terms and acronyms such as Birdathon, GTLD, and LCF appear in articles and letters and can be confusing. The following FAQs are intended to help make things a little clearer.

1. Why do Birdathon and Give to Lincoln Day (GTLD) occur at the same time?

•Wachiska's Birdathon has existed for 35 years as a primary fundraiser for the annual operating budget. Twelve years ago, when the Lincoln Community Foundation (LCF) initiated its GTLD fundraiser for local nonprofits, Wachiska participated because of the possibility of receiving match funds that would boost the power of donations. Last year Wachiska received more than \$1,000 in challenge match funds. Timing of the two events is coincidental.

2. What's the difference between the two?

•Birdathon accepts donation at any time, kicking off in April when letters are mailed. Donors can mail a check to Wachiska Audubon Society or drop it off at the Wachiska office in the Birdathon envelope. Birdathon donations can be made online via Wachiska's website at <https://www.wachiskaaudubon.org/> and specify "Birdathon" in the comments box.

•Give to Lincoln Day donations are accepted only during the month of May through the 24th. Checks must be payable to Lincoln Community Foundation (with Wachiska Audubon noted on the memo line) and can be mailed or dropped off at our office through May 23 or mailed to the Wachiska office or to the LCF office by May 17. Donations can also be made directly on the Foundation's website at www.givetolincoln.com. All donations, regardless of the method, have a 2.9 percent processing fee. Credit card donations also have a small transaction fee. Giving during GTLD helps Wachiska increase its matched portion from the Foundation.

•Whether you donate through Birdathon or GTLD, your donation is vital to the continued operation of Wachiska by supporting staff, office expenses, and committee work.

3. I'm currently a Wachiska Friend and my membership is due for renewal during this time. How can I be sure my renewal doesn't get mixed up with the two fundraising events?

•To ensure your renewal check is correctly attributed, note that the purpose is membership and include the Friends renewal letter with the check. If you renew online, select the membership option. If you are making both a Friend donation and a Birdathon donation, it is extremely helpful if you write separate checks or clearly detail how to allocate the donation.

4. If I'm not a Friend, will a Birdathon or GTLD donation give me that status?

•Wachiska loves its Friends and all its donors! Making a separate commitment to become a Friend provides an individual full participation in activities, including voting; plus,

only Friends receive a printed, mailed copy of our newsletter, *The Babbling Brook*, every month.

5. What else should I know?

•If you're bringing something to the Wachiska office, it is usually staffed Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. It's always a good idea to call first to be sure someone is in the office, 402-486-4846.

NGPC Southeast District Birding Day

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Southeast District will sponsor their 2023 Birding Day on Thursday, May 11, at Wachiska's Klapka Tallgrass Prairie and at the Table Rock Wildlife Management Area (WMA) from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot on the southeast side of Table Rock WMA along Highway 4. From there we will divide into groups and hike different areas looking for woodland, grassland, and other bird species. This event will be held rain or shine for the public of all ages.

Participants should bring their own lunch. Birders will reconvene at 11:00 a.m. at Kirkman's Cove Rec Area to list species observed and to hear from speakers discussing Klapka Farms and Table Rock WMA conservation. Private vehicles will need a Nemaha NRD park pass, available on site. Speakers will be Kent Pfeiffer on Klapka Tallgrass Prairie and Kyle Smith with Table Rock WMA. Bring binoculars, bird ID guide, camera, insect repellent, waterproof boots, and clothing appropriate for steep terrain and the weather. Also bring a bag chair to enjoy the speakers at noon. RSVP by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9, at <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/ei0ngBBb>.

Spring 2023 Birdseed Sale Report

by Cathy Shaner, Birdseed Sale coordinator

Thanks to Beth and VaeLynn Meyer, Dennis King, and Dwayne Wilson for assisting Jeff Meyer and Cathy Shaner unload, sort, and load seed into customers' vehicles during the March 17-18 Spring Birdseed Sale. A special thanks to Tim Knott for providing workers with hot chocolate on a cold Saturday morning. Elizabeth and Daniel Nelson again provided their garages for the easy transfer of 20- and 50-pound bags of birdseed. I want to give a shout out to Nancy Hamer, Linda Sullivan, and Roxanne Smith for assistance with the website and emails. Thanks to all!

Before expenses, a total of \$5,530 of seed was sold which included 116 bags and four cases of suet. After expenses, including sales tax, shipping, and fees, we netted \$1,888. Every bit helps the cause—and the birds are especially grateful!!

"Mighty things from small beginnings grow."

— John Dryden

Chief Standing Bear Stamp to be Unveiled in Lincoln

by Richard Peterson

The United States Postal Service will be issuing a new first-class Forever postage stamp honoring Ponca Chief Standing Bear. The unveiling ceremony will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, May 12, at Centennial Mall between P and Q streets in Lincoln. The first-day-of-issue event is free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to RSVP at usps.com/chiefstandingbear.



When Europeans first encountered the Ponca people, they were living in settled villages along the Niobrara River in northern Nebraska. They raised vegetables, fruits, and hunted bison. By 1860, however, white settlers were encroaching on their homeland and demanding a change. As had happened a number of times before with other Native peoples, the government hatched a plan to relocate the Ponca from Nebraska to Indian Territory in Oklahoma. There they were forced to live on land unsuitable for farming, had limited assistance from the federal government, and had to cope with hunger and disease. By the following spring, Standing Bear's son, Bear Shield, had died. Standing Bear and 29 followers had had enough. They left Oklahoma and began the long journey home to Nebraska to bury the Chief's son. General George Crook was charged with arresting the fleeing Ponca and returning them to Oklahoma. Advocates of Native American rights banded together and offered their legal services pro bono. Acting as interpreter was Susette LaFlesche from the Omaha Reservation in Nebraska. The legal team sued for a writ of habeas corpus.

In 1879, in U.S. District Court in Omaha, Native Americans were ruled to be "persons within the meaning of the law," and finally, after 300-plus years of exploitation, were judicially granted civil rights under American law. As the trial drew to a close, Standing Bear was allowed to make a statement. Holding up his hand, he said, "That hand is not the color of yours, but if I prick it, the blood will flow, and I shall feel pain. The blood is the same color as yours. God made me, and I am a Man." The army freed Standing Bear and his followers, and they were allowed to return to the Niobrara valley.

One issue that his trial had raised was finally resolved in 1924 when Congress adopted the Indian Citizenship Act, conferring citizenship on all Native Americans born in the U.S. The federal government today recognizes both the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma.

There is a statue of Chief Standing Bear in Statuary Hall in the Capital in Washington, DC. Another is located on Centennial Mall in Lincoln, and a third stands near the Ponca Cultural Center southwest of Niobrara, Nebraska. The statue depicts

Chief Standing Bear as he stands in court with his outstretched hand asking for his freedom to return home to bury his son.

The postage stamp features a portrait of Chief Standing Bear by Thomas Blackshears II, based on a black-and-white photograph taken in 1877. The color of his attire is based on contemporary descriptions. Derry Noyes designed the stamp.

For additional information: <https://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2023/0406ma-usps-honors-chief-standing-bear.htm>.

Full Circle

by Theresa Pella

During last year's "Return of the Thunderbirds" event a young scout and his mother stopped by Wachiska Audubon's table to learn about our organization. During a pleasant interaction, Ryan mentioned he was looking for a location for a bat house that he was building to earn a patch. I mentioned Wachiska owned prairies throughout Southeast Nebraska and if he brought us a bat house, we would put it to good use on one of them.



Theresa Pella accepting

Fast forward to the 2023 "Return of the Thunderbirds" last month—here comes Ryan and his mother with a bat house that he donated to Wachiska! Ryan is a member of Scout Troop #56 in Lincoln. Thank you, Ryan!



Coming to a Grassland Near You

from News from the Flyways, April 2023 newsletter
of Environment for the Americas in Boulder, CO

World Migratory Bird Day, May 13, focuses on the importance of water to birds.

The dickcissel was selected to remind us that water is essential for healthy grasslands where the dickcissel, mountain plover, lark bunting, Sprague's pipit, chestnut-collared longspur, thick-billed longspur, bobolink, Henslow's sparrow, and many other declining North American species live. Grasslands are among our most vulnerable and endangered habitats, and drought and other climate change-related factors make it difficult for grassland birds to find food and raise families.

Let's not forget the importance of managing water resources not only for our wetlands and coastal areas, but also for our grasslands and other inland habitats. From saving water at the tap to using fewer chemicals in our yards, we all do what we can to help keep our ecosystems healthy for the benefit of all species. Learn more about conserving water and how to support this year's campaign on the World Migratory Bird Day website.

Climate Change Will Reach the Tipping Point

by Chuck Francis

(The following article was first published in the March 30, 2023, Lincoln Journal Star and is reprinted here with permission of that editor.)

While the Nebraska state legislature discusses voter ID, winner-take-all in national elections, and allowing people to carry concealed weapons, there is an elephant in the room that is mostly ignored. Our global warming trend that is due primarily to burning fossil fuels and other human activities is reaching a “tipping point” beyond which there is no recovery, at least in the short term. This is according to a recent United Nations climate report. If we do not achieve a reduction of global warming to about 3 degrees F above pre-industrial levels by the 2030s, we face a potential existential catastrophe for our human species.

This is not a prediction by “chicken little” about the sky falling, but a result of multiple scientific models that take into account current trends. It emphasizes a lack of concern to cut back on burning fossil fuels by the world’s largest polluting countries, including the U.S. and China. According to an article in the *Washington Post* (WAPO) on March 20, “Climate disasters will become so extreme that people will not be able to adapt.” We have already read about the effects of rising sea levels on coastal populations in much of south and southeast Asia. In the U.S. our modal response is confined to short-term solutions such as building sea walls in New York City and bemoaning the likelihood of more hurricanes that drive people from beach front houses with a view.

Ignoring the best available science on warming and wringing our hands over increasingly unpredictable weather, we forge ahead to rebuild houses in the same locations with insurance money provided by all of us. These are inexcusable investments in structures that are likely to suffer again in future storms.

To solve such problems caused by our human desires for short-term gratification and putting band-aids on large systemic, expensive, and potentially avoidable challenges, we need to look at the root causes and how to address them.

The same WAPO article describes a series of potential solutions that could help mitigate the current effects of climate change including global warming and more frequent disastrous storms. With many coastal areas in the Third World already suffering from the unintended effects of warming, the large consumers of fossil fuels in the North have a responsibility to seek immediate solutions that will help reduce the problem.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the U.N. outlines a number of achievable goals that are within reach if enough people and governments have the willingness to change consumer habits and take global warming seriously. Their report states that we have “all the knowledge, tools, and financial resources to achieve climate goals, but after decades of ignoring scientific warnings and delaying climate efforts, the window for action is rapidly closing.”

Right here at home we can make small changes that, taken together, will help reach carbon emission goals. Turning down thermostats and wearing sweaters at home will help. Carpooling and planning trips can minimize fuel consumption. Following the guidelines of *reduce-reuse-recycle* can raise consciousness and make us think about our daily habits. Being able to decide between our *needs* and our *wants* could help us consider the environment with every purchase we make.

Larger individual choices such as installing heat pumps, switching to electric appliances, and adding insulation to our houses can contribute to a better future. Supporting private and government initiatives to encourage development of green energy sources such as wind power, photovoltaic arrays, geothermal, and wave power are larger scale solutions that can help reduce emissions. Becoming informed about how to distinguish true progress from *greenwashing* our corporate or political image is every citizen’s duty. The yard signs to “Vote with Climate in Mind” are reminders about our fate in the long-term future, and we are obligated to find out which candidates share our concerns about the environment and the many other species that contribute to a balanced ecology.

There is a growing awareness about the environment and other species, and we have the information needed to make meaningful changes, but do we have the willingness to do this? The future is up to all of us.

Memorials Received

Mark Brohman’s mother, Judy Brohman, passed away March 9. Wachiska members and Friends have designated memorials to Wachiska in Judy’s memory. Judy enjoyed watching birds at her feeder just outside her living room on the ranch in Custer County. American goldfinches, dark-eyed juncos, and northern cardinals were some of her favorite regular visitors.

A sincere thank you to the following for their memorial donations: Theresa Pella & Michael George, Stu Luttich, Andrea & Jason Faas, Karen Bluvas, Ken & Arlys Reitan, Ross & Bess Scott, Norm & Linda Helzer, Doug & Mary Campbell, Gayle Malmquist, Mary Rogge, Pam Deines, Dean Cole & Cindy Rutan, and the neighbors of 26th and Washington Street.

Mark wants to thank everyone for their kind words, cards, calls, and memorials remembering his mother.

May Activities at Spring Creek Prairie

- Super Bird Saturday, May 13 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon
- Third Tuesday Bird Outing, May 16 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
- Prairie-to-Prairie 2023: Run, Bike, Run, May 21 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

More information at <https://springcreek.audubon.org/events>. Questions to 402-797-2301; scp@audubon.org.

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

Fashion tips! National Audubon's website is selling t-shirts and sweatshirts that say AUDUBON—BIRDS TELL US— ACT ON CLIMATE. While my own favorite t-shirt proclaims, "Introverted but willing to discuss native plants," I also like Audubon's very pretty, illustrated "Plants for Birds" shirts.

Referring to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, Sarah Rose, Audubon's VP for Climate, writes on the website, "The IPCC report makes it clear that there's still time to act, and we have all the solutions needed to sustain a livable planet for birds and people. At Audubon, we are committed to ensuring that addressing climate is a key component of all our conservation priorities."

To me, one of the most frustrating aspects of climate change policy is that now, just when it is urgent to put solutions into practice, we see a terrible habit of difficulty getting cooperation between the two major political parties. But Sarah points to an exception: the Growing Climate Solutions Act, supported by Audubon. Senator Fischer had worked across the aisle in support of this law for several years before its passage at the end of 2022.

Senator Fischer has again ventured into bipartisan territory with the Precision Agriculture Loan (PAL) Act and the Producing Responsible Energy and Conservation Incentives and Solutions for the Environment (PRECISE) Act. Both bills were co-sponsored by Senator Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn. The bill offers financial tools to allow soil mapping and aerial imagery, which encourage conservation and facilitate the adoption of regenerative conservation practices. Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced as is water use. With bipartisan introduction in the House, Congressman Flood declared support for the PAL Act.

Please consider taking time to write a note of thanks to Senator Fischer and Representative Flood. You might ask them to continue to support legislation that addresses climate change and is bipartisan. Extra credit if you also write Senator Ricketts asking him to support both bills.

Daily, when I read about climate events, I think of Charles Dickens' *Tale of Two Cities*: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times . . ."

The best of times: *The Week* 4/14 reports that Saudi Arabia has announced plans for spending by 2030, "for projects 'diversifying the economy away from oil production.'"

The worst of times: *The Guardian* 4/7 headlines, "Headed off the charts: world's ocean surface temperature hits record high; [NOAA] Scientists warn of more marine heatwaves, leading to increased risk of extreme weather."

The spring of hope: *Nature Communications* vol. 13 ". . . 80-90 percent of Americans underestimate the prevalence of support for major climate change mitigation policies and climate concern." The true numbers supporting climate action are between 66 and 80 percent.

The winter of despair: *The Guardian* 4/6 headlines, "Greenhouse gas emissions rose at an 'alarming' rate last year, U.S. data shows: NOAA report shows rapid increase in atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide."

Sarah Rose at National Audubon finds hope. Let's go for it!

In the Past Half Century

by Steve Eno and Arlys Reitan

In 1992 – 1993, Steve Eno was a Wachiska Board member, in charge of overseeing our bluebird trails on the Salt Valley Lakes State Park areas around Lincoln. During that time, Steve got to know the chapter's trail monitors. They set out to replace the older boxes with new boxes, many of which were built by Wachiska members.

In 1993, Steve and Cheryl attended a bluebird conference sponsored by the Minnesota Bluebird Recovery Program, a well-established, very successful program. On their drive home, they discussed the need for a similar program in Nebraska. Steve contacted Wachiska's trail monitors and those in the Omaha chapter's area to see if they would be interested in helping establish such a program in Nebraska.

An organizational meeting was held in November 1993. Between the two Audubon chapters, 23 people attended and Bluebirds Across Nebraska (BAN) was established. Officers were elected, a newsletter editor was named, and the process of achieving non-profit status began. The only start-up funding was offering lifetime memberships for \$100 to anyone attending. Once BAN was established as a 501(c)(3) organization, they were able to receive grants from the Nebraska Environmental Trust which proved to be essential.

Thirty years later, BAN has approximately 900 members in 28 states. Members have built over 30,000 nest boxes which are sold across the country, with most boxes staying in Nebraska.

Seeing a need to provide shelter for other bird species, BAN has begun research and construction of chimney swift towers. Wachiska is now partnering with BAN and the City of Lincoln to build several of these chimney swift towers for placement in Lincoln parks. BAN members also sponsor workshops, set up booths at nature-related events, and just completed their 30th anniversary conference at Platte River State Park last month. Anyone interested in becoming a member or purchasing bluebird boxes can check out BAN's website, www.bbne.org.



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 Pete Ricketts

1128 Lincoln Mall Ste 305, Lincoln NE 68508
Lincoln phone: 402-476-1400 Fax: 402-476-0605
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-4224 Fax: 202-224-5213
E-mail at website: <http://ricketts.senate.gov>

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>

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: 308-633-6333
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
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.

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

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



The Babbling Brook is printed on recycled and recyclable paper.

