



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 52<sup>nd</sup> Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2025

APRIL 2025

Volume 34 - Issue 4

Wachiska Program and General Meeting — Thursday, April 10, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also via YouTube link: [https://youtube.com/live/MDayra\\_Uvki?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/MDayra_Uvki?feature=share)

## Deb Bathke: Nebraska State Climatologist

In 2008, Dr. Deb Bathke relocated from New Mexico to join the NDMC, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's School of Natural Resources and Department of Geosciences. Bathke spent the previous three years as the assistant state climatologist in New Mexico, where she chaired the state's Drought Monitoring Working Group. She represented New Mexico in the Climate Assessment for the Southwest program, or CLIMAS, which is one of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Regional Integrated Science Assessment programs.



Information System. She was the lead author of the state's 2014 climate change impact assessment, Understanding and Assessing Climate Change: Implications for Nebraska. Before working at UNL, she served as the Assistant State Climatologist for New Mexico. Originally from Ponca, Dr. Bathke is a native Nebraskan. She earned her BS and MS from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a PhD in Atmospheric Sciences from The Ohio State University.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, April 10, at 7:00 p.m.** at Lincoln's Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, to learn more about Dr. Deb Bathke. This free, public, in-person talk will also be live-streamed on YouTube at:

[https://youtube.com/live/MDayra\\_Uvki?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/MDayra_Uvki?feature=share)

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

Among the projects she collaborated on were adapting the Dynamic Drought Index for Basins in the Carolinas to the Southwest; implementing a western version of the AgClimate Tools developed by the Southeast Climate Consortium; and convening technical workshops on tree-ring reconstructions of streamflow.

Bathke is supervising ongoing student research on urban landscaping and drought, and is on the Program Implementation Team of the National Integrated Drought

### Wish List for Prairie Pines

*We appreciate all of the donations we have received for Prairie Pines so far!*

- We will continue to accept hand or power tools, lawn items (sprinklers and hoses), or other equipment you would like to donate.
- We are accepting bird seed or gift certificates to buy seed, ear corn and suet. There are a lot of feathered friends all around our office!
- We are also looking for a vehicle to transport disabled or elderly visitors as well as for maintaining trails and fences. An electric golf cart would be ideal or a UTV, or a side-by-side all-terrain vehicle. We are also in the market for a small to medium-sized tractor for various duties in the future.

### Calendar

#### April

- 5 **Return of the Thunderbirds:** 10-3PM, Indian Center
- 10 **General Meeting: Nebraska State Climatologist/ Dr. Deb Bathke** 7:00 p.m. in-person at Unitarian Church and live-streamed; no registration (see above)
- 14 **Conservation Committee** via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 15 **Newsletter deadline**, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 15 **Board Meeting** via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
- 19 **Earth Day:** 10-2PM, Innovation Campus
- 19 **Every Day is Earth Day:** 1-4PM, Prairie Pines Nature Preserve
- 27 **Arbor Day Celebration:** 11-2PM, Antelope Park

# Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman

We are all moved into Prairie Pines and enjoying the surroundings. Several members have stopped by to walk around and enjoy nature. The property is open 9:00-5:00 Friday and Saturday and beginning in April, Sunday afternoons. Feel free to stop by the office on weekdays, but you may want to call first to make sure Wendy, or I are around, as the gates are locked Monday through Thursday when no one is on-site. I enjoy talking with visitors and it is surprising how many folks have told me this is their first visit to Prairie Pines. Word of mouth is spreading! The bird feeders have been active with blue jays, cardinals, juncos, nuthatches, and a couple of squirrels, including a black fox squirrel. There are white-tail deer, cottontails, and lots of birds, especially woodpeckers all around.



Our monthly meeting in March had one of the highest attendances in recent memory. Over 135 people were on hand. The draw was a wonderful presentation on Whooping Cranes by Michael Forsberg and we celebrated Arly Reitan's long career and history with Wachiska. I can't think of two people that have done so much for conservation in Nebraska. I am amazed when I think of the miles Mike has travelled and the number of photos he has taken, and equally amazed by the number of newsletters Arlys has produced and the number of phone calls she has taken over the years.

Thank you to everyone that ordered bird seed last month and especially to those that added a donation to their orders. It is good to know so many people are feeding birds in their backyards in southeast Nebraska.

We have a couple of events coming up this month with **Return of the Thunderbirds**: April 5 at the Lincoln Indian Center, **Lincoln Earth Day**: April 19 at Innovation Campus, and **Arbor Day celebration**: April 27 in Antelope Park. The 50<sup>th</sup> annual Great Plains Conference is taking place April 8-10, at Innovation Campus and I will be moderating a panel on bison with speakers from Nebraska and South Dakota giving updates on bison on the Great Plains. Growing up with bison, I have always had a kinship with them and hold them in high regard. It is easy to see how the indigenous people considered them to be cousins as well as their grocery store.

Wachiska was one of the co-sponsors of the Lincoln City Council Candidate Forum held March 20, at the Lincoln Unitarian Church. Members of the community were able to hear from the city council candidates and ask questions. A big thank you to Gene Hanlon for working so hard to organize the event.

On the legislative front, we continue to watch bills attempting to take funds from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET).

- **LB264** was introduced by Speaker Arch on behalf of the Governor, and it is one of the main appropriation bills that sweeps multiple funds. The bill takes 50% of the Nebraska Environmental Trust's funds, but right now it looks like they have pulled out the NET take, but it can come back at any time.
- **LB261** proposes to take \$15M over two years from the NET for the Water Sustainability Fund and the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Fund.
- **LB638** would apply for \$5M a year from the NET for five years (\$25M request) for the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Cash Fund. The introducer, Senator Ibach, has promised to look for other funding.

Be sure to check out more details and more bills in my article on page 3.

Join us for Earth Day at

## Prairie Pines Nature Preserve at Wachiska

Where Earth Day is Every Day

April 19, 2025 \* 1PM - 4PM

Learn about backyard composting  
from Nebraska Extension-Lancaster Country  
Master Gardeners

Hear a kid's story in the "crib"

Experience a "forest bathing" walk in the woods

Ground yourself with yoga poses

Create window decals to protect your backyard birds

Enjoy a nature-based art exhibit in the Cat House



## Monitoring Nebraska's 2025 Legislation

The 109<sup>th</sup> Legislative session will end around June 9. This is a 90 day session, 715 bills were introduced. The priority bills we are watching are **LB261, LB264, and LB638**. They involve the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET). Here are other bills we are monitoring this session:

**LB121** by Senator Hardin prohibits land disposal of solar panels and wind turbine blades/components in Nebraska. We support recycling as many of these types of items as possible, some parts need to be landfilled. This law would hamper solar and wind energy production in Nebraska. In Natural Resources Committee.

**LB137** by Senator Dungan prohibits homeowner associations from restricting solar panels or pollinator gardens. This is a positive step. In Natural Resources Committee.

**LB145** by Senator Ibach continues the Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Species Assistance Fund and grant program to assist local control authorities and other weed management. We have supported. In Ag Committee.

**LB163** by Senator Spivey creates the office of Climate Action within Nebraska's Department of Environment and Energy. This is a positive step.

**LB167** by Senator Couse continues the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Act. Good program. In Natural Resources Committee.

**LB 261** by Senator Arch would take \$15M from the NET and give \$10M to the Water Sustainability Fund and \$5M to the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Fund. In Appropriations Committee.

**LB264** by Senator Arch would take 50% of the NET funds forever and give half to the Water Resources Cash Fund and half to the State Park Cash Revolving Fund. This bill ignores the will of the citizens that voted for the Lottery with the proceeds going to the NET, schools, the State Fair, and Problem Gamblers. This bill may be unconstitutional. Taking the funds directly circumvents the grant application process where the best projects are funded. The Appropriations Committee has temporarily removed the NET take, but it could come back. In Appropriations Committee.

**LB317** by Senator Brandt would merge Dept. of Natural Resources with Dept. of Environment and Energy and change name to Dept. of Water, Energy, and Environment. Creating super-sized state agencies has always been troublesome in the past. These two agencies have different missions and duties; merging them will create problems. The Natural Resources Committee has made this one of their Priority Bills.

**LB377** by Senator Brandt would extend term limits for Nebraska Game and Parks Board members from two (4-year terms) to three (4-year terms). The nine commissioners have power over establishing policy and laws controlling State's wildlife and parks. This would allow them to serve for 12 years instead of 8. Signed by the Governor.

**LB484** by Senator Quick redefines agricultural and horticultural land to include solar and wind farms. This helps promote solar

and wind farms. In Revenue Committee.

**LB503** by Senator Bosh establishes American Energy Friendly Counties in Nebraska and creates a grant program to benefit renewable energy facilities. In Revenue Committee.

**LB540** by Senator Holdcroft would create the Nebraska Apiary Advisory Board. This would pertain mostly to commercial honeybees; could benefit native bees. In Ag Committee.

**LB590** by Senator Moser allows mitigation banks and in-lieu-of fees for incidental taking of threatened and endangered species. On General File.

**LB595** by Senator Prokop creates Research Excellence Cash Fund: supports research-based investments in data/collection/research, Mesonet System. In Natural Resources Committee.

**LB638** by Senator Ibach directs Department of Natural Resources to apply for grant of \$25M from Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund, to be paid out in five annual installments of \$5M, to the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Cash Fund. \$5M would represent 38% of NET funds. NET grants are allowed for up to three years, this is a five-year request and sets dangerous precedence in the grant process. Senator Ibach promised to look for other funding sources. In Ag Committee.

**LB652** by Senator Hansen would terminate Board of Educational Lands and Funds on July 1, 2027, and provide for sale of school lands. Some land contains unique habitat. This could be destructive. In Education Committee.

**LB663** by Senator Storer changes provisions relating to conditional use/special exception determinations by county planning commissions and boards. Needs to be followed. In Government, Military and Veteran Affairs Committee.

**LB673** by Senator Raybould would transfer \$500M from Perkins County Canal Project Fund to Water Sustainability Fund on or before June 30, 2025. This could end the Perkins Canal Project. In Appropriations Committee.

**LB674** by Senator Raybould would transfer \$250M from the Perkins County Canal Project Fund to General Fund and \$250M to Water Sustainability Fund. This could end the Perkins Canal Project. In Appropriations Committee.

**LB695** by Senator Dover would require Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District to construct a dam, secure funding, and engage in flood control measures to protect Battle Creek, Ne. Need to monitor the plan. In Natural Resources Committee.

***There are also several Constitutional Amendments that if passed would then need to be voted on by the citizens.***

**LR22CA** by Senator Dungan, a Constitutional Amendment to provide the right to a clean and healthy natural environment and that the state and political subdivisions serve as trustee of the natural resources of Nebraska. A couple of states have passed similar amendments, including Montana. In Natural Resources Committee.

**LR28CA** by Senator Hansen would eliminate the Board of Educational Lands and Funds.

## American White Pelican

by Richard Peterson

There are eight species of pelicans in the world: Peruvian, Great White, Australian, Pink-backed, Spot-billed, Dalmatian, Brown, and the American White.

Majestic American white pelicans breed in interior North America, including Nebraska and further north into Canada. In winter, they migrate southeast and southwest to warmer coastal lowlands near bays, inlets, and estuaries.

The other pelican seen in the U.S. is the brown pelican which is rare or accidental in Nebraska. It is found from coastal New Jersey south along the Gulf of Mexico, then to the mouth of the Amazon, and along our Pacific coast south to Peru.

American white pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) have a wingspan second only to the California condor. They are often seen in groups during their migration north from March-April and south from September-October. In flight, they appear all white with black flight feathers in the wings. Although very large and plump birds, they are very light, having air pockets in their skeleton and skin, all of which help them float on water and soar. With a nine-foot wingspan, American whites are frequently seen gracefully soaring in large groups. At rest, they can be found around shallow lakes, wetlands, or along the edges of lakes and rivers. These birds can weigh 20 pounds or more. Apart from size, males and females look alike.

American white pelicans don't dive below the surface to catch a meal; instead, they often work in groups to corner the prey into shallower areas. They swim on the surface scooping up prey while their heads are underwater. Prey includes fish (carp, catfish, minnows, shiners, perch, pike, etc.) as well as frogs, crayfish, salamanders, insects—anything near the surface. After they have scooped up to three gallons of water—plus their prey—they tilt their bill down to drain the water before swallowing their meal. Each individual can eat four pounds of food per day.

There are plumage changes depending on whether the



American White Pelican by J.J. Audubon

individual is in breeding or non-breeding mode. Those breeding, grow an odd-looking flattened plate on the upper bill which is shed later after breeding. Also at breeding time, the areas around their eyes, bill, legs, and feet become brighter orange.

A simple nest of twigs, sticks, and reeds is constructed usually on the ground, sometimes in low-growing trees. One to three eggs are laid and incubated by both parents for around 30 days. Only one chick will usually survive due to siblicide. Full-grown pelicans have few predators. The red fox and coyote prey upon the nests they can access. Gulls and ravens prey on the eggs and nestlings.

For more information on the American white pelican in Nebraska, search online "Birds of Nebraska."

## Recycle for Wachiska

Alter Metal Recycling at 6100 North 70th Street will accept your scrap metals and give the proceeds to Wachiska. They accept aluminum cans, tin, brass, iron, copper (including wire with plastic coating and extension cords), vehicle batteries and all kinds of steel and iron. **Alter Metal Recycling is open Monday through Friday, 8AM to 5PM. When you turn in your metal items, have them credit "Wachiska Audubon WAS000."**

If you are unable to make the trip to Alter Recycling, Kathleen Wingard and Alyx Knight have graciously offered to have Wachiska members drop smaller amounts of metal or aluminum cans at their house: **April 1-15**. They'll take the material to Alter and give proceeds to Wachiska. They have a small trailer along the driveway of their residence, 600 S. Cotner Blvd (driveway off J St), Lincoln. Even if you only have a small amount, donations can add up, and keeps items out of the landfill.

*Make sure all bags are tied shut.*

## Cookies and Cakes

We want to express our gratitude to all who provided treats for our monthly meeting March 13th! The talk by Mike Forsberg was outstanding, as was the party in celebration of Arlys Reitan.

You won't find us turning down any cookies, brownies, cupcakes or savories brought to our upcoming General Meeting/Speaker Series!



## Leucistic Hawk at Prairie Pines

by Judith Wilson

## Climate and Environment

by Pia Blondel

I don't know this hawk's name, but I call him Buster for his rough-and-ready attitude. I met Buster at the Prairie Pines Holiday Open House sponsored by Wachiska Audubon and Prairie Pines Partners on December 14.

Betsy and Doug Finch of Raptor Conservation Alliance (RCA) brought Buster and a saw-whet owl to meet the party-goers.



That was sweetly appropriate to the occasion, since Betsy Finch was a co-founder of Wachiska Audubon along with Walt Bagley, who created Prairie Pines and gifted it to Wachiska if the University of Nebraska Foundation ever released it. RCA was originally called Raptor Recovery and was initially housed at Prairie Pines in the early days.

Buster is a leucistic red-tailed hawk. Leucistic animals are nearly all white and have normally

-colored eyes. They are not albino, which would be completely white with red (unpigmented) eyes. Leucistic hawks are a rare and very beautiful genetic variation. Buster does have some color on his tail feathers.

I snapped several photos of Buster and caught this one with his head turned to face me. Since then, I have painted a gouache and watercolor version of this pose and posted an image of the painting on my Facebook page. Friends comment, "He's looking right at me!" and, "He's staring right at me!" Of course! He is Buster the bad-\*\*\* hawk.



*"I have three different receptor-sensitivities in my eyes: red, green and blue. Hawks...have four.*

*(They) see colours I cannot, right into the ultraviolet spectrum... polarised light, too, (They) watch thermals of warm air rise, roil, and spill into clouds, and trace, too, the magnetic lines of force that stretch across the earth. "*

~Helen MacDonald  
*H is for Hawk*

In Memory of  
*Sarah Campbell*  
Memorial from Doug and Mary Campbell

The first World Glacier Day was celebrated on 21 March 2025, coinciding with World Water Day, coming a day later. As glaciers disappear at an alarming rate due to climate change, the UN General Assembly has declared 2025 the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation. Co-facilitated by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Meteorological Organization, this global initiative seeks to unite efforts worldwide to protect these vital water sources, which provide freshwater to more than 2 billion people.

Glaciers and ice sheets hold around 70 per cent of the world's freshwater and their rapid loss presents an urgent environmental and humanitarian crisis. World Meteorological Organization Secretary-General Celeste Saulo emphasized this urgency, saying "Melting ice and glaciers threaten long-term water security for many millions of people. This international year must be a wake-up call to the world."

In 2023, glaciers experienced their greatest water loss in over 50 years, marking the second consecutive year in which all glaciated regions worldwide reported ice loss. Switzerland, for instance, saw their glaciers lose 10 per cent of their total mass between 2022 and 2023, according to the WMO. Dr. Lydia Brito, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, explained during the launch event in Geneva that the "50 UNESCO heritage sites with glaciers represent almost 10 per cent of Earth's glacier area." However, a recent study warned that glaciers in one-third of these sites are projected to disappear by 2050.

With 2024 confirmed as the hottest year on record, the need for immediate and decisive action has never been more critical. A key focus in 2025 initiatives, the panel explained, is raising global awareness about the role glaciers, snow and ice play in regulating the climate and supporting ecosystems and communities. "Glaciers don't care if we believe in science - they just melt in the heat," said Dr. Carolina Adler of the Mountain Research Initiative. Strengthening policy frameworks is another priority, with the integration of glacier preservation into global and national climate strategies, such as the Paris Agreement. Essential to this is mobilizing and engaging youth and communities.

### Climate Signs Available

Stop by the Wachiska Office (our new location is at Prairie Pines) to pick up your Climate yard sign. Join us to show your concern about our climate and our elected officials. Made of durable material, the signs come with a metal holder to push into the ground. They can be kept in your yard year around. These signs can easily last several years. Yard signs are available for \$10 each.



# Climate Change Update

by Chuck Francis,  
Education & Outreach Committee

## How to Help Forests and Wildlife Survive Climate Change

How do wild species survive in a changing environment? A warming climate forces many mobile critters to gradually shift their range of habitat to higher elevations or latitudes. For plants, this has been documented with gradual shifting of published plant adaptation zones over several decades.

Larger animal species have the mobility options of moving North, while smaller fauna and especially earthworms, soil detritovores, and soil microorganisms adjust in a similar way, but more slowly. To be sure, they can be transported with movement of soil, but this is seldom an intentional activity.

We humans have caused much of global warming, and we can be part of the mitigation strategy if this is done thoughtfully and based on valid science. Recent Issue 1 of *Nature Conservancy* (2025, p. 33-41) describes methods that are being employed to help woody species that 'have no legs to travel' and must depend on wind- or water-carried seed to be transported, or on experienced naturalists to help in the process.

The Sharp-Bingham Mountain Preserve includes 4,000 ac (1,575 ha) on the edge of the Cumberland Plateau in Alabama, where collaborative efforts between several universities and The Nature Conservancy now manages over 40,000 ac (15,000 ha) in one watershed. The team is conducting a census of over 100,000 trees which they will follow with a new survey every five years to map and track trees for the next 50 years. This is part of the Forest Global Earth Observatory that is establishing baseline data to measure changes in species over time.

Another site 1,000 mi to the North is the Green Hills Preserve in Maine where similar studies are taking place. Over the last four years an extended drought and ballooning populations of the spongy moth have decimated native stands of common tree species, leaving beech species to dominate many forests. These new near-monocultures face their own problems due to fragility from lack of biodiversity. Each forest is encountering problems that require specific strategies to maintain a sustainable balance.

Researchers are using what is called "forest-assisted migration" to establish biodiverse clumps of unlike species to serve as seed sources for northern migration of adapted tree species. The natural 'migration highway' is now intersected by urban and commercial development, by increased clearing and farming activities, and other human-created barriers that

don't allow easy passage of species toward new habitats farther north. Forest managers must be both deliberate and cautious in fostering change that is not assured of success.

Appalachia is a large and biodiverse area that has much internal resilience and capacity for recovery, but much is yet unknown about the process. Foresters are learning through experience, much as our own ecologists are gaining information from each attempt in the prairie region here in Nebraska to re-establish Native prairies and biodiverse, sustainable ecosystems that will tolerate drier climate and changes in the future, including control of north-ward spread of juniper species.

The only real certainty is that we need to start now rather than delay action due to inertia, disinterest, or lack of information and funding. To put off pro-active initiatives is to doom the region to low biodiversity, continued loss of topsoil, and diminished wildlife populations including the bird species that we treasure and enjoy in this part of the Great Plains.



### Call for Newsletter Submissions:

If you'd like to contribute an article or photos to the *Babbling Brook*, we welcome submissions.

#### Guidelines:

Please send photos as jpegs (300dpi) and articles as an attached word document via email ; no later than the 15th of each month to [office@wachiskaadubon.org](mailto:office@wachiskaadubon.org).

*\*We edit and curate to fit our newsletter format.*

We hope to inspire members who might like to contribute environmental observations or research.

## Public Officials

### **President Donald Trump**

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

### **Senator Deb Fischer**

1248 O St Ste 1111, Lincoln NE 68508  
Lincoln phone: 402-441-4600 Fax: 402-476-8753  
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-6551 Fax: 202-228-0012  
E-mail at website: <http://fischer.senate.gov>

### **Senator Pete Ricketts**

1248 O St Ste 1000, Lincoln NE 68508  
Lincoln phone: 402-476-1400 Fax: 402-476-0605  
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-4224 Fax: 202-224-5213  
E-mail at website: <http://ricketts.senate.gov>

### **Congressman Mike Flood**

301 S 13<sup>th</sup> St Ste 100, Lincoln NE 68508 (1<sup>st</sup> District)  
Lincoln phone: 402-438-1598  
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4806 Fax: 202-225-5686  
E-mail at website: <http://flood.house.gov>

### **Congressman Don Bacon (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> St Rm 110, Lincoln NE 68508  
Phone: 402-441-7447 Fax: 402-441-6301  
E-mail: [commish@lancaster.ne.gov](mailto:commish@lancaster.ne.gov)

### **Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird**

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10<sup>th</sup> St Rm 301, Lincoln NE 68508-2828  
Phone: 402-441-7511 Fax: 402-441-7120  
E-mail: [mayor@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:mayor@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lincoln City Council**

402-441-7515  
E-mail: [councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lincoln Journal Star**

Letters to the editor, 21<sup>st</sup> and N St, Lincoln NE 68508  
E-mail: [oped@journalstar.com](mailto: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.

## REMEMBERING WACHISKA'S HISTORY

Wachiska means “stream” or “creek” in the languages of Indigenous people of eastern Nebraska, the Omaha and Ponca.

The environmental stewardship efforts of the Wachiska Audubon Society take place on the past, present, and future homelands of the Pawnee, Ponca, Otoe-Missouria, and Omaha Peoples, as well as those of the relocated Ho-Chunk, Sac and Fox, and Ioway. We humbly join our efforts with theirs in honoring and stewarding this land of prairies, rivers, and streams.

## Wachiska Audubon Society

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Lincoln, NE 68527  
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office@WachiskaAudubon.org  
www.WachiskaAudubon.org

## WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2024

Executive Director ..... Mark Brohman  
Office Administrator..... WJ Bantam

### OFFICERS

President ..... \*Theresa Pella  
Vice President ..... \*Andrea Faas  
Secretary ..... \*April Stevenson  
Treasurer/Finance..... \*Carol Bodeen

### 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 ..... \*Tom Lynch  
Director at Large ..... \*Roxanne Smith  
Director at Large ..... \*Kris Powers  
Conservation ..... \*Ross Scott  
Education/Outreach..... \*Tim Knott  
Membership..... Linda Brown

\*Denotes voting Board member

For contact information of officers and committee chairs, call or email the Wachiska office.

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](http://www.WachiskaAudubon.org).

Wachiska is participating with Give Nebraska. Through a payroll deduction system, your donations will be automatically withdrawn from your paycheck. There are 75 nonprofit agencies that are beneficiaries, and more than 100 worksites participate. You can give a little each paycheck, and your contributions can add up. Your donations through Give Nebraska are tax deductible. Check with your employer to see if they are part of Give Nebraska.

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

## Mission Statement of the Wachiska Audubon Society

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

## A Gift to the Future

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

