



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

The Babbling Brook

Our 43rd Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2016

JUNE 2016

Volume 25 - Issue 6

General Meeting — Thursday, June 12, 7:00 p.m., Union College Dick Auditorium, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln

Homestead National Monument Is Celebrating the National Park Service's Centennial All Year Long

by Jesse Bolli, Resource Management Specialist, Homestead National Monument of America

2016 marks the centennial of the National Park Service. To help get in the celebratory spirit, **Jesse Bolli**, the Resource Management Specialist for Homestead National Monument of America, near Beatrice, will be presenting the June 9 program. Jesse will describe the impacts that the Homestead Act had on the United States, the diversity and management of the natural resources of the park, and upcoming events and opportunities for public involvement.

Jesse has been at Homestead since 2002. He is responsible for the management of the natural areas of the park including the planning and compliance. He is also heavily involved with the park's education program to assist visitors in learning about the natural resources of the park and the impacts that the Homestead Act had on the world.

Jesse grew up on a small ranch on the edge of Nebraska's Sandhills where he developed his love of nature. After high school, he worked for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, several Fish and Wildlife Service sites, and



Jesse Bolli harvesting seed

Big Cypress National Preserve before coming back to Nebraska to take his current job.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, June 9, at 7:00 p.m.** for this free public presentation in the Union College Dick

Auditorium, 3800 South 48th Street, in Lincoln. Free parking is available on 48th Street and in the church parking lots. Look for Audubon signs on the doors. There is a ramp at the east entrance and an elevator inside. Refreshments will be served after the program.

Wachiska Prairies Tour Planned

by Tim Knott, Conservation Committee

If you haven't had a chance to visit some of Wachiska's best prairies, this may be your opportunity. We will be visiting some of our Wachiska-owned prairies—Dieken, Lamb, and Berg prairies—during the peak wildflower blooming period in early July. Butterfly milkweed, leadplant, purple prairie clover, and scurf pea among many others will be flowering during our visits.

The date is **Saturday, July 2**. We will meet at the Wachiska office at **8:30 a.m.** to arrange carpooling, pass out maps, and get a general idea of directions, meeting places, and other details. Wear good walking shoes, a hat, and bring water. Contact me at 402-483-5656 or wachiskaoffice2@gmail.com if you are planning to come. If there is enough interest to share the expense, we may rent a van ahead of time for the trip. We could eat lunch in Syracuse and return home by early afternoon.

Calendar

June

- 6 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 6:00 p.m.
- 7 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 9 General Meeting, "Homestead National Monument," by Jesse Bolli, Union College, 7:00 p.m.
- 12 Field Trip to Rock Creek Station, 8:00 a.m. (page 2)
- 13 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 19 **27th Annual Backyard Garden Tour, Father's Day, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (page 4)**
- 20 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.

July

- 14 Annual Potluck Picnic, NET's Ferguson House, 700 South 16th Street (more next month)



Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Rock Creek State Historical Park

Rock Creek Station State Historical Park (SHP) provides public access to the Sandstone Prairie region of steep tallgrass prairie hills intersected by streams that carve dramatic rocky features hidden away in the corners of creeks. Clear rocky stream habitat is extremely limited in our area, but the drainages of Jefferson County are perfect for Louisiana waterthrushes which have a breeding stronghold in Jefferson County. This may seem surprising at first, but maps of this species' breeding range in Kansas indicate our western population of "Louies" is located geographically closer to the Kansas birds and their habitat than to other breeders in Nebraska. Our few public lands in this region suffer from forest fragmentation along the creeks leaving bare gaps in the canopy and can take a toll on Louisiana waterthrush habitat by encouraging undesirable grassy vegetation and brown-headed cowbird parasitism. Rock Creek SHP protects a remaining section of creek that still has mature forest on both sides of the creek. Our field trip hike will take us along the Rock Creek forest trails on a mission to locate Louisiana waterthrushes, Carolina wrens, and some of the hybrid/intergrade rufous-sided towhees that inhabit this park, as well as other woodland denizens.

Meet at **8:00 a.m.** on **Sunday, June 12**, on the south side of the State Capitol in Lincoln, at 15th and H streets, across from the governor's mansion. Participants can either caravan or carpool for the 70-mile drive to Rock Creek SHP southeast of Fairbury or meet up with the group around 9:30 a.m. at the creek parking lot at the bottom of the hill. Shoes appropriate for uneven terrain and long pants for underbrush protection are recommended. Bring a water bottle, any snacks you may want, insect repellent, and binoculars if you have them. There is no fee and the public is welcome. If you have questions call John at 402-475-7275.

Sandhills Grazing and Birding Tour June 14

by Marian Langan, Audubon Nebraska

Join us for the Sandhills Grazing and Birding Tour in the Nebraska Sandhills June 14. The Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition has partnered with Audubon Nebraska and the Sandhills Task Force to bring ranchers and bird enthusiasts together to learn about successful grazing practices, native and migratory birds, Sandhill ranch heritage, and wildlife habitat. Pre-registration is due by June 6. Sign up at www.SandhillsTaskForce.org, by emailing Shelly@SandhillsTaskForce.org, or by calling 308-214-0065.

Natureophiles Clamoring to Become Friends of Wachiska!

by Joyce Vannier, Membership Chair

The Friends of Wachiska list has been rapidly growing the last several months. At this time, 316 individuals and families have joined the ranks of Friends. Newsletters are mailed **monthly only to Friends of Wachiska members**. National Audubon members in our chapter area who do not have a current Friends membership will receive mailed newsletters several times a year and can access all our newsletters at WachiskaAudubon.org.

This change is part of our effort to make Wachiska Audubon as financially sustainable as possible and is a practice common to many local Audubon chapters across the country. The monthly newsletter has been one of our largest annual expenses, and mailing to only Friends members represents a savings of thousands of dollars each year.

To receive *The Babbling Brook* newsletter in your mailbox each month or to receive it electronically, you can become a Wachiska Friend by completing the form on page 7 of this issue. Thank you for your continued support. Wachiska's latest Friends are:

Bonnie Bake	Lynn & Dana Roper
Laurence Ballard	Connie Stefkovich
Isiah Krutak & Abby Bliss	Donna Sullivan
Ted Blume	Pam & Kent Swanson
Sue & Larry Dawson	Dale Van Vleck
Jim Donahoe	Anne Vidaver
Shauna & Mike Groenewold	Deborah Waggoner
Deb Haack	Anna Walter
Jerry Jacobitz	Tim Rinne & Katherine Walter
Bradley & Jill King	Patricia Warner
Kurtis & Denise Kobza	Susan Zwickle
Dorothy Murphy	

Progress Report on 2016 Birdathon

by Tim Knott, Chair

Wachiska's biggest fundraising event of the year, the Birdathon, is underway. Save your Birdathon letter and return envelope and contribute when you can.

We're depending on everyone who has not donated to Birdathon to mail your donation, bring it to our office in person, or send it by pony express.

Wachiska's important participation in the effort to pass good legislation at the State Capitol is paying off. We have worthwhile education programs underway, and our newsletter and prairie conservation programs need your support. We are counting on your gifts. Thank you to everyone who has already contributed this year.



From the Board ...

by Sam Truax, Legislation Committee Representative to the Board

Wachiska maintains involvement in conservation issues that come before the state legislature through our legislation committee. There are three primary objectives of the committee. One is to support and protect the activities of the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET). The NET is a primary supporter of environmental, habitat, and ecological projects and education in Nebraska through its grants to conservation organizations with qualifying projects and matching funds. The funding for NET comes from lottery ticket sales, and the legislation allowing the lottery designated the purpose and rules for NET operations. Conservation organizations, including Wachiska, are concerned that since very significant amounts of money become available through the lottery, many interests have what they feel are justifiable uses for that money and want it allocated to them instead of to NET. In nearly every legislative session, one or more bills are introduced with the intent of diverting the funds away from NET's conservations efforts. That is one good reason why Wachiska partners with others for involvement in legislative issues.



Sam Truax

A second objective of the chapter's legislation committee and the Wachiska Board is to preserve Nebraskan's rights to enter into conservation easements. As most members know, Wachiska holds 24 conservation easements on native tallgrass prairies. In these cases, Wachiska does not own the land but has been entrusted with monitoring the land to protect the prairies. The mission of Wachiska and the prairie owners is to preserve such parcels because prairie is probably the most diminished and endangered of the nation's ecosystems due to its adaptability to crop production. The birds and wildlife dependent upon prairie habitat are accordingly diminished. But many interests in the state want to eliminate or reduce the possibilities of creating conservation easements because of the belief that the tax base is affected by their assumption that if the easement lands would be converted to cropland, the tax base and revenues would be higher. That is not necessarily a legitimate concern because the lands that remain as prairie often have specific difficulties in being farmed or they would have previously been converted; nevertheless, in many state legislative sessions, especially recently, bills have been introduced or considered that would diminish the use of conservation easements.

The third objective of our legislation committee is the allocation of Nebraska's waters. Understandably, agriculture, in particular, and other commercial interests value our state's water supply. Current water usage in the state is approximately 95 percent agriculture, three percent municipal (including golf courses), and two percent industrial. Each interest would like more, especially

to develop industry in the smaller, stagnate growth towns and to increase crop production. This interest in our water could leave none for the wildlife that depend upon it, such as what happens in the central Platte in many summers. Wachiska has an interest in balancing water use among users and wildlife. We also are concerned with other environmental issues such as preservation of the Niobrara River and wildlife species preservation, but the three discussed above are the stated objectives.

What Wachiska achieves, through the chapter's legislation committee and in conjunction with conservation organization partners, is to influence state legislative activities as much as possible. Members of this committee and other Wachiska members attend and express opinions at hearings, planning meetings, and other functions of the legislature. This is where the general Wachiska membership can be of assistance because attendance numbers and transmittals to legislators are very influential in decision making by the state senators.

A Practical Guide for Creating a Nature-Rich Life

Vitamin N (for "nature") by Richard Louv is a comprehensive practical handbook that readers of *Last Child in the Woods* and *The Nature Principle* have been asking for. It addresses the whole family and the wider community with 500 smart, fun, and effective ways to engage with the natural world; scores of information websites; and dozens of thought-provoking essays.

The reader will find an abundance of down-to-earth advice as well as creative projects and activities for every stage of life from suggestions for calming infants through nature, building a nature vocabulary with toddlers, and helping tweens become citizen scientists to finding nature-centered schools, medical professionals, and even careers. Included are easy ways for the whole family to join nature clubs, volunteer to restore damaged habitats, and more.

This 277-page paperback is the latest in Louv's arsenal on how to enjoy and benefit from nature and related activities. The publisher has contacted Wachiska with a generous offer if the chapter sells a minimum of 25 copies. This is the publishing company that handles the popular *Audubon* calendars that we sell each fall, so we know they are reliable and fun to work with.

If you are interested in getting on our waiting list to see if we can sell at least 25 copies as a fundraiser, contact Arlys in the office. If there is enough interest, Arlys will order the books and notify all those on the list, so they can pick them up and pay for them all at once. The retail price is \$15.95. With freight and sales tax, a check for an even \$18/copy will do the trick. We already have requests for five copies. There is one copy in the Wachiska office for anyone to stop by and examine. This would make a good holiday or birthday gift for a child or family. Please consider helping your chapter by purchasing one or more books.

Wachiska's 27th Annual Garden Tour on Father's Day

by Anne and Lynn Senkbeil, Event Co-chairs

Wachiska's Backyard Garden Tour will again be held on Father's Day, **Sunday, June 19**, from **11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** For 27 years the most diverse and interesting wildlife habitat gardens in Lincoln have been open for the public to see. Homeowners will be on hand to answer questions as always. Visitors can begin at any location. Maps and brochures will be available at each site. A donation of \$7 is suggested and children under 12 are free.

Shauna & Mike Groenewold – 245 West Cuming St.

We moved into our new ranch style home with a bare lot in August 1993. After developing low maintenance and naturalistic landscape, numerous wildflowers and grasses have been planted to attract butterflies. During the past seven years, Shauna has renewed her passion for raising monarch butterflies from eggs that she finds on her milkweed plants. She has developed a simple but effective nursery system to feed the caterpillars with milkweed leaves through the chrysalis stage. At the completion of the metamorphosis, the adults are contained in a small enclosure made from a laundry bag until released in her backyard habitat. Shauna raises approximately 25 monarchs per season. Five years ago she began purchasing tags for the late season generation that return to Mexico. Since following the Monarch Watch Network associated with the University of Kansas, we have learned much about monarch conservation and have registered our backyard habitat as a monarch waystation.

Dorothy Murphy – 4515 Grandview Blvd.

Upon moving to this property ten years ago, I recognized the potential here to develop a special setting. To the established bulbs, I added tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, spring-blooming shrubs, quince bushes, and jack-in-the-pulpit from a family farm. Along with ferns, astilbe and hostas are a focal point in the beds on the north side of the house. Over the years, many varieties of willow trees including pussy willow, curly willow, basket and black willow have spread throughout the yard.

Pam & Kent Swanson – 2209 Vale St.

Pam and I have enjoyed gardening and designing our yard since 1997. We have planted varieties of trees and plants, grape vines, berry patches, a vegetable garden and have added many items of interest. Three favorite features are the fish pond lined with stones from a basement of a 100-year-old farm located in Lancaster County, a fire pit, and the designing of our 2012 home addition. There are many plants and trees that make this yard special including anemone, several varieties of hosta, daylilies, peonies, spider wort, and asters. Numerous fruit trees are included such as apple, cherry, and mulberry. The forsythia and lilac bushes give this yard blooms for the entire spring, summer, and fall. A delight to visit anytime.

Tim Rinne & Katherine Walter – 605 North 26th St. Isaiah Krutak & Abby Bliss – 632 North 25th St. Anna Walter – 633 W St.

The Hawley Hamlet historic district is a neighborhood garden project involving around 20 households. Over 50 fruit and nut trees, multiple berry, and flower patches have been planted as habitat for bees, butterflies, birds, and other beneficial insects. With the gardening project has come community. Wander through the alleys between U and T streets to see the hoop houses and the gardens. Hosts for this entire area will be Tim Rinne and Katherine Walter.

Sue & Larry Dawson – 3750 W St.

Sue Dawson's garden has a mix of native plants and pollinator-friendly annuals and perennials. It is a monarch waystation that grows several kinds of milkweed for the caterpillars, including common milkweed. Making use of the garden are several kinds of bees and wasps, syrphid and hover flies, moths, and other insects and spiders. Butterflies include monarchs, painted ladies, American ladies, swallowtails, sulphurs, blues, skippers, and checker spots. Doves, robins, blue jays, cardinals, sparrows, gold finches, and an occasional wren feed in the garden. This yard shows that one can garden in a small space and provide for a variety of creatures. Many of the plants that help all of the above creatures to visit are pasque flowers, Fremont's clematis, shining blue star, meadow rue, purple coneflower, leadplant, mountain mint, black-eyed susans, and joe-pye weed; a few of the grasses that set off this attractive yard would be prairie dropseed, little bluestem, sideoats, and switchgrass.

UNL Experimental Gardens – Laurence Ballard, Nursery Supervisor for Landscape Services, 3835 Holdrege St.

Varner Trial Nursery has been used by UNL Landscape Services as a perennial trial area for over 25 years. The intention of the perennial trial nursery is to evaluate plants for characteristics such as winter hardiness, drought tolerance, potential invasiveness, maintenance requirements, bloom times, pest and disease susceptibility, overall vigor, and aesthetics. Plants include miscanthus, sedum, penstemon, and Echinacea varieties, along with new heuchera varieties, both annual and perennial milkweeds, dwarf sunflowers, and new helenium varieties.

Visitors to this site can expect a diverse variety of plant material, both native and exotic, with flowers blooming from April to November. We have not used any insecticides for the past two years, hoping our beneficial natural predators step up and help us out.

Gayfeather Income Soars

by Ernie Rousek

Last October, 66 Wachiska volunteers came to my Seward County field of thickspike gayfeather to harvest the seed heads. I then delivered seed and chaff to the Stock Seed Farms near Murdock for their cleaning and resale. We have been doing this for quite a few years.

Due to the increased demand for flower seeds which have been added to CRP planting mixtures, the price we received for our 2014 gayfeather harvest was raised to \$60/pound. Due to further increasing demand, Wachiska is receiving \$70/pound for the 138 pounds of cleaned seed which resulted from last October's harvest. We are being paid \$9,702. The check is being credited through the Lincoln Community Foundation during their Give to Lincoln Day campaign, so Wachiska will benefit from their matching funds. Last fall Audubon Kansas purchased a sack of our stripped seed for which we received \$600. This brings our total Wachiska gayfeather income for last fall to \$10,302.

June Programs at SCPAC

by Jason "the Birdnerd" St. Sauver
Community Education Director

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center (SCPAC) is offering new guided bird walks through the prairie this spring and summer. Walks will be offered every second Saturday and third Tuesday, June through September, from 8:00-10:00 a.m. Saturday walks are \$5/person (\$2 for SCPAC supporters and/or Wachiska members), and Tuesday walks are free. (Spring Creek Prairie has free admission for everyone every Tuesday.) Come join the fun.

Wildflower Walk – Botanist Kay Kottas will lead a walk identifying native Nebraska wildflowers and grasses on Saturday, June 4, 2:00-3:30 p.m. \$8/person (kids 12 and under free).

Birding by Ear – Join us Saturday, June 18, from 8:00-10:00 a.m. for a fun and interactive workshop to help you identify birds by their songs, call, chips, and chirps. \$8/person.

Firefly Family Picnic – On Saturday, June 18, from 7:30-9:30 p.m., we'll present a family-fun outdoor event all about fireflies. \$5/person, \$8/family. (Another picnic will take place July 9.)

Wildcrafting: Edible Plants of the Prairie – This two-part program will take place on consecutive Monday evenings, June 20 and 27, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Bob Henrickson from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum will discuss wildcrafting, the practice of harvesting plants from their natural habitat for food or medicinal purposes. The workshop includes presentations, a harvesting hike, and a tasting potluck. \$40/person; space limited.

Registration is preferred as some programs have limited space. Write scp@audubon.org; 402-797-2301. See SCPAC's website for more details: <http://springcreekprairie.audubon.org/events>.

Chiggers

by Richard Peterson

Chiggers are not insects but are in the Class Arachnida. They are mites in the Family Thrombiculidae and are related to the scorpions, spiders, and ticks. Their life stages are egg, larva, nymph, and adult. It is usually in the larval stage when we come into contact with them. They are also called harvest mites, berry bugs, red bugs, and probably others not as colorful of your own choosing.

Nearly microscopic in size, the six-legged larva measures only 1/60 of an inch. They inject digestive enzymes into the skin and suck up the softened tissue. After feeding, they drop back into the vegetation, molt, and become nymphs. Humans are usually a dead-end host, meaning that when the chigger drops off after feeding, it usually lands in a place not suitable to continue its life cycle, and the larva dies.

Adults overwinter in protected areas below the soil surface. When soil temperatures warm in the spring, the female lays her eggs. The soon-to-appear larvae get hungry and search out a long list of potential hosts including rabbits, toads, some birds, and even insects. Chiggers are most numerous in early summer when vegetation is green and lush.

To reduce the possibility of chiggers attaching to you, wear a long-sleeved shirt, gloves, pants, and shoes and socks when in the garden or in the wild. DEET, or other products you think work better, can be lightly applied on your socks, ankles, and wrists. Since mites do not fly, they usually crawl up your pant leg and when stopped at any clothing constriction, such as an undergarment, they begin the feeding process.

Chigger "bites" are a combination of enzyme and mechanical damage, plus allergic and the hosts immune response. Secondary, and usually very minor, bacterial infection can occur when you scratch the itch.



Chiggers do not transmit any known disease.

Taking a soapy shower after you come in from the outdoors may discourage any unattached chiggers from settling down for a meal.

Treatments to relieve the itch include benzocaine, hydrocortisone, and my favorite, calamine lotion. Some swear by putting Vaseline, baby oil, or fingernail polish on the welt. The latter are usually applied believing you are killing the still feeding mite which probably has already dropped off. Try whatever you think works best, anything to reduce the urge to scratch. No one remedy works equally well with everyone. By all means don't let chiggers discourage you from being outdoors.

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

David Yarnold, National Audubon's CEO, was interviewed by *Audubon* magazine's editorial board in the May-June issue about the new five-year strategic plan. The plan lists climate change as the first core strategic priority.

A: As you look across these new strategies that you're going to be working on over the next five years, is there any one that leaps out as particularly challenging?

DY: They're all hard. If they weren't hard, they wouldn't be worthwhile. There is no question that new science around climate change is telling us there's a need for urgency that's greater than we knew even five years ago. Audubon's climate initiative, which we launched in September of 2014, has two key parts. One, we need to protect the places that birds are going to need in a climate-changed world. Two, let's address the underlying causes of climate change because it's the only way to ensure long-term survival for birds and people, and that's going to lead to hard choices. We know, for example, that renewable energy has to be deployed at a massive scale. There are bird lovers who would like to hear that not a single bird will ever suffer in our pursuit of renewable energy, but what's more realistic is to actively work to optimize siting while minimizing harm to birds, so we all get the benefits of carbon-free energy generation. . . . Audubon's founders stopped the killing of birds whose feathers were used for hats and clothing. Our parents were inspired by Rachel Carson to eliminate DDT. And climate change is our generation's existential challenge.

A: What do you regard as the biggest mistake the conservation movement has made in the last couple of decades?

DY: Allowing politicians to associate conservation with one political party. That's sure not what Audubon looks like. We're hugely bipartisan, and that makes sense because when you look at America's history, conservation was a priority for both parties until the early 1990s. And that's why Audubon says and believes conservation doesn't have a party. Sixty percent of our members live in blue states, and 40 percent of our members are Republicans and Independents, and that makes us unique among the major conservation organizations.

There are some indications that bipartisan approaches to reducing climate change are emerging. The Yale Program on Climate Change Communications conducted nationwide polling in March with a margin of error of three percent. It found agreement in favor of funding more research into renewable energy (91 percent Democrats; 87 percent Independents; 75 percent Republicans). There was agreement on providing rebates to people who purchase energy-efficient vehicles or solar house panels (91 percent D; 84 percent I; 70 percent R). Most wanted to regulate carbon dioxide, the primary

greenhouse gas (88 percent D; 78 percent I; 61 percent R). Another poll by the same group found that majorities in 23 of the 27 states suing the EPA to stop the Clean Power Plan actually support setting strict CO2 limits on coal-fired power plants. The percentage of support for Nebraska is 61 percent, close to the national average of 63 percent.

Bipartisan informal working groups on climate have formed recently in both houses of Congress. In the House, the group is called the Climate Solutions Caucus and its purpose is to "serve as an organization to educate members on economically-viable options to reduce climate risk and protect our nation's economy, security, infrastructure, agriculture, water supply and public safety." Encouragement to join might be extended to our U.S. representative, Congressman Jeff Fortenberry.

Visit the Prairies

by Sam Truax, Conservation Committee



Wachiska's members know that our chapter owns or has conservation easements on many tallgrass prairies in Southeastern Nebraska. Some volunteers get to visit the prairies often as

part of their field work. But not all of our members know that they, too, are welcome to visit many of the prairies, as can the public. So the working volunteers and the easement landowners are not the only folks who can experience the bobolinks, the butterflies, the gayfeather blooms and the other residents that depend upon the prairies for survival. Plan on having a picnic in the country someday on one of these sites.

Wachiska-owned Prairies

Berg Prairie-East	along NE 67 south of Talmage
Berg Memorial Prairie-West	south of Talmage
Dieken Prairie	southwest of Unadilla
Gewacke Prairie	west of Ohiova; east of Strang
Klapka Prairie(s)	southeast of Table Rock
Lamb Prairie	southwest of Sterling
Knott Prairie	northeast of Yutan
Wildcat Prairie	south-southwest of Virginia

Prairies with Conservation Easements

Fricke Cemetery Prairie	north-northeast of Falls City
Linwood Cemetery Prairie	south of Linwood
Bentzinger Prairie	between Syracuse and Tecumseh
Shavlik Prairie	northeast of Linwood
Kasl Prairie	west-northwest of Wilber
Fletcher Prairie	west of Walton

Specific directions to the sites are available on the Wachiska website or at the office. There are signs posted on most of the prairies. Prior notice is required for access to a couple of the easements and some require a short walk in.

Public Officials

President Barack Obama

1600 Pennsylvania Av NW, Washington DC 20500-0001
Comment line: 202-456-1111
Phone: 202-456-1414 Fax: 202-456-2461
E-mail at website: <http://whitehouse.gov/contact>

Senator Ben Sasse

100 Centennial Mall N Rm 287, Lincoln NE 68508
Lincoln phone: 402-476-1400 Fax: 402-476-0605
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-4224 Fax: 202-224-5213
E-mail at website: <http://sasse.senate.gov>

Senator Deb Fischer

440 N 8th St Ste 120, Lincoln NE 68508
Lincoln phone: 402-441-4600 Fax: 402-476-8753
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-6551 Fax: 202-228-0012
E-mail at website: <http://fischer.senate.gov>

Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (1st District)

301 S 13th St Ste 100, Lincoln NE 68508-2537
Lincoln phone: 402-438-1598
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4806 Fax: 202-225-5686
E-mail at website: <http://fortenberry.house.gov>

Congressman Brad Ashford (2nd District)

7126 Pacific St, Omaha NE 68106
Omaha phone: 402-916-5678
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4155 Fax: 202-226-5452
E-mail at website: <http://ashford.house.gov>

Congressman Adrian Smith (3rd District)

416 Valley View Dr Ste 600, Scottsbluff NE 69361
Scottsbluff phone: 308-632-3333 Fax: 308-635-3049
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-6435 Fax: 202-225-0207
E-mail at website: <http://adriansmith.house.gov>

Capitol Hill Switchboard

888-436-8427 or 202-224-3121

Governor Pete Ricketts

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

State Senator _____

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

State Capitol Switchboard

402-471-2311

Lancaster County Commissioners

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

Mayor Chris Beutler

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10th St Rm 208, Lincoln NE 68508-2828
Phone: 402-441-7511 Fax: 402-441-7120
E-mail: mayor@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln City Council

402-441-7515
E-mail: council@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln Journal Star

Letters to the editor, 926 P St, Lincoln NE 68508
E-mail: oped@journalstar.com

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 _____

E-mail _____

- ___ \$25 Individual/Friend
- ___ \$35 Family Friend
- ___ \$50 Black-capped Chickadee Friend
- ___ \$100 Northern Cardinal Friend
- ___ \$250 Western Meadowlark Friend
- ___ \$500 Bald Eagle Friend
- ___ \$1000 Peregrine Falcon Friend

Select the level of support that is right for you and make your check payable to **Wachiska Audubon Society**. All funds 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

___ 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 monthly newsletter each month. If you wish to join NAS or receive *Audubon* magazine, please contact National Audubon Society directly.



American Goldfinch family

Remember—Please

It is certainly appreciated when our members and supporters let us know when they move, change to a post office box number, have a name or phone number update, or a member passes away, so we can keep our database current. Please let us know also if you receive mail that is incorrect in any way. Being a volunteer conservation organization, we hope to save paper, postage, and time for our volunteers.

People find it surprising that returned mail can cost Wachiska between a few cents and often over a dollar to get a correct mailing address. Also, with more people going to cell phone use only, it is difficult to find people unless they have provided us with the information. The same goes for multiple last names in one family.

Thank you Thanks Thank you Thanks

Arllys and all the volunteers



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WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2016

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NEBirds Website

Check out the email discussion at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NEBirds> to learn of the latest sightings and interesting tales of Nebraska's most avid birders and those interested in Nebraska birds and their ecology. Posts change daily—and even more often when excitement arises. Offerings of recent sightings, questions, and new photos are all welcome.

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

A Gift to the Future

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

