



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

JANUARY 2023

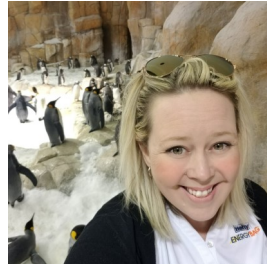
Volume 32 - Issue 1

Wachiska Program and General Meeting — Thursday, January 12, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also via YouTube link: https://youtu.be/ygqXl7_El5Y

Finding Solutions for Plastic Pollution

by Danielle Easdale, Firstar Fiber

We've all seen the videos of wildlife struggling in plastic litter and plastic films caught in the treetops. Most of the time, these are plastics that had no end-of-life solution and were destined for the landfill—or worse—the environment. This is something that Firstar Fiber wanted to change.



Danielle Easdale

Firstar Fiber is best known as Nebraska's largest mechanical recovery facility (MRF) processing close to 100,000 tons annually of recyclable materials from communities and businesses across the state of Nebraska and beyond. Firstar knew that people wanted solutions for these hard-to-recycle plastics as they were already receiving tons per day from well-intentioned people who "wish-cycled."

Wish-cycling is a term used for people who want to do the right thing, are unsure if an item can be recycled, but really don't want to throw it in the trash, so they put it in the recycling bin in the hope the recycling company will be able to figure out what to do with it; the trouble is, these items often cause contamination, can jam up the mechanical components of the

machinery, and are costly to sort and dispose of, making recycling programs more costly.

Firstar wanted to find a solution for these hard-to-recycle plastics and keep them out of the landfill and, most importantly, the environment. Firstar was the first MRF in the country to implement the Hefty® EnergyBag®. This program gives people a way to capture those hard-to-recycle plastics like chip bags and foam to-go containers in bright orange bags that are easy for Firstar to sort from the traditional recyclable plastics; however, capturing these plastics is only part of the story. Firstar knew that to be successful and sustainable, these items needed to be given value and made worthy of recovery from the landfill.

Partnering with the Alliance to End Plastic Waste, Firstar worked to develop an Integrated Plastic Waste Management system. This included infrastructure installation of a plastic pre-processing plant and additional bolt-on plastic manufacturing facility making plastic lumber, alongside the existing MRF. This effectively demonstrates solutions for plastic waste across the value chain by highest and best use in a way that is sustainable and replicable wherever there is a need.

Danielle Easdale is Firstar Fiber's director of sales and marketing and has two decades of experience working in the waste and recycling industry. In this presentation she will be explaining Firstar's work on creating solutions for all plastics. She loves nothing more than speaking with members of the public about how to best manage their waste and solve questions about recycling.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m.** for this program. We are now meeting in person again at the Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, in Lincoln. This free public presentation will also be live streamed on YouTube at https://youtu.be/ygqXl7_El5Y. Copy this link into your browser before the program begins. No registration will be necessary. Invite family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues to join us.

Calendar

January 2023

- 2 Education Committee via Zoom, 6:00 p.m.
- 9 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 12 General Meeting, "Finding Solutions for Plastic Pollution," (recycling), by Danielle Easdale, 7:00 p.m. In-person meeting at Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also live-streamed; no registration (see above)
- 15 Newsletter submission deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 17 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. The year has flown by, and I'm so grateful for the opportunity to be Wachiska's first executive director in 49 years. It is going to be a pleasure to be part of our 50th anniversary this year. As I mentioned last month, if you have a historical, funny, or out-of-the-ordinary story about Wachiska, send it in to Arlys or me. You can also call the office with your tales. I have heard from a few members already, and I appreciate the stories.



The Nebraska Unicameral will begin in a few days and with more than a dozen new senators and a new governor, we will have to wait and see how conservation fairs this year. Two of the new senators, Merv Riepe and Danielle Conrad, are making a return after being gone for a while and will bring back some of their experience. This session is scheduled to end on June 9, and we will be watching new legislation carefully. Once again, Wachiska Audubon, Audubon Society of Omaha, and Audubon Nebraska have retained the services of Zulkowski Weber for our legislative monitoring. With my background in lobbying and government affairs, I will also be monitoring the Capitol closely.

We were hoping the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) would get passed at the end of 2022. This was one of the most significant pieces of legislation in decades that would have impacted wildlife. RAWA would have provided \$1.4 billion from existing federal funds to states and tribes to support their proactive conservation efforts for vulnerable wildlife species. It was estimated that Nebraska would have received around \$14 million annually. The funds would have passed through the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and been used across the entire state. Unfortunately, RAWA and several climate change funding measures failed to make it into the final omnibus bill in Congress at the end of the year. We will continue our support to get this and other important legislation passed in 2023.

I want to thank everyone who has contributed to Wachiska this year. From Board members, volunteers at events, helping with membership, collecting seeds, writing stories for The Babbling Brook to being a Friend/member or donor, everyone plays a part in our wonderful organization. Wachiska donors have been generous this past year, and I want to thank everyone who gave funds or volunteered time. We received coins, stocks, 401(k) distribution proceeds, and other funds this past year, and we will continue our great work in 2023.

What is the Hefty® EnergyBag® Program?

This is an innovative program that uses orange Hefty bags with existing curbside recycling services to collect previously non-recycled plastics and convert them into valuable energy resources. Here's how it works:

1. Put clean and dry non-recycled plastics in your orange Hefty® EnergyBag® bags.
2. When full, securely tie the orange bags.
3. Place the bags inside your recycling cart during your scheduled curbside recycling pickup.

Introducing a new way to divert waste from landfills! Thanks to this program, you now have another option besides the trash can. Check this list for the many non-recycled plastics that can be collected in the orange bags purchased at many local stores:

- Toothpaste tubes
- Food bags
- Plastic cups, plates, and bowls
- Foam cups
- Stand-up pouches
- Condiment packets
- Salad bags
- Squeezable pouches
- Laundry pouches
- Potato chip bags
- Pudding cups
- Foam to-go boxes
- Frozen potato bags
- Plastic cheese bags
- Plastic pet food bags
- Frozen fruit bags
- Frozen vegetable bags
- Candy wrappers
- Single-serve coffee pods
(without coffee grounds)
- Disposable razors
(without the blades)
- Packing peanuts
- Plastic liners from powdered mixes
- Microwaveable pouches
- Plastic straws and stirrers
- Juice pouches
- Plastic utensils
- All other non-recycled plastic bags

Exceptions

These items are not accepted with the orange bag program:

- Aluminum cans
- Food
- Glass
- Paper
- Liquids
- Metal

A Few of National Audubon's 2022 Successes

After months of advocacy by Audubon and dozens of other groups, Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act which President Biden signed into law. This landmark bill provides billions of dollars to help birds and people weather climate change, including:

- \$370 billion for the transition to clean energy
- \$20 billion for conservation on private lands
- \$4 billion for drought resilience in the West
- \$2.6 billion for coastal protection and restoration
- \$2 billion for wildfire risk reduction, including natural solutions
- \$450 million for private forest conservation
- \$50 million for national marine sanctuaries

Audubon Launches the Bird Migration Explorer and Brings the Joy of Migration to Everyone

One of the most exciting things to emerge from Audubon's Science Team this year is the Bird Migration Explorer, an online interactive platform that showcases everything scientists know about the migrations of more than 500 species of North American birds; not only that, the Bird Migration Explorer highlights threats to birds—and where those threats are—for each species. Since its launch in September, more than 150,000 people have checked out what the Explorer can do.

Lights Out Gains Momentum Across the Country

Lights Out continues to gain momentum across the country, with several city and statewide programs launched this past year to ensure safer skies for birds, thanks to the work of Audubon chapters and state teams. The network now includes more than 40 cities with the following recent additions: Greensboro, NC; Harrisburg, PA; Miami, FL; Nashville, TN; and regional efforts in Connecticut, Colorado, Texas, New Mexico, and the Dakotas. With the recent launches, we now have Lights Out efforts underway in 18 out of the top 20 cities most threatened with light pollution.

Audubon Conservation Ranching Now in 15 States

As illustrated by the 2022 State of the Birds Report, the decline of grassland birds continues to be precipitous, and grassland habitat and grassland birds are in desperate need of conservation solutions. After several years of piloting in the Great Plains, Audubon Conservation Ranching launched nationally in 2017. Today, 99 ranches, covering 2.7 million acres across 15 states, have met bird-friendly standards, and 166 retailers carry products with the Audubon Certified bird-friendly seal, which informs consumers that the beef and/or bison products were grazed on lands managed for birds and biodiversity. Audubon's partnership with Panorama Organic Meats is a big market leap in connecting consumers with grassland conservation.

Science Team Reports on the Effects of Climate Change on National Wildlife Refuges

In a survey of all 525 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System, Audubon's Science Team found half of the birds throughout the system will see changes in the environmental suitability of their habitats if global temperatures are allowed to rise unchecked. The National Wildlife Refuge System spans 95 million acres on land and also covers 760 million submerged lands and waters. The findings of the study have already affected how refuge biologists approach their work, prompting them to adopt more proactive approaches to managing refuge lands to support their resident birds both now and in the future.

Advocacy 101

by Lorrie Benson, Chair

First-Plymouth Church Climate Action Team

One of the reasons I became a Wachiska member a few years ago was that the chapter is involved in public policy discussions when they involve birds, habitat, and the environment more generally, and climate change. It is a recognition that there are multiple paths required to protect what we value and love.

The First-Plymouth Climate Action Team believes that individuals, as well as groups, need to speak up on the important public policy issues of our times. To help individuals feel more comfortable, we're offering "Advocacy 101: Learn to be an Effective Advocate for Policies You Care About," on January 3 via Zoom.

The presentation will review the basics of effective advocacy. Attendees will build a toolkit to engage in discussions, whether the issue is birds and other wildlife, climate change, poverty, clean water and air, education, reproduction, affordable housing, or the many other important issues in our society.

Topics covered will include engaging with elected or appointed officials at the local, state, and federal levels; providing testimony for hearings; writing a letter to the editor or op-ed; using social media effectively; and having respectful conversations with family, friends, and others.

The program will feature a panel with these three experts: Lucas Sabalka, LES board member and climate activist (and Wachiska member); Eric Gerrard, lobbyist with American Communications Group Inc; and Martha Durr, state climatologist and climate communications expert.

No registration is required. The program will be 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., on Tuesday, January 3, via Zoom only using the Zoom link at firstplymouth.org/cat. It will be recorded for later viewing on the same webpage.

Birds of Nebraska Online - a Primary Resource for Avifauna Information

by James E. Ducey, Valentine

Since its origin years ago, Birds of Nebraska Online (BONO) has developed into an essential source of information for birders and others to learn about avifauna of the state. The co-authors of the site are birders, Ross Silcock, and Joel Jorgensen of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, which provides the website server. The two decided to create BONO as a means to publish a revision of their 2001 “Birds of Nebraska Distribution and Temporal Distribution” which was co-authored with Roger S. Sharpe. The website birds.outdoornebraska.gov originated with a “soft rollout” in the spring of 2018.

Silcock is the primary editor who currently lives in Houston, Texas, and formerly lived in western Iowa. He uses bird information gleaned from seasonal reports for the Nebraska Bird Review, as he has done since autumn 1992. From 2003 to 2021, he co-authored with Joseph Grzybowski the Southern Great Plains Region Report for North American Birds.

If warranted, posts to NEBirds, Facebook, and even EBird also find their way into BONO as do the results of the Nebraska Ornithologists’ Union (NOU) annual committee reports.

A multitude of contributors has been essential in having wild bird realities added to BONO. A report at this site or an observation shared here has been helpful to the site’s value, based upon the accounts for every bird known to occur within Nebraska, including the rare hybrids.

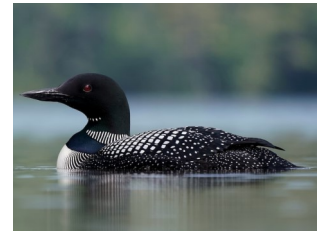
The significance of having this online resource was the Limpkin at the Wehrspann Wetlands at Omaha in June 2022. Once seen and reported, a BONO account was posted with shared pictures, so the context of this new species occurrence within Nebraska could be quickly known. A recent addition was an account of an ultra-rare hybrid yellow-throated/blue-headed vireo documented at Ash Hollow State Park in the autumn of 2022.

This unique site is regularly improved with comments pertinent to content, being able to add new details including reference publications and even verbiage regarding syntax and what words may convey. Silcock reports that feedback comes mostly by emails. Bird details are also based upon his personal knowledge, as his primary place of birding has been within Nebraska since the early 1990s.

A new reality of bird occurrence can be derived with software using artificial intelligence to depict a species in a natural setting and seem to convey some sort of reality, though it is a false rendition. No artificial intelligence-derived pictures will be accepted at BONO, Silcock indicated.

Common Loon

by Richard Peterson



Taxonomists know this bird as *Gavia immer*. It's sometimes referred to as the great northern diver in Eurasia. The other loons of North America are the Yellow-billed, Red-throated, and Pacific.

This is a Nearctic species which can grow up to 36” long, has a 46” wingspan, and weighs up to nine pounds. Breeding adults have a broad black head and neck with a blue-green, purplish sheen. Their upperparts have an unclear dark brownish-gray pattern of squares on the shoulders. The lower face, chin, and throat are whitish. The sexes look alike, though males are significantly larger.

They eat a variety of fish such as minnows, suckers, gizzard shad, rock bass, and small pike; add to this crustaceans, insect larvae, mollusks, and occasionally plants like pond weed, willow shoots, roots, and moss.

Loons usually nest along large, tree-bordered lakes. Breeding pairs, which often stay together for a decade, defend a territory which can be an entire small lake or a protected bay within a large lake. Nests of dead marsh grasses are built along the vegetated shores beginning in May. The first eggs are laid in early June depending on when the lakes become ice-free and habitable. One to two eggs are laid one to three days apart. Both parents share the feeding chores. If found, the eggs are often eaten by raccoons (responsible for 40 percent of nest failures), as well as foxes, minks, skunks and otters. If the nest is left unattended, gulls, ravens, and crows will eat their share. Chicks fledge in about 75 days, but they are capable of diving underwater when just a few days old. Chicks out paddling about can become a quick meal for cruising bald eagles or an underwater attack from snapping turtles and the different pike and bass species.

This loon migrates overland as well as along the coast. Often solitary, they sometimes form loose flocks during migration or at the wintering areas. They overwinter along open lakes (those that have not frozen over), bays, and ocean shores and can be found on both our coasts south into Mexico.

On many a chilly fall evening, while lake fishing in northern Minnesota, I've heard their call—haunting yodels and tremolos. At dusk, with the sun going down below a clear sky over calm water, it is a sound one never forgets. With climate change their ideal habitat will shift further north, and Minnesota may no longer be the best place to see them.

The loon is the provincial bird of Ontario, Canada, and is on the national currency, the one-dollar coin which Canadians refer to as the “loonie.” It appeared on that country’s earlier series of \$20 bills. In 1961, the loon was designated the state bird of Minnesota and appears on the Minnesota state quarter.

Message from Audubon Great Plains

Executive Director Kristal Stoner

from Audubon Dakota's 2022 Annual Report

This past year has brought new opportunities and expansion for our team. As our programs strengthen, so do our partnerships. This past year we have impacted acreage and restored habitats across North and South Dakota to further our mission of protecting birds and the places they need. As we merge with Nebraska to form the regional office, Audubon Great Plains, our growing wingspan will only strengthen Audubon's influence, impact, and ability to advocate for birds and protect their habitats.

Transitioning to Audubon Great Plains

Through partnership, programming, and collaboration, Audubon Dakota supported a more sustainable future for birds in 2022. This was a year of transition for Audubon Dakota; we gained new leadership and announced our merge into a regional office, combining Dakota and Nebraska offices. This merge will encourage adaption, expansion, and unification of strategies.

Merging the Dakotas with Nebraska sanctioned our approaches beyond state borders at a Great Plains scale. Through a united Great Plains office, we see greater opportunity to make an impact on habitat critical to our grassland bird populations, including the Western Meadowlark, the State Bird for North Dakota and Nebraska, which desperately needs grasslands for survival.

Through this transition, we continue to serve North and South Dakota, making strides in conservation and restoration work for bird and wildlife habitat. Our work prioritizes the Prairie Potholes where some of the best remaining grassland and wetland habitats support an incredible diversity of waterfowl and avian species. Many species are at risk and show declines correlated to the loss and degradation of this unique prairie landscape. The Dakotas provide exceptional breeding and stop-over habitat for millions of ducks, geese, and a wide array of avian species. Between North Dakota and South Dakota, over 370 species of birds depend on the states' grasslands, wetlands, and forests for survival.

Migratory birds traveling thousands of miles stop through as they continue their journey to their final northern destination. Millions depend on these two states for nesting, breeding, and foraging, and it is our priority to protect these critical habitats. With 60 percent of the nearly five million wetland acres converted to croplands or lost, and over 72 percent of native prairie converted, the chance for survival becomes increasingly difficult for many species already facing peril.

Since 1970, there has been an alarming 53 percent population loss in grassland birds, roughly totaling 720 million birds, like the highly vulnerable Baird's Sparrow whose rangeland is completely lost. Our programs support birds and wildlife by restoring and protecting critical bird habitat, conserving places where birds thrive and people prosper.

Audubon Guide to Winter Bird Feeding

from National Audubon's website

More than a hundred bird species supplement their natural diets with foods offered at feeders. They often rely most heavily on feeders in winter when food is scarce. Additionally, some species will take advantage of backyard refueling stations during spring and fall migrations; others will stop by while nesting during the summer. Selecting a specific feeder design and a variety of foods can set the table for a greater diversity of birds. Choosing more than one will prevent crowding at your backyard buffet. Keep birds coming back with three essential ingredients: the right mix of quality seed and other foods, a source of fresh water for drinking and bathing, and ample cover from native plants. Follow this guide and watch birds flock to your feeders.

1. Tube feeder

If you hang just one feeder, this should be it. Choose a model with metal ports around the seed dispensers to deter squirrels. Hang it at least 5 feet off the ground and 3 feet (or 30-plus feet) from a window to avoid bird collisions.

Seed types: black oil sunflower, mixed seed, safflower, peanuts

Birds: chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, goldfinches, siskins, purple and house finches

2. Hopper feeder

With these feeders you can keep an abundant supply of seed dry and ready for visiting birds. The weight of the arriving birds triggers the release of seeds. Position this feeder on a pole about 5 feet off the ground or hang it from a tree branch.

Seed types: safflower, sunflower, cracked corn

Birds: attracts all the species that visit tube feeders, plus larger birds like cardinals, jays, grackles, red-winged blackbirds

3. Suet feeder

Hang suet in mesh onion bags or purchase a cage feeder. You can make your own suet "pudding" by grinding suet and adding seeds. Create homemade suet feeders by packing the mixture into the crevices of large pine cones.

Seed types: suet and bird puddings

Birds: woodpeckers, titmice, nuthatches, chickadees; occasionally wrens, creepers, warblers

4. Thistle feeder

These make seed available only to small-beaked finches. Hang them from a tree or place on a 5-foot pole near other feeders.

Seed types: Nyjer (a.k.a. thistle) seed

Birds: goldfinches, redpolls, pine siskins

5. Ground feeder

A simple screen-bottomed tray that typically sits several inches off the ground or on a deck will work well. Some have covers to keep out snow; others may have wire mesh to keep out squirrels and large birds like crows. Place at least 10 feet from trees or shrubs to give birds a chance to escape predators.

Seed types: mix of cracked corn, milo, millet; also sunflower seed, mixed seed, wheat, oat

Birds: doves, juncos, sparrows, towhees, goldfinches

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

The Audubon delegation to the Conference of the Parties 15 Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal was led by National Audubon's CEO Elizabeth Gray. She said, "Across the globe, the loss of bird populations has been a harbinger of biodiversity loss, but birds can also point the way forward. Ensuring that they have healthy habitats and flyways is critical not only for birds and their ecosystems, but for all life. It is essential that conservation organizations work together with Indigenous governments and communities, local groups, governments, and the private sector." Audubon is hosting three events at the conference:

The Launch of the Americas Flyways Initiative will celebrate a strategic alliance between Audubon, BirdLife International, and the Latin American and the Caribbean Development Bank (CAF). This groundbreaking hemispheric collaboration will drive scientific research and financing in biodiversity conservation, as well as sustainable financial investments and the design and implementation of large-scale development projects. Listening to the Birds—How Indigenous Organizations are Co-producing Acoustic Research to Inform Conservation and Stewardship will be co-hosted alongside the Seal River Watershed Alliance (SRWA), a partnership of four First Nations to defend a healthy watershed and safeguard all life on Earth. Indigenous governments and communities have long played an invaluable role in environmental stewardship, including ongoing efforts to establish Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA) that preserve boreal lands.

The Global Treasure—Boreal Forests, Peat Bogs, and Ocean will be co-hosted with Wildlands League, Mushkegowuk Council, Weenusk First Nation, and Wildlife Conservation Society.

The following is from the excellent story on the National Audubon website by Senior Editor Jessica Leber, Audubon Magazine, 12/7/22. She writes:

"At the two-week COP15 meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity, negotiators face a daunting but urgent challenge to finalize a text, known as the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, that 196 signatory nations will support." In her report she quotes Jeff Wells, Audubon's vice president for boreal conservation: "The benchmarks that will be decided collectively at this meeting are the ones that will guide how government budgets related to biodiversity and conservation will be allocated for years to come. That's where the rubber really hits the road."

One important proposal—a headline goal to protect at least 30 percent of the world's lands and sea by 2030, known as "30 by 30"—is backed by a growing body of scientific research and a grouping of more than 110 governments; however, an unusual number of issues and details remained to be hammered out. The United States has never ratified the underlying Convention

on Biological Diversity, and therefore will only take part in the COP15 negotiations as observers—though its positions still hold sway on the outcome of the talks.

President Biden signed an executive order committing the U.S. to its own 30 by 30 goal. If achieved, it could more than double the roughly 12 percent of land and freshwater ecosystems that are under some level of domestic protection today, but how this will be accomplished is a political challenge.

New Wachiska Board member Doug Campbell points out an article in the November 28, 2022, *New Yorker* by Elizabeth Kolbert: "A Vast Experiment: The Climate Crisis from A to Z."

In the Past Half Century

by Arlys Reitan

It is my intention to come up with a few comical true stories relating to Wachiska's first 50 years and relay them in monthly columns in *The Babbling Brook* throughout 2023. These will not be rehearsed instances, so they will not appear in any chronological order. This first one dates back to the late 1970s.

Wachiska was meeting at Anderson Library. Typical attendance was 15-20 people on a good-weather night. It was a lively group, full of knowledge about nature and especially the current political climate in the U. S. as it pertained to the natural world. Meetings began at the usual 7:00 p.m. with the understanding that we would be adjourned by 9:00 p.m. when the library closed. But this seemed to be impossible for this group. After several "warnings" we were notified that there would be a \$5 assessment to pay staff to stay late. Several months went by with the group being unable to adhere to the understanding, and we paid the fine each time. Finally, instead of modifying our agenda, the Board decided to build the fine into the annual budget—no doubt a surprise to the library staff. Wachiska moved its monthly meetings to Love Library on East Campus shortly thereafter!

Help Plan our 50-year Celebration!

The Wachiska Audubon Society turns 50 in 2023, and we want to celebrate! We need a few creative, energetic volunteers to help plan and arrange the what, when, and where to mark this significant milestone. You can help with overall planning or just step in to do one part. Contact Mark Brohman at 402-525-1504 or mbrohman2004@yahoo.com or Theresa Pella at pella_t@yahoo.com to indicate your interest. Thanks!

Hospitality Chair or Committee Needed

We want to thank Cheryl Moncure for her many years of service as hospitality chair and solicit a new person to contact members to bring cookies or snacks to monthly meetings and oversee setting up the table. Please let Mark or Arlys know if you can help in some capacity.

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 Ben Sasse

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://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 Mike Flood

301 S 13th St Ste 100, Lincoln NE 68508 (1st District)
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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
4547 Calvert St Ste 10
Lincoln NE 68506-5643



American Goldfinches

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

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

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Lincoln NE 68506-5643



The Babbling Brook is printed on recycled and recyclable paper.

2023 Calendars Being Recycled

Wachiska will continue to receive and recycle current calendars after receiving the following email: "We are happy to continue to get the calendars for the new year. The people at the Work Release Center tell me they are ALWAYS needed and popular. They have no other source of calendars. Those from Wachiska Audubon are always pretty! Thanks so much!"

WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2023

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

OFFICERS

President *Theresa Pella
Vice President *Andrea Faas
Secretary *April Stevenson
Treasurer *Dylan Aufdenkamp

STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large *Dakota Altman
Director at Large *Ann Briggs
Director at Large *Doug Campbell
Director at Large *Ethan Freese
Director at Large *Stu Luttich
Director at Large *Mercy Manzanares
Director at Large *Kris Powers
Conservation *Ross Scott
Education *Tim Knott
 *Bruce Mellberg

*Denotes voting Board member

For contact information of officers and committee chairs, call the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846.

Mission Statement of the Wachiska Audubon Society

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

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

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

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

Donate to Wachiska When Shopping Online

Remember to shop for deals at smile.amazon.com or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon app. Sign up for AmazonSmile and select Wachiska Audubon Society as your preferred charity at smile.amazon.com/ch/51-0229888. Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of the purchase price of eligible purchases to the Wachiska Audubon Society at no cost to you.

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**.

