



Wachiska
Audubon Society

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 49th Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2022

JUNE 2022

Volume 31 - Issue 6

Wachiska Program — Thursday, June 9, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom web conference (registration required)
Link to register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlpcuiqqjstvGdHWp-UNtl4ttTbzkyDs7YVh>

New Strategies for Reducing Woody Encroachment and Conserving North America's Vanishing Prairies

by Dillon Fogarty, Ph.D. Candidate and Program Coordinator for
Working Lands Conservation, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Grasslands are a key example of what it means to be a fire-dependent ecosystem. Unlike forests and woodlands, the global distribution of grasslands cannot accurately be predicted based on climate alone. This is because fire is a major determinant of where grasslands occur and where they do not. In fact, global vegetation models show that without fire, over one-half of the world's grasslands would transition to a woodland or forest ecosystem. This transition process is often referred to as woody plant encroachment and is occurring in grasslands throughout the world.



Dillon Fogarty

strategy for dealing with this problem and conserving our remaining grasslands.

In 2021, my colleagues and I answered the call for a unified strategy with the publication of an extension guide called "Reducing Woody Encroachment in Grasslands: A Guide for Understanding Risk and Vulnerability." The guide provides the first framework for addressing woody plant encroachment and outlines new best practices that can be applied at any stage of the encroachment process. Over 19,000 copies of this guide have been requested in the Great Plains. New conservation initiatives, like the Great Plains Grassland Initiative (GPGI), have adopted these guidelines for reducing woody encroachment.

In the central Great Plains grasslands, efforts to exclude fire have initiated a biome-wide transition towards woody dominance that is being led by eastern redcedar. In response to this threat, land managers have largely turned to woody plant removal via mechanical cutting methods. However, management is often implemented in small scales and in the absence of a broader strategy to controlling encroachment. New rangeland monitoring technology shows that encroachment rapidly outpaces management and echoes the need for a unified

This presentation will cover the need for reducing woody encroachment, strategies and frameworks for dealing with this problem, and examples of these strategy applications, as well as opportunities for Audubon managers to join a network of grassland sites working to keep grasslands intact.

Dillon is currently a Ph.D. candidate and program coordinator for Working Lands Conservation at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Previously he worked for South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as a wildlife technician. He enjoys being outdoors with his family.

Calendar

June

- 6 Education Committee via Zoom, 6:00 p.m.
- 9 General Meeting via Zoom, "New Strategies for Reducing Woody Encroachment in Prairies," by Dillon Fogarty (**NOTE required registration**)
- 13 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 15 Newsletter deadline in Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 21 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

August 6 - "Tour the Wild Side," 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Join Wachiska Audubon for our next Zoom program on **Thursday, June 9, at 7:00 p.m.** This free, public presentation is available to those who register at this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlpcuiqqjstvGdHWp-UNtl4ttTbzkyDs7YVh>. You will then receive a confirmation email with the meeting number and password. A few minutes before the program is to begin, click on that confirmation email and you'll be invited into the meeting. Encourage friends and colleagues to join us.

Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman

Summer is already here. We have seen the number of migratory birds drop off rapidly the last few weeks, but it was fun while it lasted. Last month was very busy with Birdathon, Give to Lincoln Day, the City Nature Challenge, and field trips.

Tim Knott and I were able to work with Arnold Elementary's After School Program. It was a joy to take a group of elementary school kids out to a prairie just a block from their school in northwest Lincoln. The kids were busy recording birds, trees, other plants, and insects in their notepads while using Wachiska's backpacks provided through a Watchable Wildlife grant sponsored by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. They were thrilled to have an insect net, binoculars, a field guide, and a magnifying glass at their disposal in the backpacks for the afternoon. The smallest discoveries brought excitement and squeals from the kids. We are planning more events in the future with Arnold Elementary and other schools.

Wachiska's Board will be making a \$300 donation to the Raptor Conservation Alliance to help in their daily operations. They do a great service rehabilitating raptors. Betsy Finch and her crew have done a stellar job over the years to save thousands of birds of prey. And to think this all-volunteer organization had its humble beginnings with Wachiska in 1976.

I want to thank everyone who has made donations through memberships, Birdathon, Give to Lincoln Day, special donations, and gifts. It is through your generosity that we can own prairies, hold conservation easements, offer field trips, promote prairies and wildlife, educate the public through monthly programs and a newsletter and, like the Lorax said, "speak for the trees."

I had a wonderful opportunity to speak to Westminster Presbyterian Church's Green@Heart Committee on May 22. They were hosting a spring Creation Celebration with the theme "Birds and Bees and People and Trees." It was an engaged group with great questions, and I enjoyed the time spent with them. A big thank you to Tom Pappas and his committee for the invitation.

Wachiska is planning to host "Tour the Wild Side" again this year to be held Saturday, August 6, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be a mix of private yards and public sites. The goal is to show native plants and backyard habitat that benefit birds, pollinators, and all kinds of wildlife. We are hoping to include some native plant sales in conjunction with the tours. Let us know if you are interested in volunteering to help.

Take a friend, your children, grandchildren, or a neighbor kid out for a walk or a trip to a local park or prairie and enjoy Mother Nature before the hot Nebraska summer is upon us. Listen to the birds singing, watch a butterfly flit between flowers, appreciate the grasses, forbs, and trees. As the old saying goes, STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES.

Dung Beetles

by Richard Peterson



Dung beetles are in the insect Order Coleoptera, Family Scarabaeidae. As a family, they are collectively referred to as *scarabs*. There are over 30,000 species worldwide; however, all scarabs are not dung beetles. Our most recognized scarab is probably the June beetle, or June bug, a sometimes pest in our yards and gardens. The large, grayish-yellow, C-shaped larvae, called a grub, feeds on the roots of grasses and other plants, while the adults feed on the foliage of trees and shrubs. The dung beetle larva, on the other hand, requires fresh dung to survive. When the adults dig tunnels and bury dung, they improve nutrient recycling and soil quality. Dung beetles are an integral part of the prairie ecosystem.

There are more than 50 species of dung beetles in Nebraska—20-plus are found in the western part of the state. Of the three types of dung beetles, the ones we most frequently see are the **rollers**, which remove some of the dung from the manure pile, form it into a ball, and roll it away from the pile to a hole and tunnel before depositing the dung ball underground. The **dwellers** are those that burrow, lay eggs, and feed within (or just below) the fresh dung pile. **Tunnelers** dig below the dung pile before moving dung into the tunnels and then lay their eggs. These last two types of dung beetles are out of our view unless the dung pile is disturbed.

Most dung beetles search out the dung of herbivores, much of which is half-digested grass, plus a liquid full of microorganisms which the beetle is able to digest. Others feed on the dung of carnivores, and some eat mushrooms, carrion, decaying leaves, and fruit. The adults are strong fliers and are attracted to the volatiles butyric acid and 2-butanone. Large feedlots and manure collection areas where the manure has been disturbed are less attractive to dung beetles.

Antiparasitic drugs, such as ivermectin, used to prevent and treat intestinal worms in livestock, have proven especially harmful to dung beetles—either fatal or causing sensory and locomotor disorders. Even genetically modified Bt corn when used as livestock feed affects the suitability of the manure produced.



The Egyptians believed that dung beetles were all males and reproduced by depositing semen into a dung ball. The creation of the adult beetle resembled that of Khepri, who created himself out of nothing. They believed Khepri renewed the

sun every day, rolling the sun across the sky, then carrying it to the other world after sunset. One scholar commented it may not have gone unnoticed by the Egyptians that the dung beetle pupa whose body, wings, and legs are encased during development, is very mummy-like and that the egg-bearing ball of dung is created in an underground chamber reached by a vertical shaft and horizontal passage. To the Egyptians, the scarab conveyed ideas of transformation, renewal, and resurrection.

What is a Name?

by Theresa Pella and Linda Plock

Have you thought what the first word in Wachiska Audubon Society means, where it comes from, and why we have it? Going through the process and adopting the recent Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Policy has given the Board food-for-thought as Wachiska's 50th anniversary approaches. Participation in Return of the Thunderbirds, the recent regional tribes' event to welcome spring, also brought forth these questions, so the Board decided it is time to delve into what may be uncomfortable for our organization.

With apologies to Steven Sipple, the Lincoln *Journal Star's* retiring sportswriter, here's what we know and what we think we know:

We do know, through the fault of no one but a sign of the times, that when Wachiska Audubon Society was formed, there was no thought given to checking with tribal leaders about using the word. In talking with some long-time members, the thought is that Wachiska means "many streams" or "land of many streams," but no one was sure if it came from a particular tribe's language.

Recently, we learned the word "wachiska" may be a Kanza word (Kaw nation), an archaic term, but still in their language. It means small river, stream, or creek. It was pronounced "wachi'shka" with the "i" nasalized. The Kaw people came into this part of Nebraska a long time ago, probably hunting. They could also have come for the salt content in parts of the Salt Creek watershed here. Salt could be processed and traded to other peoples who needed it. Salt Creek has some perennial streams flowing into it before it flows northward into the Platte River. The Kaw people speak a Dhegiha Siouan dialect which is similar to Omaha but more similar to Osage. They were just one of the native peoples who came here in the past.

What we do know is that it is time to acknowledge that the lands Wachiska is preserving were resources and life itself for groups who were ultimately removed without their consent. And, because Wachiska is a native term, we owe it to ourselves and tribes to begin constructive conversations.

One project underway is called Reconciliation Rising: <https://www.reconciliationrising.org/>. The intent is not to find fault or seek forgiveness for the past, but to start a process of re-establishing relationships between the original inhabitants of our area and settlers. Wachiska was invited to meet with representatives of the project and a delegation from a regional tribe, the Otoe-Missouria. Mark Brohman, Tim Knott, Ross Scott, and Linda Plock met with them at Dieken Prairie on May 20.

It was a chill and overcast morning, but everyone arrived safely and proceeded to walk around the prairie, noting the new plants and grasses growing there since the controlled burn in March. They were looking for religious and medicinal plants such as sage and bear root and are interested in acquiring the seeds of native varieties of corn and beans.

The Otoe-Missouria were represented by Cory DeRoin, human resources director of the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma's Fancy Dance Casino; Billie Tohee, Otoe-Missouria elder; Kyle Robedeaux, Otoe-Missouria singer and leader in the Otoe Chapter Native American Church; and Christina Faw Faw, Otoe-Missouria linguist and director of the Indian Education program at the local school in Red Rock, Oklahoma. Local hosts accompanying them were Margaret Jacobs, director of UNL's Center for Great Plains Studies; Katie Nieland, associate director for UNL's Center for Great Plains Studies; Tom Lynch, professor and Place Studies liaison, UNL English Department; and Kevin Abouezk, vice chair of the Lincoln Indian Center, member of the Mayor's Human Rights Commission, and managing editor of Indianz.com. They thanked everyone for the experience and expressed a desire to return, especially to the prairie near Yutan where an early Otoe-Missouria village was located.

For more information about the Plains Indians, here are some suggested readings by Lincoln area authors:

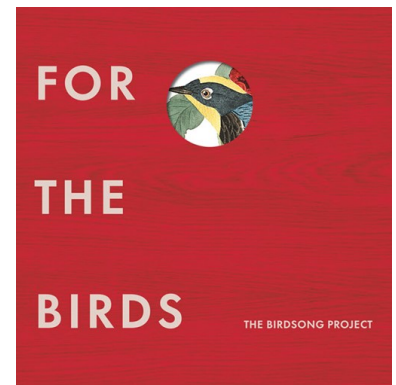
- *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains Indians*, David J. Wishart, Editor
- *Discover the Great Plains series: Great Plains Indians*, David J. Wishart, University of Nebraska Press
- *After One Hundred Winters: In Search of Reconciliation on America's Stolen Lands*, Margaret D. Jacobs

For the Birds: The Birdsong Project

from National Audubon's website

"For the Birds: The Birdsong Project," is a National Audubon partnership with Grammy-winning music supervisor Randall Poster.

The project is an outpouring of creativity by more than 200 artists to celebrate birds and to elevate the need to protect them.



The first volume of music inspired by birds was released May 20 with all proceeds benefiting National Audubon. Hopefully, you will enjoy listening to the album and can use it to connect with members, supporters, community resources, and to reach new audiences to spread the joy of birds to all.

Go to audubon.org/birdsong-project for a toolkit of helpful resources. Audubon's landing page has a Spotify playlist with the music, a full list of artists, and ways for people to learn about and become more engaged with Audubon's work. You can also read and share the *New York Times* feature about the project, *Audubon* magazine's story, and social media posts from the National Audubon Society channel.



Photo by John Carlini

Scarlet Tanager

Bird Species Seen on Birdathon 2022 Weekend

compiled by Ken Reitan

Weather conditions on May 14 and 15 were mostly favorable for Wachiska’s 34th annual Birdathon bird count. Forecasts had not been good, and it was cool enough to necessitate long sleeves. Linda Brown reported that on Sunday at Platte River State Park the rain could be heard but the canopy of the forest provided protection. It was relatively dark and quiet in

the forest the first couple of hours. As the sky brightened, more species started to sing. Many of the birds were identified by ear only. Visiting a week earlier would have provided better vision of the birds when the leaves were smaller. Larry Einemann commented that many migrants had moved through our area earlier. Warblers were few and far between for his tally. A good day would have brought 110+ species for him. He deduced that perhaps a warming climate is forcing birds to move north earlier than in previous years. Due to the number of counters participating in many different parts of our membership area, numbers were still higher than in recent years.

The final tally reveals that **159 species** were identified by sight/sound this year. Compare that to these previous totals: 2021 - 134; 2020 - 151; 2019 - 124; 2018 and 2017 - 148 both years.

Locations reported for having visited during this Count were Wilderness Park; Pioneers Park Nature Center; Holmes Lake; Walt Library native garden; Platte River State Park; Capitol Beach Nature Center; Wagon Train Lake; MoPac Trail; Branched Oak Lake State Recreation Area; Oak Glen State Wildlife Management Area; Klapka Prairie near Table Rock in Pawnee County; Mahoney State Park; Lincoln Saline Wetlands; Rainwater Basin; and Roca, Ashland, and Hickman backyards as well as many in Lincoln.

Participants submitting reports (including individuals listed as joining them) included Ross Scott, Barbara Griffith, Linda Plock, Ruth Stearns, Linda Sullivan, Esa Jarvi, Tim Knott, Lyle Vannier, Joyce Vannier, Ellie Graber, Cheryl Samusevich, Mark Brohman, Karen Faubel, Rich Kern, Linda Brown, Pete Maslowski, Michelle Johnson, Bailey Novak, Lana Novak, Susan Quinn, Larry Einemann, John Carlini, Shari Schwartz, Todd Paddock, Theresa Pella, Ken Reitan, and probably others who didn’t get reported. In addition, Dave Titterington, Dan Wheeler, Eric Wieland, and John Keller facilitated a group of OLLI’s All About Birds class. A donation of \$178 (\$2/species seen by this group) was sent to Wachiska! Thank you to everyone who participated in any way!! See page 5 for the bird species identified by these folks during Birdathon 2022.

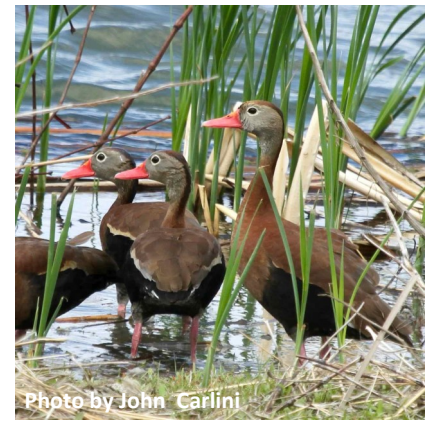


Photo by John Carlini

Black-bellied Whistling Duck

Birds Laying Eggs Earlier than Normal

by Erin Blakemore in *Journal of Animal Ecology*, April 2, 2022

Did your backyard nest produce little songbirds a bit earlier this year? You’re not alone. A new analysis published in the *Journal of Animal Ecology* shows that average egg-laying dates have moved up by nearly a month for 72 species of birds in the Upper Midwest region, and eggshell evidence points the finger at our changing climate.

The bodies of these shorebirds are actually shrinking, and global warming is the cause. A 120-year-old collection of eggshells held by Chicago’s Field Museum helped hatch an investigation by a national group of researchers. The museum houses hundreds of the shells, most of which were collected before the 1920s, along with data about the types of birds and when the eggs were laid. The scientists also used records of bird-nesting observations taken in the Chicago area between 1880 and 1920 and again from about 1990 to 2015.

Over time, the researchers found, the average egg-laying date moved up for a variety of species in Chicago. Overall, the birds’ lay dates advanced by an average of 25.1 days, with less shift for resident species and a wider shift for short- and long-distance migrants. The animals studied aren’t just early birds—they are sensitive to climate shifts. The researchers found that small changes in temperature affected birds’ laying patterns.

Climate change has shifted seasonal rhythms of animals and plants, which affects everything from bird food to bird habitats and can place birds in competition with one another for insects and other food sources. The earlier and warmer springs that accompany human-caused climate change can effectively strand birds that are born earlier than their traditional food sources.

The study points not just to the urgency of human-caused climate change but also to the value of historic observations to modern scientists. Combining archival data with modern observations, the researchers write, “will provide the ability to track, understand, and perhaps even predict responses to present and future human-driven environmental change.”

159 Species Observed During Birdathon 2022

Common Loon	Spotted Sandpiper	Great Crested Flycatcher	Grasshopper Sparrow
Pied-billed Grebe	Upland Sandpiper	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Lincoln's Sparrow
American White Pelican	Ruddy Turnstone	Eastern Kingbird	Song Sparrow
Canada Goose	Hudsonian Godwit	Western Kingbird	White-crowned Sparrow
Snow Goose	Stilt Sandpiper	Yellow-throated Vireo	White-throated Sparrow
Wood Duck	Marbled Godwit	Bell's Vireo	Savannah Sparrow
Northern Shoveler	Long-billed Dowitcher	Warbling Vireo	Eastern Towhee
Blue-winged Teal	Dunlin	Red-eyed Vireo	Bobolink
Green-winged Teal	Wilson's Phalarope	Blue-headed Vireo	Eastern Meadowlark
Ring-necked Duck	Lesser Yellowlegs	Blue Jay	Western Meadowlark
Lesser Scaup	Greater Yellowlegs	American Crow	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Ruddy Duck	Franklin's Gull	Horned Lark	Red-winged Blackbird
Northern Shoveler	Ring-billed Gull	Tufted Titmouse	Baltimore Oriole
Mallard	Forster's Tern	Black-capped Chickadee	Orchard Oriole
Bufflehead	Black Tern	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	House Finch
Common Goldeneye	Double-crested Cormorant	Purple Martin	American Goldfinch
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	American Bittern	Tree Swallow	Brown-headed Cowbird
American Coot	Least Bittern	Bank Swallow	Common Grackle
Sandhill Crane	Great Blue Heron	Barn Swallow	Great-tailed Grackle
Northern Bobwhite	Snowy Egret	Cliff Swallow	Louisiana Waterthrush
Ring-necked Pheasant	Green Heron	White-breasted Nuthatch	Kentucky Warbler
Wild Turkey	Cattle Egret	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Tennessee Warbler
Rock Pigeon	Black-crowned Night-Heron	House Wren	Black-and-white Warbler
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Carolina Wren	Palm Warbler
Mourning Dove	Turkey Vulture	Marsh Wren	Orange-crowned Warbler
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Bald Eagle	Sedge Wren	Nashville Warbler
Barred Owl	Peregrine Falcon	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Common Yellowthroat
Great-horned Owl	Cooper's Hawk	European Starling	American Redstart
Common Nighthawk	Broad-winged Hawk	Gray Catbird	Northern Parula
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Red-tailed Hawk	Brown Thrasher	Yellow Warbler
Chimney Swift	Belted Kingfisher	Eastern Bluebird	Wilson's Warbler
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Red-headed Woodpecker	Swainson's Thrush	Yellow-breasted Chat
American Golden-Plover	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Blackpoll Warbler
Semipalmated Plover	Downy Woodpecker	American Robin	Scarlet Tanager
Piping Plover	Hairy Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing	Summer Tanager
Killdeer	Northern Flicker	House Sparrow	Northern Cardinal
Least Sandpiper	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Harris's Sparrow	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
White-rumped Sandpiper	Least Flycatcher	Chipping Sparrow	Indigo Bunting
Pectoral Sandpiper	Alder Flycatcher	Clay-colored Sparrow	Dickcissel
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Eastern Phoebe	Field Sparrow	

Birdathon Fundraising is Still Underway

by Tim Knott and Arlys Reitan

The active birding during several field trips culminated on Birdathon Weekend May 14-15. In this issue of *The Babbling Brook*, you'll see Ken's final tally of species seen and/or heard during those days. However, the chapter's 34th annual spring fundraiser goes on as many supporters continue sending their donations as time fits their schedules. Please keep Wachiska in mind and send your donations when you come across the return envelope among your papers or if this article is a reminder.

Soon chapter leaders will begin planning for next year's 50th anniversary. As two of the "early members" we find it impossible to believe the group has been so active in our membership community for half a century! (We were both

infants when Wachiska began in 1973!!)

During our celebrating next year, this newsletter will highlight many of the programs, committees, events, awards, and honors the group has experienced. Without all of you and your support, it would have been extremely difficult to have prospered all this time. Thank you one and all!



Photo by John Carlini

Green Heron

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

The Spring issue of *Audubon* magazine on the theme “The Wonder of Migration” had many excellent articles, but I am particularly drawn to recommend “A new Migration Gauntlet” about the complexities of assessing the effects of 17 new wind projects under development on the Atlantic Coast.

The article can be found at this link: <https://www.audubon.org/magazine/spring-2022/off-east-coast-massive-network-wind-turbines>.

Four authorities are called on to assess the choices: William Montevecchi, a biologist at Memorial University in Newfoundland with 40 years of study of seabirds; Kate Williams and Iain Stenhouse at the Center for Research on Offshore Wind and the Environment at the Biodiversity Research Institute, a scientific nonprofit in Maine; and National Audubon’s wildlife biologist Shilo Fenton. Here’s how they see the choices.

“As population biologists, Williams and Stenhouse begrudgingly prioritize the health of a species over losses of individual birds. They don’t love the idea that some gannets could die because of wind farms. But their driving concern is saving species—and the entire ecosystem. It’s a matter of scale: Montevecchi reckons the North American gannet population can probably handle six or even 60 extra fatalities a year to exchange for preserving their habitat long-term.

“We have such a hard time grasping how big a problem climate change is that it’s sometimes easier to focus on the immediate risk of a structure in the water,” Felton says. “These birds are going to lose all their habitat if the planet keeps warming.”

But Montevecchi opens up a third choice: “We don’t have an energy-shortage problem; we have an energy use problem,” he says. In 2019 the United States, which comprises four percent of the world’s population, accounted for 17 percent of its energy consumption. The reality is that we haven’t mustered the collective will to cut back enough to help wildlife or ourselves. If we’d start conserving instead of consuming, this entire equation would change dramatically, and we could start taking real responsibility for the animals we harm.” (my emphasis)

That last sentence is the subject of a terrific new book, *The Day the World Stops Shopping*, by J.B. MacKinnon. Until I’d read it, I had been skeptical about affecting climate through individual actions—remembering it was the oil and gas company BP which tried to convince each of us to attend to our “carbon footprint.” MacKinnon isn’t arguing that the “stop shopping strategy” can by itself solve climate change (and recommends a price on carbon—a carbon tax), but that it is a necessary part of the solution.

The book is a thought experiment on the effects of dropping global consumer spending by 25 percent which would, he says, turn back the clock to the spending levels of about a decade ago. To conduct his experiment, MacKinnon talked to an extraordinary range of people all around the world—business people; academics in economics, anthropology, psychology, ethics and more, as well as people with some particular life experience. He is particularly interested in the vitality and benefits of local small businesses. One psychologist he talked to predicts that reduced consumerism would result in greater personal development, an enhanced sense of community, and more birdwatching.

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Programs

Third Tuesday Bird Outing – Grassland Bird Special
Tuesday, June 21, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Our June guided bird outing will focus on finding prairie specialty species like Henslow’s sparrows, bobolinks, grasshopper sparrows, and field sparrows. We will cover more territory this time, so come prepared for a longer walk than usual with uneven, mowed trails that could be wet. Free admission. We ask for online registration so we know who and how many are coming and can email any updated COVID-19 or weather cancellation information. Binoculars will be available.

More information on all SCPAC programs can be found on our website, <https://springcreek.audubon.org/events>. Questions to 402-797-2301; scp@audubon.org.

The Prairie

by Phyllis Chandler

The prairie is a guarded land
Where trees like silent sentries stand.

Where in the morn the lark will trill
And with a tune the prairie fill.

Where the prairie chicken struts
And through green leaves peep violets.

Where clouds across the blue sky pass
And where the breeze blows thru the grass.

Where now and then the cooling rain
Will wash the quiet, rolling plain.

And everyone who comes there sees
The prairie is a land of peace.

Public Officials

President Joe Biden

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

Senator Ben Sasse

1128 Lincoln Mall Ste 305, Lincoln NE 68508
Lincoln phone: 402-476-1400 Fax: 402-476-0605
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-4224 Fax: 202-224-5213
E-mail at website: <http://sasse.senate.gov>

Senator Deb Fischer

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

1st District Position Vacant at this Time

Congressman Don Bacon (2nd District)

13906 Gold Cir Ste 101, Omaha NE 68144
Omaha phone: 888-221-7452
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4155 Fax: 202-226-5452
E-mail at website: <https://bacon.house.gov>

Congressman Adrian Smith (3rd District)

416 Valley View Dr Ste 600, Scottsbluff NE 69361
Scottsbluff phone: 308-633-6333 Fax: 308-633-6335
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-6435 Fax: 202-225-0207
E-mail at website: <http://adriansmith.house.gov>

Capitol Hill Switchboard

888-436-8427 or 202-224-3121

Governor Pete Ricketts

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

State Senator _____

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

State Capitol Switchboard

402-471-2311

Lancaster County Commissioners

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

Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10th St Rm 301, Lincoln NE 68508-2828
Phone: 402-441-7511 Fax: 402-441-7120
E-mail: mayor@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln City Council

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

Lincoln Journal Star

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

Join now! Become a Friend of Wachiska Audubon Society!

This local chapter membership provides you with voting privileges and access to all our events, programs, and committees, **plus 100 percent of your membership donation goes directly to the Wachiska chapter. In addition, Friend members receive our monthly newsletter, *The Babbling Brook*, in their choice of print or electronic form.**

Friends of Wachiska (local membership)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

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



The Babbling Brook is printed on recycled and recyclable paper.

Second Saturday Seeds

Join us on Berg Prairie West, south of Lorton, to see what's growing and blooming on **Saturday, June 11**, at **9:00 a.m.** If they're ready, we'll collect seeds for sale to Prairie Legacy to create more prairie. Check our website for directions.

The range of forbs shows great diversity with golden Alexander, compass plant, Indian plantain, and culvers root. In the undergrowth you will find strawberries, Canada anemone and spiderwort. It has been a good site for collecting ecotype seed as it has such diversity.



Call Beth with questions, 402-417-3928.

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4547 Calvert St Ste 10
Lincoln NE 68506-5643

402-486-4846

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www.WachiskaAudubon.org

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

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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**.

