



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 40th Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2013

JUNE 2013

Volume 22 - Issue 6

General Meeting—June 13, 7:00 p.m., Dick Administration Building, Union College, Lincoln, Nebraska

Bhutan – A Himalayan Paradise for Nature

by Mace Hack, Nebraska State Director, *The Nature Conservancy*

Many have probably never heard of Bhutan, a small Himalayan country, but we should all pay attention to the experiment that is unfolding there. Perching above the northeast corner of India it has its back against Chinese Tibet. Until the 1970s, no foreign journalist had been allowed into this exotic kingdom that rises from tropical plains and reaches deep into the Himalayan range. Never conquered, never colonized, retaining over 80 percent of its forests, it is home to spectacular wildlife now mostly missing from the rest of the Himalayas—tigers, snow leopards, takin, elephants, over 600 bird species. Bhutan is a prize destination for both cultural and ecological tourists.

In the spring of 2010, I traveled to Bhutan with colleagues as guests of the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment. Building collaborations in conservation science was our call of duty, but I was fulfilling a long-held dream to see this fascinating land.

One of Bhutan's greatest charms is the striking integration of its culture with nature. Hiking in the forest, one constantly encounters prayer flags and shrines recognizing this connection. Buddhism pervades daily life and accounts for the reverence afforded the entire natural world—not just wildlife but trees, streams, and mountains alike. The Bhutanese see themselves as part of nature, not separate from it.

Can this close relationship between nature and people persist as the country rapidly modernizes? It's a fair question for Bhutan,

the least urbanized society in the world and one which didn't even allow television to slip in until 1999. Internal development pressures grow as more Bhutanese see how others live, while neighbors India and China with their enormous appetites for natural resources raise the temptation for cashing out the country's still relatively pristine environment.



Yellow-billed blue magpie
Photo by Mace Hack

Bhutan's leaders have developed a unique antidote to these pressures. It's a philosophy of development based on an unusual metric—Gross National Happiness. Good governance, economic growth, preservation of nature, and retention of the traditional culture form its four pillars. All major development decisions must seek balance among them so that economic growth does not trump a healthy environment or cultural vitality. The idea behind Gross National Happiness—that satisfying lives cannot be sustained on material wealth alone—seems a basic human truth that I easily forget in the rapid pace of modern life.

As we push our lands, waters, and natural systems to deliver more and more, perhaps we can learn from Bhutan's experiment in seeking greater balance between what we want and what we truly need. And may Bhutan remind us that ultimately we all are part of nature, not separate from it. Its health is our health.

Dr. Mace Hack has been the state director for The Nature Conservancy in Nebraska for the past seven years. Prior to joining the Conservancy, Mace worked for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. He also serves as an adjunct associate professor for the School of Natural Resources at UNL. Mace never passes on an opportunity to explore nature around the globe, especially if he can see new birds.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, June 13, at 7:00 p.m.** for this free talk in the Dick Auditorium on Union College campus, 3800 South 48th Street, in Lincoln. Look for Audubon signs on the doors of the Dick Building. An on-site ramp and elevator are available. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Calendar

June

- 3 Population/Environment Committee, East Campus Arboretum, 7:00 p.m.
- 4 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Field trip to Fontenelle Forest, 8:00 a.m. (page 2)
- 8 Wildflower Week – Wachiska Prairie Tours (page 4)
- 13 General Meeting, "Bhutan – A Himalayan Paradise for Nature," by Dr. Mace Hack, TNC, Union College Dick Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 16 Backyard Habitat Tour, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (page 3)
- 17 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.



Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Breeding Birds of Fontenelle Forest

The remaining tracts of mature forest along the Missouri River provide a home for some interesting birds not commonly found in Nebraska. Fontenelle Forest protects important habitat near Omaha and offers a unique opportunity to see the unusual species that rely on it. Expert birder Justin Rink will guide us as we hike the trails in search of pileated woodpeckers, yellow-throated warblers, and prothonotary warblers. We can't predict what we'll find, but Justin knows the best places to look for Fontenelle specialties, including American redstarts and Kentucky warblers.

Meet **Saturday, June 8, at 8:00 a.m.** in the Fontenelle parking lot at the east end of Gifford Road. From I-80, take exit 439 and Highway 370 east to Bellevue. Turn north on Fort Crook Road and travel to Child's Road where you will turn and drive east until it turns into Gifford Road. Bring a water bottle, insect repellent, and binoculars if you have them. Entry fee for non-members is \$5/adult and \$4/senior (62 and older.) The public is welcome. If you have questions, call John at 402-475-7275.

Bird Notes

by Irene Alexander

Among the unusual spring sightings reported was the osprey seen by Butch and Dobey Haws a short distance from their residence near the golf course in Firethorn. "Opportunistic" perhaps best describes the mallards feeding on birdseed in Jeanne and Rich Kern's and another backyard. Jeanne also reported a pair of chipping sparrows and seven orioles, including two females. The dapper brown thrasher made its appearance right on schedule in Ken Reitan's yard during the third week in April, followed closely by the vocal announcement of the house wren and several chipping sparrows, too. But still in non-breeding formation was the flock of cedar waxwings in the East Campus area. Lynn Darling, meanwhile, welcomed a pair of rose-breasted grosbeaks. A merlin hung around the vicinity of 50th and Vine streets all winter and then hadn't been seen since April until May 20 when it reappeared in the same area.

Donations Received for Library Bird Seed

After two successful Bird enCOUNTERs at Lincoln branch libraries, we are beginning to build more interest among youth in the community. Thanks to generous donations of feeders and installation by Wild Bird Habitat Stores, we now have feeding stations in prime viewing locations at Walt, Gere, Anderson, and Eiseley libraries. To keep them filled with appropriate seed, we are asking for donations by Wachiska members. Those interested can send a check to the office payable to Wachiska Audubon, with "Population and Environment Bird Seed" in the memo line. We have chapter volunteers who refill the feeders as needed. Thank you to Joyce Vannier, Judy Gibson, and Barb and Chuck Francis for donations for this purpose during the past month.

Current Questions on Global Population

by Chuck Francis, Population & Environment Committee

Rocket science is not needed to understand current population challenges and how they are vitally connected to land use, habitat for birds and other wildlife, food production, and food security. With food needs increasing with human numbers, fallow periods in traditional slash and burn agriculture are now reduced or abandoned in favor of continual cropping of fragile soils. As trees are cut in the Amazon and the plains to the south are cleared to open lands for soybean and sugar cane production, valuable forest and grassland habitats are lost. We have the information to understand the impact of these transformations, but do we have the will to seek changes?

In a UNL seminar course on global food security this spring, 20 students and instructors explored the critical issues surrounding food and environment. It is instructive to read the questions the students raised during a class evaluation. These provide insight on what the next generation is thinking and could provide a window on solutions. They asked:

- How do we address population issues and put reasonable policies in place?
- Can we build greater awareness in the U.S. about global population issues?
- Where is food production most likely to increase and at what environmental cost?
- Who are the most food-insecure people, and how can their nutrition be improved?
- How do we build a will to adapt to climate change, and how does this affect food?
- Where are the serious issues of food inequity, and what can be done to solve them?
- How did we lose the food security and international grain stocks we had up to 1990?
- Where will we finance needed research in policy and production related to food supply?
- How do we identify and monitor food vulnerability, and how do we provide better options?
- Where should food aid or financial assistance be directed and under what terms?
- Can or should the U.S. be concerned about "feeding the world"?

To be sure, these are weighty issues that face our U.S. and global community. There are no easy solutions, and even informed discussions of population challenges are taking place within many different cultural, religious, and economic contexts. The questions listed do not give a prescription for change. But a respected educator once said that it is more difficult to seek out and foment in-depth discussion around critical questions than to look superficially at problems and make quick prescriptions for change. We owe it to future generations to take global population seriously, for our own long-term well-being and for the health of the ecosystem we share with other species.

24th Annual Backyard Wildlife Habitat Tour

by Lynn and Anne Senkbeil, Event Co-chairs



Wachiska Audubon's 24th annual Backyard Wildlife Habitat Tour will again be held on Father's Day from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For almost a quarter of a century, the most diverse and interesting wildlife habitat gardens in Lincoln have been open for the public to see. Please set aside June 16th to see seven great gardens of Lincoln. As always, homeowners will be on hand to answer questions. Visitors can start at any location. Maps and brochures will be available at each site. A donation of \$5 is suggested with children under 12 admitted free with an adult. Garden hosts are:

Al & Margaret Brown – 859 Moraine Drive

Al's goal has been to get some blooms every month of the year. He uses no chemicals—only Milorganite—on the grass and gardens. He purposely grows some so-called weeds, e.g., dandelions. Visitors will witness the results of many years of hard work that Al is now enjoying from his easy chair on the patio.

Brent & Beth Schott – 2905 O'Reilly Drive

Since the summer of 2010, 73 shrubs and 23 trees have been added to this yard, including topiaries and ornamentals. In addition, a multitude of flowers, ground covers, and vines have been planted. Old grass was replaced with new sod and the sprinkler system in the front yard has been updated. In the backyard existing flower beds were expanded, and 97 shrubs and 39 trees, including ornamentals, have been added. There are 52 hydrangeas in the backyard along with many plants that were moved from the homeowners' previous home. One of those moved was a large chocolate mimosa tree. The west side of the backyard is serving as a resource area with compost, vegetables, and herbs. The variety of plants brings many species of wildlife—hummingbirds, hummingbird moths, butterflies, bees, possums, raccoons, hawks, and many more.

Frank & Marilyn McArthur – 501 Pioneers Boulevard

This acreage is a natural habitat for a variety of wildlife, including birds. The large bur oak trees in the front yard provide ideal places for orioles, woodpeckers, robins, nuthatches, blue jays, and a few hawks. Beal Slough runs through this property, beckoning ducks and geese to return each year to enjoy the location and the Lincoln summers. The east side of the property is being developed with viburnums, fruit bushes, and grasses. Paths through the wooded areas allow visitors to see the progress of stone work, an archway, and a play house—all enhancing the grounds' forest setting. On the west side of the house is the herb garden, and close by is a very busy bird feeder. Raccoons, opossums, woodchucks, beavers, and deer also find enjoyment romping through this acreage.

Mark Faatz – 3040 Summit Boulevard

In 2008, this home was purchased with the intent to create outdoor spaces for year-round enjoyment. These spaces would be designed around three large oak trees in the front while adding modern garden features like a fire pit and outdoor kitchen. Spring and summer bulbs such as snow drops, crocus, daffodils, tulips, and oriental lilies perfume the air beginning in February and continuing until July. During the rest of the seasons, roses, iris, hellebores, day lilies, anemones, hostas, and autumn clematis bring the garden to its crescendo. Several ornamental under-story

trees were added to the landscape to provide treats for the local habitat. Highlighting this garden are the old-fashioned herbaceous peonies along the driveway which have been in the family for many generations and were relocated to Lincoln from the family farm in central New York State. The other treasures are the 52 Chinese tree peonies located throughout the yard. Chinese peonies will live for hundreds of years if cared for properly. They grow very slowly and find Nebraska a great place to grow old.

Kevin & Shalla Powell Mandigo – 2826 South 25th Street

The interesting thing about the beginning of this garden is that the previous owners are Brent and Beth Schott whose present garden is also on our tour today. The initial garden and landscaping was inspired by Beth's grandmother, Elizabeth Lang, and master gardener, Gladys Jeurink, among others. A visit to plantation gardens in South Carolina and Georgia had a lot to do with the design and layout of this small but energetic garden with plants too numerous to list. Because the homeowners have a growing business, they are not able to spend as much time in their garden as they would like, so a lot of work is outsourced; however, they give directions as to how they want it to look and spend their spare time helping the garden to look great. For its size, the garden attracts many kinds of birds, butterflies, bees, and other insects, along with squirrels, bunnies, and opossums.

Rod & Debbie Basler – 2700 Eastgate Street

The overall atmosphere of the space is intended to reflect an English manor park, centered on specific plantings which all have a family meaning. The rose garden and statuary is a memorial to Rod's mother who had a life-long love for roses. The rose of Sharon is in memory of Debbie's mother, Althea, and the Koi pond reflects the love that Rod's dad had for fishing. Debbie's love for cooking is reason for the herb garden; however, the squirrels and bunnies get the best of the plants before Debbie gets to them. Plantings continue to evolve, mostly by trial and error, with overriding emphasis on the continual display of the brightest of colors available.

FireWorks Restaurant rain garden – 5750 South 86th Drive

The garden in the backyard of Fireworks measures 5,400 square feet and contains 3,200 native plants, 50 trees, and 42 shrubs. Because the garden includes climate-hardy native plants, the garden is able to thrive solely on natural rainfall and without the use of chemicals, fertilizers, and pesticides. A few of the plants to be seen are bald cypress, bur oak, Kentucky coffee tree, big bluestem, grow-low sumac, coneflowers, swamp milkweed, tall gayfeather, and arrow viburnum. There are many more, but Fireworks will provide a rain garden flyer with all of the plant names and sources for developing your own rain garden.

A morning-glory at my window satisfies me more than the metaphysics of books.

--Walt Whitman, poet (1819-1892)



From the Board ...

by Benjamin Vogt, Director at Large

We can't always make it out to a prairie to view the flowers, grasses, butterflies, and birds, but we can bring some of the prairie home. There are plenty of native forbs that are easy to grow and that attract wildlife.

Did you know that over ten species of milkweed are found in Nebraska? Some native to eastern portions of the state are *Asclepias incarnata*, *A. purpurascens*, and *A. sullivantii*; all are non-spreading clumpers that feed monarch caterpillars. If you like black swallowtails, you should plant golden alexanders (*Zizia aurea*), as these butterflies lay eggs on this yellow-flowered May bloomer.

Other wildflowers that attract an amazingly diverse set of insects are mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*), New England aster, smooth aster (*Aster laevis*), Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium spp.*), goldenrod (Wichita Mountains and Zigzag are my favorites), Liatris, coneflowers, and sunflowers. As pollinator numbers dwindle due to habitat loss and pesticide overspray, it's important we help them in our backyards—especially since one in three bites of food we take can be traced back to an insect pollinating a flower. Not only that, but birds feed their young a 100 percent diet of insects.

Speaking of birds, every year I get hummingbirds on my blue sage (*Salvia azurea*), and the bigger-blooming cultivar "Nekan" was discovered in north Lincoln. Leave your plants up for winter—if you do, you create another food source in seeds, provide natural perches and hiding places, and produce warm cover for overwintering caterpillars and butterflies like the mourning cloak.

Some drought-tolerant shortgrasses that take anything thrown at them include sideoats grama, prairie dropseed, blue grama, and little bluestem; in fact, these grasses also serve as host plants for some butterflies while providing nesting material for birds.

Think about adding some of these wildlife-attracting native perennials to your garden this summer and fall—you'll be glad you did. Have the camera ready, too, and then enter the photo contests we'll have on Facebook over the next several months to celebrate 40 years of Wachiska!

In addition to being a board member, Benjamin Vogt owns Monarch Gardens, a native plant garden consulting business in Lincoln. He teaches English at the University of Nebraska.



Benjamin Vogt

New Members to Wachiska this Spring

by Joyce Vannier, Membership Chair

Help us welcome the following new National Audubon members this month:

Annie Adamek

Pam Agena

Steve Connell

Cathy Egberts

Justin Holbein

Robert & Sharon Kechely

Ila Keller

Ardith Korver

Cathie Masters

David Ralston

Jackie Romans

Helen Soley

Sue Statler

Sharla Taylor

Becoming Friends of Wachiska with the local chapter connection are Matt & Sue Dwyer and Rosemarie & Steven Heinisch.

Wachiska to Take Part in Wildflower Week

This year Wachiska will hold open house at four of our prairies in Southeast Nebraska by participating in National Wildflower Week which is being coordinated by the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. Members of Wachiska's conservation committee will be

present to show folks around and answer questions. For further information, contact Arnold at arnold.mendenhall@gmail.com or 402-525-4884.



Coreopsis

On Saturday, June 8, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. these prairies will be open to the public:

Lamb Prairie near Sterling – 2 miles west from west end of Sterling on NE41/43 to Ave. 608 (Lutheran Church at intersection), 2 miles south across BNSF RR tracks to intersection with Rd. 732; prairie is in northeast corner of northeast quarter section, on southwest corner of intersection.

Dieken Prairie near Unadilla – 1.5 miles south on Rd. 20 from northwest corner of intersection of Unadilla and NE 02/Rd. 20; then 3/4 miles west on Rd. I; prairie located on northwest corner of northwest quarter section.

Bentzinger Prairie near Cook – 1/4 mile north of the Cook Cemetery on Hwy. 50, south of the Johnson/Otoe County line on the west side of the road; can't be missed from Hwy. 50.

Wulf Prairie near Eagle – 7.5 miles east on US 34 from 84th Street in Lincoln; prairie is located on south side of US 34, just east of 176th Street.

Prairie Corridor Dream to Become Reality

by Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Special Projects Administrator
Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department

The Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch is a 7.5-mile corridor linking Pioneers Park with Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center along the Haines Branch of Salt Creek with an additional link to Conestoga Lake. Pioneers Park and Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center are two of Lincoln and Lancaster County's most valuable resources for tallgrass prairie and environmental education. The vision is to expand prairie and riparian habitat areas, build recreational and educational connections, and promote the enhancement and preservation of one of Southeast Nebraska's most valuable resources—tallgrass prairie.

Major project components include:

- Conservation - a voluntary, incentive-based approach to preservation of natural resources through land and easement acquisition
- Habitat Development - preservation, enhancement, and re-establishment of native prairie, riparian woodland plantings, freshwater and saline wetlands, and ensuring connectivity along the corridor
- Trail Corridor - establishment of a trail connection from Pioneers Park west to Conestoga Lake and south through Denton to Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center
- Education/Outreach - development and implementation of an education/outreach plan, materials, and interpretive signage
- Economic Opportunity - celebrating the natural heritage of the "Prairie Capitol" with an outstanding tallgrass prairie experience and 15-mile roundtrip trail ride that will encourage visitors to stay another day in Lincoln.

A cooperative partnership consisting of a wide range of public and private project and funding partners, including Wachiska Audubon, has formed to support the Prairie Corridor project. In April, the project was awarded a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust for \$900,000 over three years.

This grant, together with matching funds pledged, is providing more than \$1.8 million over three years for implementation of the first phase of the Prairie Corridor and is also being used in an effort to leverage additional funds as opportunities arise.

Funding and project partners at this time include:

- Aspegren Foundation
- City of Lincoln
- Cooper Foundation
- Dolezal Fund
- Great Plains Trails Network
- Lancaster County
- Lincoln Cares
- Lincoln Community Foundation
- Lincoln Parks Foundation
- Lower Platte South Natural Resources District
- Michael Forsberg Conservation Photography
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- Nebraska Land Trust
- Prairie Plains Resources Institute
- Recreational Trails Program
- Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center
- Village of Denton
- Wachiska Audubon

We are in the process of refining the work plan, defining the partner roles, and developing measurable goals for conservation and restoration. A link to the Salt Valley Greenway and Prairie Corridor Master Plan executive summary and a map of the corridor can be found at <http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/parks/programs/saltvalleygreenway.htm>.

The website will soon be updated to provide additional project information. Questions about the project can be directed to Nicole Fleck-Tooze at 402-441-8263 or ntooze@lincoln.ne.gov.

Birdathon 2013 is Fully Underway

by Tim Knott, Chair

Wachiska's 25th annual Birdathon began in April when a letter was mailed to all members, friends, past supporters, and nature enthusiasts. While this event has always been held during spring migration when numerous avian species come through our area on their way north, for the past two years we have coordinated efforts with the local Give to Lincoln Day fundraiser. Donors taking part in Give to Lincoln Day will be recognized as soon as final reports are received. All Birdathon contributors will be listed in next month's newsletter.

For those who have yet to participate, please find that special Birdathon envelope and mail your donation today to ensure that birds and other wildlife in Southeast Nebraska remain in our area for new generations to enjoy; that tallgrass prairie will retain visible as our heritage for all to appreciate; that programs such as Bird enCOUNTer, Backyard Habitat Tour, Earth Day, Platte River Sandhill Crane Trip for Kids, Prairie Discovery Days, as

well as field trips and environmental advocacy will continue to provide educational opportunities for our kids, grandchildren, and adults of all ages. Our volunteers give thousands of hours of time freely each year, but there are still expenses for supplies, transportation, fees, and other costs that the chapter must take care of in order to continue our work. Thank you to those who have already come forth in some monetary way this year. If you have misplaced that special envelope, just mail your check payable to Wachiska Audubon in any envelope and mail it as soon as possible. Mark "Birdathon" on the memo line, please.

Wachiska leaders are confident that the next 40 years will bring us even further along the journey of protecting Nebraska's natural prairie habitat and its inhabitants. THANKS TO ALL!!

W.A.R.B.L.E.R

(Wachiska Audubon Readers' Bulletins, Letters, and Environmental Reports)

Herbal Festival 2013

Join the Pioneers Park Nature Center for a day of workshops, garden tours, and herb tasting on Saturday, June 22. Several speakers are lined up from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Call PPNC at 402-441-7895 or check out this site: www.parks.lincoln.ne.gov/naturecenter.

National Audubon Convention around the Corner

The full Audubon Convention 2013 program is now available. Discover all the fabulous sessions waiting for you July 12-15 when leaders from across the country come together in the Pacific Northwest for the first Audubon Convention in 13 years.

There is something for everyone in the Audubon family:

- Explore Audubon initiatives from tundra to shortgrass prairies to ocean shores
- Learn exciting new leadership skills from experienced staff and volunteer presenters
- Absorb tips for raising money, recruiting volunteers, and managing boards
- Share your stories and experiences
- Plenty of fun options to explore the art and science of birds
- Great fellowship and networking opportunities
- Fabulous field trips
- In-depth workshops
- Delicious, locally-sourced meals and top-notch housing options
- Incredible scenery in the heart of the Pacific Northwest
- And much, much more

Audubon invites you to join fellow leaders from all parts of the Audubon family—chapters, nature centers, state and national programs—for an extraordinary four days at Skamania Lodge. Learn, laugh, share, and explore together how Audubon is truly taking flight. Reserve your place: www.audubonconvention.org.

40th Anniversary Update

Wachiska's 40th anniversary committee wants to hear from you! We are collecting photos, stories, and accomplishments of Wachiska during the 40 years of our organization's existence. If you have any fond memories or events that stand out to you, please share them with us. You can send pictures and stories to:

Jessica Umberger, jessi.umberger@gmail.com

Elizabeth Nelson, enelson555@gmail.com

Sue Kohles, tunaleaf@windstream.net or the Wachiska office, office@wachiskaaudubon.org

Wachiska Incentives

As an incentive for new members to become Friends of Wachiska, each new local membership of \$75 or more will be entitled to a free Wachiska tote bag until further notice.

Wachiska is posting more and more on Facebook and Twitter—environmental news, action alerts, photos, links to articles, and opportunities. As part of our new online community, we'll be having photo contests with prizes, including our tote bags. Friend us online and join the fun!

Name/address Changes for *Audubon Magazine*

National Audubon members, please use this e-address when you have an address change or National Audubon membership question: Audubon@emailcustomerservice.com. If you would rather communicate via phone, call 800-274-4201.

Wachiska will continue to take changes for local memberships but cannot be responsible for national changes.

Want Your Photo Seen By Millions?

As part of the Wilderness 50 Coalition, the Sierra Club, the Smithsonian Institution, and Nature's Best Photography launched a "Wilderness Forever" photography competition on May 6. Fifty winning photos illustrating the magnificence of our nation's wilderness will be viewed by millions at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. The professionally-juried photo contest will run through September 3. The winning photos will be included as part of a 2014 exhibition celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Share your images, tell your story, and enter the contest at this site: www.naturesbestphotography.com/wilderness.php.

Hummingbird Facts

- Hummingbirds can hear better and see farther than humans.
- A hummingbird can remember every flower it visits.
- Hummingbirds are the only bird species that can fly backwards.
- Hummingbirds can twist their wings 180 degrees—creating lift in both the up-stroke and down-stroke.
- Hummingbirds can see ultraviolet light.
- Hummingbirds can fly 30 mph and dive 60 mph.
- Hummingbirds have the highest metabolism of any animal.
- Flight muscles make up 30 percent of a hummer's weight.

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 Mike Johanns

100 Centennial Mall N Rm 294, Lincoln NE 68508-3803
Lincoln phone: 402-476-1400 Fax: 402-476-0605
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-4224 Fax: 202-228-0436
E-mail: mike_johanns@johanns.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 Lee Terry (2nd District)

11717 Burt St Ste 106, Omaha NE 68154
Omaha phone: 402-397-9944
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4155 Fax: 202-226-5452
E-mail at website: <http://leeterry.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 Dave Heineman

Capitol Bldg, PO Box 94848, Lincoln NE 68509-4848
Phone: 402-471-2244 Fax: 402-471-6031
E-mail: dave.heineman@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

Membership

Wachiska offers two choices of membership. Local membership, called Friends of Wachiska, includes receiving *The Babbling Brook*, our chapter's monthly newsletter. It also includes voting privileges and attendance at monthly meetings, programs, and field trips. All membership dues from a local membership stay with Wachiska to support chapter activities such as prairie preservation and education.

Membership in the National Audubon Society also includes membership in our local chapter, Wachiska. You will receive *Audubon* magazine from National Audubon along with *The Babbling Brook*.

Friends of Wachiska (local membership)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Recruited by _____

E-mail _____

\$20 Individual/Friend \$50 Sustainer
 \$30 Families \$100 Patron

Make checks payable to **Wachiska Audubon Society**. All funds remain with our local chapter. Mail to:

Wachiska Audubon Society
Attention: Membership Committee
4547 Calvert St Ste 10
Lincoln NE 68506-5643

As a conservation organization, our goal is to use our natural resources wisely. Materials and postage are considerable, and we do not want to waste them. When your address changes or if you are receiving *The Babbling Brook* and would rather not get it, please notify us at office@wachiskaaudubon.org or 402-486-4846.

OR

National Membership in National Audubon Society

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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. Information changes 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**.