



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 42nd Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2015

JUNE 2015

Volume 24 - Issue 6

General Meeting—Thursday, June 11, 7:00 p.m., Dick Administration Building, Union College, Lincoln

Birding Big . . . and on a Budget

by Jason St. Sauver, Community Education Director

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center

If you are a birder, it is very probable that you have heard about a Big Year. There is a great book, a fun movie, and the real-life event by the same name. But have you also heard of Big Days? Big Weeks and Months? If you have heard of these, you may know that it can end up being rather expensive to try and pull off a Big Year and the like. As someone with OCD (ornithological compulsive disorder) myself, I'd love to present to you several ways, tips, stories, and photographs from my Big Year on a Budget, as well as discuss other types of "BIG" birding and the benefits, drawbacks, and memories made.



Jason St. Sauver

will be best practices for planning similar trips, and I'll bring up ideas for similar activities on a lesser scale—from Big Days to the Big Sit, and how participating in these can help bird data, bird conservation, and create more bird-friendly communities. My many years as both a self-proclaimed "birdnerd" and an environmental educator for all ages has given me many experiences and tales to tell, but has also given me the knowledge of habitat, bird populations, unique and imperiled birding areas, and so much more—all while trying not to break the bank with huge travel and food expenses. I hope you will enjoy hearing about it.

Jason, originally from the small town of Britton, South Dakota, is the new community education director at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center. He has worked for the National Audubon



Roseate Spoonbill and White Ibis

Society for two years, coming from Mitchell Lake Audubon Center in San Antonio. Before that, St. Sauver spent nearly eight years with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) as both a biological technician and a visitor services specialist focusing on environmental education for youth. During these years, he created programs such as Birding for the Blind, Urban Education Program, and Fledgling Bird Clubs. The USFWS career took him all around the country, from the beaches and forests of Massachusetts to the brackish wetlands of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in northern Utah. He is thrilled to be back home in the upper Great Plains and hearing bobolink and bobwhite again.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, June 11, at 7:00 p.m.** for this free public presentation in the Dick Administration auditorium on Union College campus, 3800 South 48th Street, in Lincoln. Free parking is available on both sides of 48th Street and in the College View SDA Church parking lots. Look for Audubon signs on the doors. There is a ramp at the east entrance and an elevator inside. Refreshments will be served after the program.



At Wachiska's June general meeting, my talk with focus on my 2013 Big Year on a Budget attempt, and I'll share photographs and planning from the experiences. Included

Calendar

June

- 1 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 2 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 General Meeting, "Birding Big . . . and on a Budget," by Jason St. Sauver
- 14 Field Trip to Indian Cave State Park (page 2)
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 15 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 21 26th annual Garden Tour (pages 4 and 5)
- 28 Gewacke Prairie Tour (page 2)

NO Legislation Committee meetings in June or July



Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Breeding Birds of Indian Cave State Park

The southeast corner of Nebraska is home to interesting breeding birds that are more commonly found in surrounding states. Few forests remain on the river hills and few opportunities are available for public access, but Indian Cave State Park is a great place to encounter these birds. Observing species like Kentucky warblers and Acadian flycatchers has become easier over the last decade as these species have become more common in the Park according to Ross Silcock, an expert on species distribution who tracks the occurrence of Nebraska's birds for *The Nebraska Bird Review*. We'll hike the Park's hills and forests in search of birds like Kentucky warblers, pileated woodpeckers, summer tanagers, and who knows what other surprises.

Meet at **7:00 a.m.** on **Sunday, June 14**, in the Wachiska parking lot, 4547 Calvert Street, in Lincoln. Participants can either caravan or carpool the 85 miles to Indian Cave State Park. Anyone preferring to join the group at the Park can meet at the entrance around 8:45 a.m. A park permit is required and is available for \$5/vehicle. Bring a water bottle, insect repellent, a sack lunch and trail snacks, and binoculars if you have them. The public is welcome. If you have questions, call John Carlini at 402-475-7275.

Visit the Gewacke Prairie on June 28

Wachiska Audubon's conservation committee invites all Wachiska members, the general public, and especially the generous donors who made the purchase of this prairie possible to visit the Clyde and Thelma Gewacke Prairie on **Sunday, June 28**, between **2:00 and 5:00 p.m.**

This prairie is located in Fillmore County, 2.5 miles west of Ohioa. A permanent sign is posted at the intersection of State Highway 74 and County Road 18 that points to the direction of the prairie. The prairie is on the west side of County Road 18 approximately ½ mile north of the sign. Early summer flowers should be in bloom. Conservation committee members will be on hand to answer questions about this prairie.

PLEASE NOTE: There is no restroom at this location. Additionally, County Road 18 is an infrequently maintained dirt road, **NOT SUITABLE FOR TRAVEL BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC WHEN WET.** Therefore, the event will be cancelled if weather and road conditions are not suitable. Just because it is dry in Lincoln, does not mean the road is passable. **Those planning to attend should first check the Wachiska website, www.WachiskaAudubon.org, on the day of the event. A message will be posted on the home page advising whether or not this event is being held.**



From the Board ...

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair and
Ken Reitan, Field Trip Board
Representative

Highlights of Recent Field Trips

The January 11 field trip to Moorehead Park near Ida Grove, Iowa, was a repeat trip but turned out to be more successful than the previous ones. Fifteen people were lucky to see six saw-whet owls in the pines trees in this small city park. Some of the participants got as close as 15 feet to these owls that are known to be fairly tame. Some good photographs were obtained, also. A nature center has been built in the Park where the group was able to have lunch in the comfort of the new facility. On the way home, a stop was made at the Owego wetlands near Hornick, Iowa, where short-eared owls have been seen on previous trips—but no luck this time.

On February 15, the field trip was to an area north of Omaha near the Missouri River for the purpose of seeing bald eagles and trumpeter swans. Five eagles were seen at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, and a couple dozen trumpeter swans were observed in a field at the Refuge.

Participants also watched feeder birds from the visitor center including several species of sparrows and, in particular, a Lincoln's sparrow which was unusual for February. An eagle's nest was observed, but no eagles were on it while the group was there. A stop at Carter Lake near Omaha resulted in seeing 40 trumpeter swans which have really made a comeback in this part of the country.

In March, we traveled to the Grand Island area to view the sandhill crane migration. The cranes came through slightly later than usual this year; their numbers were impressive but not quite at peak levels. Seven people attended and the weather cooperated. We stopped by a Rainwater Basin unit on the way and viewed northern pintails lurking in the vegetation. Our next stop was to watch a group of cranes interacting in the fields south of the Platte River. After a quick break at the visitor center, our grand finale at sunset was the epic gathering of cranes on the river.

The goal of April's field trip was to find and tally rusty blackbirds to add to the Rusty Blackbird Bioblitz. Five participants made the trip to Riverton Wildlife Management Area in Iowa to search the wet woods for migrating rusties. A member of the group spotted male and female rusties foraging in a flooded ditch right next to the road which allowed fantastic viewing at close range. Our high count for the day was 24 rusties. Some of the water birds seen were American white pelicans, snow geese, and Ross's geese. We enjoyed a day of beautiful birds and good weather.

Watch the newsletter for the next monthly field trip and join us.

Paid Position Available

by Elizabeth Nelson, President

Wachiska Audubon is looking for applicants to assist with our easement document management project. The successful applicant will be scanning and organizing documents (portable scanner provided) in print and electronic formats. Applicant must be self-motivated, highly organized, understand cloud document management, and have own transportation to visit various locations and work with different individuals to evaluate and scan documents. Project is to commence during July and be completed by October 1, 2015. We anticipate the project will take 100 to 130 hours, to be paid on a contract basis of \$12/hr. with contract details to be negotiated. Candidate will be offered flexible hours and will report to the conservation committee supervisor.

Ideal applicant will have some background in prairie management or a related field, the ability to sort through and evaluate documents, and to effectively organize/archive materials. We would prefer a Wachiska member who would volunteer to occasionally support the conservation committee after this project is completed. Interested applicants should submit a letter of qualifications and statement of why you would like to be considered for this project to the Wachiska office via email, office@wachiskaudubon.org, with the subject line of Document Management Applicant. Please reply by June 20.

New Members Join Wachiska's Ranks

by Joyce Vannier, Membership Chair

The list of those joining both the Friends of Wachiska and National Audubon this month is impressive with the following, beginning with new Friends (local) members:

Clyde Burgess	Tyler & Denise Mainquist
Christine Starr Davis	Gina Matkin & Randy Reinhart
Donna & Gus Dornbusch	Francis Moul
Carl & Janet Eskridge	Scott & Terri Nelson
Laurence Falk	Ruth Orth
Kate Gaul & Nancy Petta	Mary Lou & Bob Reeves
Carolyn Harp	Peter & Jane Reinkordt
Terri & Ross Heckman	Shawn & Doug Rudeen
Sue & Bob Heist	LaVera Schlichtemeier
Diane Kennedy	Neal & Lois Thomas
Ted Kooser & Kathleen Rutledge	Rebecca Wells
Dan Leger	Jon & Jamie Yoachim
Will Lock	Susan & Lonnie Zwickle

New National Audubon members since last month are:

Mary Amos	Tina Johnson
Bryan Arbogast	Brian Larson
Colleen Bahr	Jean Moseman
Connie Binder	Edith Oyer
Patricia Brackhan	Lorraine Pallesen
Mike Burdic	Leona Pepper
Sherri Cunningham	Juanita Phillips
Wendy Hall	Lola Schall
Wynn Hjermstad	Linda Walker
Mary Horning	

State Report

by Richard Peterson

This was the earliest Nebraska report I found in *Bird-Lore*. It was under the "State Reports" section, Volume VII, Number 1, 1905.

Nebraska – There are two organizations in the state working for bird protection, both of them sending messages of good accomplishment. Miss Higgins, secretary of the Audubon Society, says: "This society has kept alive during the past year the bird interests among the 15,000 or more junior members. The vigilant protection of birds and their nests last spring by thousands of little bird-lovers was gratifying indeed, and productive of wonderful results. In all the parks and wooded spots in the city and country round about were posted warnings. Omaha had 40 special police officers, all members of the Humane Society and nearly all members of the Audubon Society; these officers have been of inestimable value to the society. We have circulated what literature it was possible for us to procure.

"I send this superficial account of our year's work, and hope that next year, when we have become a state organization, we may not only have a report to send the convention, but a delegate as well. We are to have a meeting soon for the purpose of incorporating into a State Association."

Dr. Wolcott of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union writes: "The Union had reprinted a leaflet of Professor Bruner's 'A Plea for the Protection of our Birds.' Of these, about 4,000 had been circulated. Many newspapers, and some prominent ones, in the state, have reprinted the leaflet; probably a total circulation of 50,000 has been reached in this way.

"Representatives of the society have spoken in favor of bird protection at farmers' institutes, at teachers' institutes, at meetings of patrons of schools, to school children, etc. Probably 50 audiences have been addressed during the year. The officers of the society have cooperated with and advised the State Game Warden, especially in reference to warning of individuals and prosecution of a few, for destruction of game and song birds.

"Much work had been done by members privately in securing the posting of land, in warning and watching boys and men known to be violating game laws, and in other ways keeping the cause of bird protection before the people."

Robert Henry Wolcott (b 1868 – d 1934) was a biologist at the University of Nebraska and in 1901 became the Nebraska representative on the Audubon Advisory Council. Lawrence A. Bruner (b 1856 – d 1937) established the Department of Entomology and Ornithology at the University of Nebraska in 1895. He is considered the "father" of Nebraska entomology.

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**Remember to send your Birdathon contributions to the Wachiska office.**

# Wachiska Audubon's

Sunday, June 21 (Father's Day), from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

You are invited to visit seven gardens during the Wachiska Audubon Society's 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Tour. Nestled in busy suburban neighborhoods, these gardens provide delightful retreats for humans and wildlife alike. Homeowners will be on hand to discuss their gardens and the birds, bees, hummingbirds, butterflies, and other wildlife their yards and gardens attract. Visitors can begin at any location; maps and brochures will be available at each site. A donation of \$7 is suggested, and children under 12 are free.



## 6521 Everett Street – Gus & Donna Dornbusch

*Creating an environmentally-friendly yard.* When we moved here 18 years ago, there was only grass in the yard with a few foundation shrubs and a couple of trees. We wanted to have a more environmentally-friendly place, so we began to mulch a large part of the yard to reduce the grassed area. We built raised garden beds, used organic fertilizers, and built a compost area for household and yard waste. Rainwater is collected in barrels to water plants while reducing the use of the automatic sprinkler system. Most weeds are removed by hand, and we've planted more perennials and shrubs lately to attract butterflies and bees. A screened-in porch was added a few years ago, so we can sit back and enjoy the work we've done and the wildlife that has been attracted to our yard.

## 5925 Elkcrest Drive – Gina Matkin & Randy Reinhart

*An oasis for birds, bees, butterflies, and humans.* We were house-hunting in the winter of 2007, when our realtor called to say she had "found our house." She knew we would love the established perennial beds, trees, and shrubs, as well as the lovely pond with a double waterfall. We have been delighted to witness the continual show of lilacs, spirea, colorful lilies, irises, ornamental grasses, catmint, Husker Red Penstemon, Moonbeam Coreopsis, unusual Armenian basket flowers, Autumn Joy sedum, and hardy pond lilies, along with many others. We soon began to add more wildflowers and native pollinators as well as a rain garden in the front yard. We were interested in providing food and shelter and watching the bees, butterflies, and birds that frequent our backyard oasis rather than creating a well-manicured garden. We love being in the yard rather than just spectators, so we've created paths that invite walking among the beds to see the plants, bees, and butterflies up close.



## 1600 Sunset Road – Susan & Lonnie Zwickle

*Attracting wildlife and using worms to recycle!* The most noticeable features of our garden are the many hostas—over 90 varieties fill the yard under our seven mature trees. In the 13 years we've been in our home, we've cultivated these hostas along with cardinal plants, butterfly bush, black lace elderberry, coral bells, asters, stonecrop or sedum, and cone flowers. These, plus small water features and bird feeders, make our yard attractive to wildlife. We see many avian visitors including cardinals, blue jays, nuthatches, chickadees, downy woodpeckers, and cedar waxwings. We have even had raccoons, wild turkeys, and opossums. A more unusual feature is that our daughter-in-law got me started composting with red wiggler worms. Two large plastic trash cans are partially sunk in the ground with holes drilled for drainage. Food scraps are placed in one can for a year and then set a year while the other can is used. Wonderful compost is ready to use! I usually sift through it to get most of the worms out in order to start the process again. I like this method because it's very simple—no turning, just food scraps and a little grass or leaves. It's amazing that a year's worth of scraps only fill the trash can 3/4 full by the end of the year.



## 6401 Rainier Drive – Bob & Sue Heist

*Backyard "rooms" delight people and wildlife.* When we bought our home in 1988, the yard was comprised of a few trees and blue grass atop a heavy clay soil. The first order of business was to bring in truckloads of good soil, creating berms, swales, and a large perennial garden. Over the years, the turf grass areas have shrunk as more garden beds, trees, shrubs, and hardscape areas were added. Flowering plants attract bees, insects, and butterflies. Birdhouses and baths entice various bird species to take up residence. When winter comes, bird feeders help them survive the cold. New downspouts on the front of the house run under the yard and out to a mulched area between the wall and sidewalk.

# 26th Annual Garden Tour

Underground drain tile takes the water to the northwest corner where a rain garden is slowly being developed. Our yard features several unique "rooms." A Mexican theme surrounds the east patio, an oriental garden highlights the bridge over a dry creek bed, a small Victorian seating area is tucked under a rose bush, and a Tuscan/south-of-France patio features a pergola, fountain, and seating. Solid walls mute traffic noise, while unique trellises made of skeletons of rusting iron retrieved from the scrap heap at Duo Lift in Columbus, Nebraska, provide support for grape vines.

## 5611 Bison Court – Terri & Ross Heckman

*Attracting hummingbirds, moths, butterflies, and birds.* We enjoy watching wildlife, so we have many plants that attract bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, hummer moths, and song birds. In sunny areas there are 14 types of clematis vine, phlox, butterfly bush, lilacs, weigela, sedum, coneflowers, knockout roses, peonies (passed down from my grandmother), and barberry bushes that turn fiery red in autumn. The shady parts of the yard feature hostas, coral bells, and ferns interspersed with annuals. Shade shrubs include hydrangea, sweet spire, japonica, rhododendron, azalea, yews, and viburnums. Yews and blue spruce attract cardinals which nest year-round in them. We put up hummingbird feeders in the spring and fall to attract them as they migrate. Hummer moths show up in early August and love the impatiens, salvia, and hosta blooms. We attract birds all year long with different bird feeders, bird houses, and water features. Our fountain waterfall attracts robins and blue jays that are large enough to handle the water flow, and we have birdbaths for smaller birds. Perennial and annual grasses attract fireflies which love to overnight in them. Fireflies are disappearing across the globe due to light pollution—so please turn off your exterior lights after 10:00 p.m.



## 11011 South 56<sup>th</sup> Street – Kate Gaul & Nancy Petta



*An expansive retreat for visitors of all types.* "Enter as strangers, leave as friends," is our motto. Over the past 14 years, our goal has been to create a home and yard where people are invited to linger. On this three-acre property, the garden begins at the drive, which is flanked by planting tiers that change with the seasons. Linear garden beds stretch north and south from the driveway. Once home to a showy stand of Scotch pines, these beds are proof of life after pine wilt disease. Since buying the property in 2001, we have completely revamped the landscape, adding hundreds of trees, shrubs, and perennials. Among them you'll find numerous species of viburnum, shrub roses, daylilies, and clematis. A greenhouse was added in 2005; and just past this is the gateway to our homeowners' special retreat: a lushly planted pool area that is the summer home to a collection of tropicals and a miniature fairy garden, and serves in winter as a bird feeding oasis. Beyond this area stretches nearly an acre arboretum for the enjoyment of the home's six canines, who welcome all to "Hound Haven"!

## 46<sup>th</sup> and Pioneers Boulevard – Community Crops Garden

*Experience community gardening and more!* Visit one of Lincoln's oldest and largest community gardens! The 46<sup>th</sup> and Pioneers Community Garden, managed by Community Crops, has been providing space for gardeners to grow food since 2004. You'll get to see a wide variety of vegetable crops growing, including many from other countries that you may not have seen before. A perennial border surrounds the garden to attract pollinators.

The 46<sup>th</sup> and Pioneers Garden is just one of 12 in the Community Crops network of gardens where over 250 families grow food for themselves. Families from all over the world grow fruits and vegetables to save money, eat better, and exercise, plus the gardens beautify neighborhoods and make good use of otherwise vacant land. Families pay a small fee for their plot depending on their income level, and Crops provides tools, water, seeds, and plants in addition to the land. We look forward to sharing our beautiful garden with you!

### Enjoy music, treats, and gardening experts!

At the Community Crops location at 46<sup>th</sup> and Pioneers, Jim King will be providing musical entertainment for kids. We'll also have treats available; several of our gardening experts will be on hand to answer questions.

# Bird Species Identified During Birdathon 2015

by Ken Reitan, Species Compiler

This year's Birdathon took place on May 9-10. A total of **139 species** were seen, which was a big reduction from last year's total 161 species, but no doubt the weather played a significant role. Field trips to Wilderness Park and Platte River State Park were included, but other areas were covered, also. One notable find was a Mississippi kite by Stan Shavlik in the Linwood area.

The following species were reported by Larry Einemann, John Carlini, Shari Schwartz, Ruth Stearns, Michael Willson, Kevin Poague, Stan Shavlik, Nancy Soukup, Ken Reitan, and others:

|                           |                           |                               |                         |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Canada Goose              | Spotted Sandpiper         | Purple Martin                 | Ovenbird                |
| Gadwall                   | Semipalmated Sandpiper    | Tree Swallow                  | Louisiana Waterthrush   |
| Mallard                   | Least Sandpiper           | Northern Rough-winged Swallow | Common Yellowthroat     |
| Blue-winged Teal          | Franklin's Gull           | Bank Swallow                  | Summer Tanager          |
| Northern Shoveler         | Bonaparte's Gull          | Cliff Swallow                 | Scarlet Tanager         |
| Canvasback                | Black Tern                | Barn Swallow                  | Spotted Towhee          |
| Redhead                   | Forster's Tern            | Black-capped Chickadee        | Eastern Towhee          |
| Lesser Scaup              | Rock Pigeon               | Tufted Titmouse               | Chipping Sparrow        |
| Bufflehead                | Eurasian Collared-dove    | White-breasted Nuthatch       | Clay-colored Sparrow    |
| Common Merganser          | Mourning Dove             | House Wren                    | Field Sparrow           |
| Ruddy Duck                | Barred Owl                | Sedge Wren                    | Lark Sparrow            |
| Ring-necked Pheasant      | Common Nighthawk          | Carolina Wren                 | Savannah Sparrow        |
| Wild Turkey               | Whip-poor-will            | Marsh Wren                    | Song Sparrow            |
| Northern Bobwhite         | Chimney Swift             | Ruby-crowned Kinglet          | Lincoln's Sparrow       |
| Common Loon               | Ruby-throated Hummingbird | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher         | White-throated Sparrow  |
| Pied-billed Grebe         | Belted Kingfisher         | Eastern Bluebird              | Harris's Sparrow        |
| Horned Grebe              | Red-headed Woodpecker     | Swainson's Thrush             | White-crowned Sparrow   |
| Eared Grebe               | Red-bellied Woodpecker    | Wood Thrush                   | Northern Cardinal       |
| Western Grebe             | Downy Woodpecker          | American Robin                | Rose-breasted Grosbeak  |
| American White Pelican    | Hairy Woodpecker          | Gray Catbird                  | Indigo Bunting          |
| Double-crested Cormorant  | Northern Flicker          | Brown Thrasher                | Dickcissel              |
| Great Blue Heron          | Eastern Wood-pewee        | European Starling             | Bobolink                |
| Black-crowned Night Heron | Willow Flycatcher         | Cedar Waxwing                 | Red-winged Blackbird    |
| Turkey Vulture            | Least Flycatcher          | Golden-winged Warbler         | Eastern Meadowlark      |
| Osprey                    | Eastern Phoebe            | Tennessee Warbler             | Western Meadowlark      |
| Mississippi Kite          | Great Crested Flycatcher  | Orange-crowned Warbler        | Yellow-headed Blackbird |
| Bald Eagle                | Western Kingbird          | Nashville Warbler             | Common Grackle          |
| Cooper's Hawk             | Eastern Kingbird          | Yellow Warbler                | Great-tailed Grackle    |
| Broad-winged Hawk         | Bell's Vireo              | Magnolia Warbler              | Brown-headed Cowbird    |
| Red-tailed Hawk           | Yellow-throated Vireo     | Yellow-rumped Warbler         | Orchard Oriole          |
| American Kestrel          | Blue-headed Vireo         | Black-throated Green Warbler  | Baltimore Oriole        |
| Peregrine Falcon          | Warbling Vireo            | Blackburnian Warbler          | House Finch             |
| American Coot             | Red-eyed Vireo            | Blackpoll Warbler             | American Goldfinch      |
| Killdeer                  | Blue Jay                  | Black-and-white Warbler       | House Sparrow           |
| Greater Yellowlegs        | American Crow             | American Redstart             |                         |



Cedar Waxwing



Summer Tanager



Mississippi Kite

## Public Officials

### **President Barack Obama**

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

### **Senator Ben Sasse**

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

### **Senator Deb Fischer**

440 N 8<sup>th</sup> 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 (1<sup>st</sup> District)**

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

### **Congressman Brad Ashford (2<sup>nd</sup> District)**

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

### **Congressman Adrian Smith (3<sup>rd</sup> District)**

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

### **Capitol Hill Switchboard**

888-436-8427 or 202-224-3121

### **Governor Pete Ricketts**

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

### **State Senator \_\_\_\_\_**

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

### **State Capitol Switchboard**

402-471-2311

### **Lancaster County Commissioners**

County-City Bldg, 555 S 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 Chris Beutler**

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10<sup>th</sup> St Rm 208, 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: [council@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:council@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lincoln Journal Star**

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

## **Membership**

Wachiska offers two choices of membership—many people choose both. 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 local membership dues remain 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 \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ 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](mailto:office@wachiskaaudubon.org) or 402-486-4846.

### **AND / OR**

### **National Membership in National Audubon Society**

Dues from new (introductory) memberships and for first-time gifts will be returned to Wachiska if this coupon is used:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Enclose introductory membership fee of \$20.

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

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### Wachiska Audubon Society

4547 Calvert St Ste 10

Lincoln NE 68506-5643

402-486-4846

[office@wachiskaaudubon.org](mailto:office@wachiskaaudubon.org)

[www.wachiskaaudubon.org](http://www.wachiskaaudubon.org)

### WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2015

#### OFFICERS

|                               |                              |              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| President.....                | *Elizabeth Nelson.....       | 402-770-3485 |
| Vice President.....           | *Jessi Umberger (Otoe).....  | 402-580-3057 |
| Recording Secretary.....      | *Bob Boyce.....              | 402-770-6865 |
| Treasurer.....                | *Gary Fehr.....              | 402-570-4382 |
| Immediate Past President..... | *Arnold Mendenhall (Hickman) | 402-525-4884 |

#### STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

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| Director at Large.....                 | *Mitch Renteria.....         | 402-483-7275            |
| Director at Large.....                 | *Benjamin Vogt.....          | 402-499-5851            |
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| Newsletter Editor.....                 | Arlys Reitan.....            | WAS office 402-486-4846 |
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\*Denotes Board member

#### OTHER ASSOCIATES

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| NAS Regional Board Member.....                    | Michele Crist (Boise, ID)..... | 208-863-1918 |
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| Raptor Recovery.....                              | Betsy Finch (Elmwood).....     | 402-994-2009 |
| Executive Director Audubon Nebraska.....          | Marian Langan.....             | 402-797-2301 |
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| Webmaster.....                                    | Dan Staehr.....                | 402-440-5869 |

### NEBirds Website

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

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

### A Gift to the Future

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