

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 41st Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2014

MAY 2014

Volume 23 - Issue 5

General Meeting—Thursday, May 8, 7:00 p.m., Dick Administration Building, Union College, Lincoln

Geologic Development of Nebraska

with Dr. Robert Diffendal, Jr., Professor Emeritus
Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

An ancient buried rift valley, numerous ocean inundations, impacts of the uplift of the Rocky Mountains, various Ice Ages, climate change, plate tectonics, all have contributed to what Nebraska is today. Dr. Robert Diffendal, Jr., will discuss his views on the geologic development of Nebraska from two billion years ago until today.

The Sand Hills region of Nebraska, which covers nearly the western one-third of the state, is the largest dune field, stabilized or active, in the Western Hemisphere. Studies indicate that in this region, there may be a potential for "desertification," a term that refers to productive land changing to nonproductive land as a result of natural processes or human activities. In the Sand Hills, vegetation is the principal factor that contributes to stability of the dunes. Without soil and vegetative cover, stable and productive sand dunes may become mobile and nonproductive. If the sand dunes are reactivated, potential consequences include destruction of important grazing land; movement of dune sand onto productive cultivated land and/or major transportation routes, such as Interstate 80 and railroads; interference with commuter aircraft departures and arrivals; and destruction of wetlands, creating severe effects on wildlife.

The US Geological Survey (USGS) is mapping the region and determining the ages of the dunes, particularly the most recent episodes of dune activity, the origin of the sand, and the climatic conditions at the time of dune movement. The USGS works closely with scientists at the Conservation and Survey Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Department of Geology, and the High Plains Climate Center, all located at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Dr. Robert Diffendal, Jr.

Robert Diffendal, Jr., pursued graduate work at the University of Nebraska because of the university's excellent reputation in geological research and ultimately received MS and PhD degrees with a major in geology. After graduate work, he taught geology, geography, and biology at St. Dominic College in Illinois before being appointed to the faculty of Doane College where he taught geology courses for 10 years.

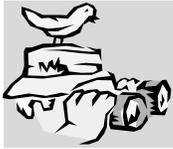
Diffendal joined the faculty of UNL in 1980 as a member of the Conservation and Survey Division as a research geologist and held the rank of professor until his retirement in 2003. He is now professor emeritus in this division, a part of the UNL School of Natural Resources.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, May 8, 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. From 48th and Calvert streets, go one block south to the north end of campus. Due to construction on that end of campus, parking can be found along 48th Street, near the church on Prescott Avenue, or at the campus gym. Look for Audubon signs on the doors of the Dick Building. An on-site ramp and elevator are available. Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

Calendar

May

- 5 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 6 Finance Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 6 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 8 General Meeting, "Geologic Development of Nebraska," by Dr. Robert Diffendal, Jr., Union College Dick Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
- 10 - 11 Birdathon Weekend (page 2)**
- 10 Field trip to Wilderness Park, 8:00 a.m. (page 2)
- 11 Field trip to Platte River State Park, 8:00 a.m. (page 2)
- 14 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 19 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 6:00 p.m.
- 29 Give to Lincoln Day (page 2)**



Field Trips

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Bird Brains Wanted for Birdathon May 10-11

When Birdathon weekend rolls around it's time to dust off the binoculars and scan the treetops for hidden treasures. If you get a chance to venture out and bird the area on Saturday or Sunday you can contribute your sightings to the Birdathon list by either joining forces with a field trip group or birding independently and emailing your list to Ken Reitan at kareitan@inebraska.com. Some donations to Wachiska's annual fundraiser are based on the total number of species reported, so maximizing the total species list with spring migrants is a fun challenge.

Weekend field trips will offer woodland hikes in Wilderness Park and Platte River State Park, two excellent sites that are popular with birds and birders. Recommended items to bring include a water bottle, insect repellent, and binoculars if you have them. The public is welcome. Call John with questions, 402-475-7275.

Wilderness Park - Saturday, May 10, 8:00 a.m.

We'll meet at the south edge of Lincoln on the west side of South 14th Street in the parking lot located 1/3 mile north of Rokeby Road next to the trestle footbridge that crosses Salt Creek. No entry fee is required. Our guide, Larry Einemann, is extremely knowledgeable about Wilderness Park and the bird species that rely on this habitat, which gives him a unique insight into the area. We'll watch for sprites like blue-gray gnatcatchers and warblers zipping around the forest and listen for wrens and vireos singing their hearts out. Friends of Wilderness Park is co-sponsoring this field trip, and thanks to the efforts of many dedicated volunteers in the group, this precious wildlife corridor has survived a variety of threats throughout the years.

Platte River State Park - Sunday, May 11, 8:00 a.m.

From I-80, turn south at exit 426 and follow S13E past South Bend to the park entrance. We'll meet in the parking lot next to the observation tower and restaurant. A state park vehicle entry permit is required and daily passes are \$5/vehicle. Join Shari Schwartz and Tim Knott on a search for eastern species like tufted titmice and scarlet tanagers along scenic Stone Creek. The creek's open understory and rocky drainage provide highly desirable habitat for breeding Louisiana waterthrushes, water-loving warblers typically found further south and east.



In 2013, this park hosted five breeding territories with juveniles detected on most of them, a high number compared to other known breeding sites in the same area.

Birdathon 2014

by Tim Knott, Birdathon Chair

Wachiska's 25th annual Birdathon is underway. This fundraiser is still an essential source of sustenance for our chapter's programs and activities. As you can see from the photos below, Wachiska has a variety of conservation and education programs that each year depend on Birdathon donations from our members and supporters. By now you should have received our Birdathon fundraising letter. If you haven't already done so, please make a contribution and maybe increase it a little this year. If you have not donated before, how about a donation this year? Wachiska welcomes all contributions. Our goal is to receive a gift from each one of our members. It makes reaching the amount we need so much easier. Thank you for your confidence, consideration, and support.



Platte River Crane Trip



Prairie Discovery Day

Give to Lincoln Day will be May 29

As part of our Birdathon campaign, Wachiska Audubon is participating again in Give to Lincoln Day 2014. This is the third year for the city-wide, online donation day for nonprofit organizations, sponsored by the Lincoln Community Foundation. This year the foundation is providing \$300,000 in matching funds to encourage members to donate to their own organization online. The larger our donation total, the bigger the share of the matching fund we will receive. Last year over 120 Wachiska members, friends, and supporters participated by donating.



You can participate in one of two ways. On May 29 you can go to the Give to Lincoln Day website and find Wachiska Audubon under environmental organizations (we are at the end of the alphabet) and then donate using your credit card by following the instructions. It's just like ordering a book or a sweater online.

The other alternative is to mail or bring your donation check into our office before 3:30 p.m. on May 29, and we will deliver it to the Lincoln Community Foundation office before the end of the business day. You can also deliver your own check to the LCF that day. Checks should be made out to the Lincoln Community Foundation with Wachiska Audubon on the memo line. Thanks for helping in this convenient manner.



From the Board ...

by Barb & Chuck Francis
Population/Environment Committee

Cultural Ties to the Monarch Butterflies

Monarch butterflies are important to agriculture and the ecosystem, as articulated by Ben Vogt in this column last month. His informative article struck a personal note with us. We have been culturally tied to the monarchs through our California heritage in Santa Cruz and our experiences with Mexican and Latin American customs.

Monarch butterflies migrate 2,500 miles or more in their search for milkweed—their only food source—and again to return to their native winter habitats, as they are unable to survive the cold winters in the places where milkweeds grow. The monarchs west of the Rockies overwinter near Pacific Grove, California, where they hibernate in eucalyptus trees. East of the Rockies, the butterflies head north from deep in central Mexico where they hang thickly on oyamel fir trees. As they return north and east in the spring, the monarchs mate, lay eggs on milkweed, and die. After hatching, the caterpillars metamorphose and continue the journey. The butterflies which begin the migration and those that end the migration are separated by four generations, hibernating in the same trees each year that have been used by their ancestral monarchs, a miracle of nature.

A house on the bluff overlooking Santa Cruz was Chuck's mother's home for 30 years. Our visits took us to the beaches with our kids, including Natural Bridges State Beach where thousands of monarch butterflies turned the eucalyptus trees into a blanket of orange and black, intertwining their legs to keep from being blown off the trees by the coastal winds, and overwintering for four months.

The arrival of the monarchs in Mexico has been noted since pre-historic times. Their arrival in early November coincides with the corn harvest by indigenous peoples. The monarchs are known in the local dialect as The Harvester Butterflies. In traditional beliefs, monarchs are the souls of ancestors returning to Earth for an annual visit and celebrated during Los Dias de Los Muertos, The Days of the Dead. Families celebrate the return of these souls by decorating the cemeteries, bringing food and music, and remembering those who have died.

In the 1990s, the population which had numbered in the hundreds of millions began to decline due to loss of habitat, increasing development, death from extremely cold temps, and the planting of herbicide-resistant crops where chemical application destroys all weeds including milkweed. Conversion of natural grasslands where milkweed grows to corn and sorghum after the Ethanol Mandate of 2007 and the spike in corn prices has been devastating. **Monarchs are in serious trouble. Plant native plants in your gardens, including milkweeds, and spread the word to all your gardening friends. Work to restore native plant areas in Nebraska and the north-south corridors to increase milkweed and monarch numbers.**

Is it Beneficial to Feed Birds?

(from the July 2013 newsletter of Wild Bird Habitat Store)



In general, it is helpful to feed birds, according to Stephen Moss in *The Birder's Companion*. Feeding prolongs the lives of individual birds and helps to maintain numbers. Without supplementary food, many birds would die, especially during bad winter weather. With so much ongoing loss of habitat everywhere as a result of human activity, backyards

and gardens have now become one of the more important habitats for many species—especially songbirds. Feeding birds also brings some less-tangible benefits: millions of people enjoy this hobby which often leads many folks to become more actively interested in activities such as birding and bird conservation.

"I once had a sparrow alight upon my shoulder for a moment while I was hoeing in a village garden, and I felt that I was more distinguished by that circumstance than I should have been by any epaulet I could have worn." —Henry David Thoreau

New Members Feather the Nest

by Joyce Vannier, Membership Chair

In the past month, 34 people/families have joined Wachiska with membership in National Audubon. These folks are:

Mary Atkins	Marc Lebaron
Connie Cerveny	Carrie Nunez
Ruby Eschen	Kathleen O'Leary
Dean Faubel	Shirlee Poppe
Virginia Fay	Mary Prochaska
Kent Forney	Doug Rath
Steve Fosbender	Nancy Reimer
Margery Gaston	Wayne Richter
Ginny Hamilton	Leona Scheffert
Alene Holt	Curtis Sederburg
Ruth Horstman	Delbert Smith
Margaret Howie	Cheryl Tesar
Jack Huck	Arlyce Thompson-Krug
Barbara Jacobson	Allen Thomsen
Williard & Marge Kuhlmann	Lora Van Etten
Keith Lacy	Betty White
Nancy Lancaster	William Wiese

Migrating to Wachiska from other chapters are:

Betty Murphy Louis Nuernberger Peter Smith

Fledging as a new Friend of Wachiska is Sara Welsh.

Rescuing America's Symbol of Freedom

by Karen Ott

*(somewhere near the western edge of the
Nebraska Panhandle)*

On Sunday last we saved a bald eagle—ok, technically we only instigated and assisted in its “saving,” but we’re proud of our good deed nonetheless.



Early Sunday morning Dale had been driving the banks of Horse Creek in search of a gone-missing calf when he chanced upon the bird standing in a patch of dry grass (a sight not uncommon in our area where eagles are numerous, but unusual enough at that time of day to spark a flicker of concern). When the bird was in the same spot at mid-afternoon, Dale knew trouble was afoot, and he placed a call to the local game warden asking for advice.

“Has it been shot?” Scott (the warden) asked. “Not that I can see,” Dale answered. “But it hasn’t moved more than six feet all day, and something’s not right. If we don’t get it off the ground before nightfall the coyotes will have it for supper.”

Less than 30 minutes later we were accompanying a “raptor rescuer” to the downed bird. The eagle didn’t move as we approached, but when the woman took hold of him, he let out a sad screech—it was the only sound he made. A cursory inspection revealed no gunshot wound, but the young bird was

underweight, weak, and cold. With his body cradled firmly, but gently against her chest the woman said softly, “Would you like to pet him? It’s an opportunity a person doesn’t get very often.”

In the chilling air of late afternoon, at the precise moment the weak winter sun slipped beneath the western horizon, I tentatively reached my ungloved hand towards one of God’s most majestic creatures. I stroked the white feathered head, ran my palm down his strong back, and traced his taloned feet with my fingertips; he turned his head, and for a few seconds this great bird of prey—America’s symbol of freedom—and I—the farm wife—stared into each other’s eyes.

In the hushed silence time stood still. The spell was broken by the woman’s husband who dropped their pickup’s tailgate to gain access to a large cage. “He’s too cold for that,” she said, pulling the bird closer. “I’ll carry him.” And with that she stepped into the warm pickup. “I’ll give him a dose of antibiotics and a good meal,” she said. “Tomorrow we’ll transport him to the Rocky Mountain Raptor Facility in Ft. Collins, Colorado, for continued care and rehabilitation.”

We said goodbye to both our eagle and the raptor rescuer who had saved his life. Watching him go was like sending a son off to college; the bird was one of the family . . . not a “cause” to be supported or a topic to be covered by the media.

Some folks would argue we should have let nature take its course and left him to the coyotes . . . but we couldn’t. We saved him because we are people of the land—and caring for the wildlife entrusted to us is part of our job.

2014 Great Backyard Bird Count Set Records

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) was held February 14-17. Final tallies are now in which indicate this was a banner year! Last year’s number of checklists submitted was a record with 125,000 individual lists; this year that number was again broken with 144,109 checklists submitted.

The total number of species observed was 4,296, with the number of individual birds counted being 17,748,756!

The GBBC team at National Audubon, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Bird Studies Canada organized this effort and coordinated all aspects again this year.

Go to this site to use the tools to further explore the data: <http://ebird.org/ebird/gbbc/eBirdReports?cmd=Start&siteLanguage=en> which is a great new tool that allows you to view sightings by state, county, or city.

Thanks to all Wachiskans for your help in making the GBBC such a great success. We hope you had fun counting!

25th Backyard Habitat Tour on Father's Day

This year marks the 25th anniversary for two of Wachiska’s standing events, the Birdathon and the Backyard Habitat Tour. Coincidentally, they both occur about the same time of the year, on Mother’s Day and Father’s Day (page 2).



Father’s Day has traditionally hosted the Backyard Habitat Tour. This is a wonderful way to treat Dad to a leisurely afternoon with the family in the outdoors. Next month’s newsletter will feature all the yards that will be open this year along with homeowners’ names and directions for getting to each one. Mark your calendars to join us on Sunday, June 15, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Cable Channel 5 TV will show a program discussing this year’s Tour. The program will air most days during June around 11:00 or 11:30 a.m. and again on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:00 p.m.

Audubon Nebraska Conservation Policy

by Marian Langan, Exec. Dir., Audubon Nebraska

Audubon Nebraska's conservation policy priorities include water sustainability, protection of the Nebraska Environmental Trust, and making sure that conservation easements continue to be a private property right. We have a partnership with Ducks Unlimited for professional services from Mueller Robak LLC, one of Nebraska's leading government relations firms. Support from the Wachiska Audubon Society of Lincoln and the Audubon Society of Omaha is helping make this possible. This partnership is helping us make sure that conservation interests are represented as decisions are made affecting our entire state. Audubon also provided leadership to bring conservation groups together in support of this session's water funding effort and the changes to the Natural Resources Commission structure (described in the article below).

Thank you to Wachiska and to everyone for your support of this effort! Working together is the only way to make progress on these important issues. Thanks as well to Wachiska's legislation committee for their tireless efforts. If you have any questions or want to discuss this further, please call me at 402-797-2301.

Water Policy Success

by Katie Weichman Zulkoski, J.D., Mueller Robak LLC

What an important session it has been for conservation and water interests in the Nebraska Legislature. Legislative Bill 1098 introduced by Senator Carlson was passed by the Legislature April 10 and signed into law by Governor Heineman. LB 1098, based on the recommendations of the Water Funding Task Force, adds additional members to the Natural Resources Commission to create a more statewide, balanced board of water interests. This new law also contains the ranking criteria and an application process for funding via the Water Sustainability Fund. The bill directs that no more than 10 percent of the Water Sustainability Funds shall be used for municipal sewer separation projects and includes priority for projects that are the result of federal mandates intended to give priority to the levee project needed at Offutt Air Force Base. LB 1098 also includes provisions from Senator Lathrop's LB 1074 which directs the Republican River Basin (and any other basin with three or more NRDs that are designated "fully appropriated") to conduct basin-wide planning so that water uses balance water supplies.

An ongoing \$11 million appropriation to the Water Sustainability Fund was put in place with the passage of the budget package crafted by the Appropriations Committee. The budget also included a \$20 million transfer to the Resources Development Fund for the completion of projects already approved by the current Natural Resources Committee and another one-time transfer of \$10 million to the Water Sustainability Fund. This is an incredible investment in water sustainability by our state leaders and comes as the result of much hard work by the Water Funding Task Force, members of the Natural Resources Committee and the Appropriations Committee, and importantly, the continued push from the conservation community.

Wachiska's Real Estate Tax Liability

by Don Pepperl, Attorney

Several Wachiska members have posed the question, "Since Wachiska is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation, why are we paying real estate taxes on property that we own in fee simple?" In my opinion, there are two reasons why we pay our fairly apportioned real estate tax liability.

The first reason is that we are simply being good neighbors to our fellow citizens who are also saddled with the real estate tax burden. Our 400-acre Klapka farm is a good example of potentially "passing the buck," so to speak. If we would successfully claim a nonprofit charitable exemption, the liability would simply be passed on to the other Pawnee County landowners, even though we would receive similar services. It is just good public relations.

For those who might not possess such an altruistic personality, there is a second reason. Wachiska is required by law to pay its real estate taxes. The controlling statute is Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 77-202 (Reissue of 2009) which governs property tax exemptions. Subsection (1)(d) applies to property owned by educational or charitable nonprofit organizations. The statute applies a two-part test. First, the organization must exist exclusively for educational and charitable purposes. In all likelihood Wachiska passes that test; however, the second part of the test states, "when such property is not (i) owned or used for financial gain or profit to either the owner or user, . . ." One could argue, albeit perhaps not successfully, that Wachiska does not use our real property for financial gain since any income we receive is utilized for educational or charitable purposes. However, there is the additional qualifying language "or user." If our real property is being rented to a third party who is engaged in a for-profit enterprise, Wachiska is not entitled to claim the tax exemption. All the real property that the chapter owns is rented to tenants for production of crops, pasture, or hay. This activity legally defeats any attempted claim for a charitable or educational exemption. Economically, it would not make sense to terminate our leasing operations since the income generated fortunately exceeds our real estate tax liability.

NGPC Southeast District Birding Day May 14

Bring your binoculars, camera, bird guides, wading boots, and a chair to the Nebraska Eastern Saline Wetlands at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, May 14, to participate in a birding day. Lunch will be provided for \$5, or you can bring a sack lunch. At 11:00 we'll meet for lunch and to hear speakers at the Raymond City Park.

Meet in the parking lot of Little Salt Fork Marsh Preserve NRD, or transportation will be available at 7:00 from the Game and Parks building at 2200 North 33rd Street. RSVP by May 9 to Scott Aden at 402-471-5641, scott.aden@nebraska.gov. Be sure to indicate if you want to order a lunch or meet for a ride.

What Flies 1,000 Miles with no Food or Rest?

They can also remember every single flower they visit. The unbelievable hummingbird is the answer! They are truly remarkable!

With wings flapping up to 80 times per second, the birds' subtle movements and beautiful, vibrant colors are mesmerizing. A true marvel of the natural world, a hummingbird—some less than six inches long—can reach speeds of 60 mph, can fly backwards, and are able to hover nearly motionless except for the blur of its flapping wings.

Some hummers, like the Calliope, will travel thousands of miles during migration season from the Pacific Northwest and Canada all the way to South-Central Mexico. Needing to eat twice their weight in nectar each day, these tiny birds rely on a chain of rest stops and flowers along their migration routes. Breaks in that chain can mean exhaustion, hunger, and even death. Without finding healthy habitat at the end of their long migration journeys, those amazing tiny birds won't be able to breed and reproduce.

Hummingbirds will soon be in serious trouble. They cannot survive these looming risks without our help:

- ◆ **Habitat Loss** - Hummingbird breeding and nesting grounds are under attack by continued urbanization, logging, agricultural development, energy exploration, and resource extraction.
- ◆ **Climate Change** - Global warming is making flowers bloom out of sync with hummingbirds' arrival from migration, putting them at risk for starvation. Consider the broad-tailed hummingbird which travels north through the Rocky Mountains each spring. Warmer temperatures are causing flowers to bloom as much as 17 days earlier than usual. By the time these birds pass through the area, the nectar has come and gone, putting them at risk of starvation.
- ◆ **Pesticides** - Pesticide use is quickly killing off the insects that are a crucial part of a hummingbird's diet—the same pesticides and poisons used by lawn and garden companies throughout the growing season.

Audubon continues to fund innovative "citizen science" programs like *Hummingbirds at Home* where people around the country share information about the migration patterns from their own backyards. Another goal on the international front is to advance conservation work in Latin America and in the Caribbean, including the Bahamas, Belize, and Paraguay—areas critical to our migratory birds.

It is hoped that you will become familiar with these problems and support Wachiska and National Audubon efforts.

(Editor's Note: The preceding article was compiled with facts from National Audubon and other recent credible sources in a personal, ongoing effort to learn about hummingbirds.)

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

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

Lincoln's Waterfest

Waterfest is Lincoln's biennial public event that draws over 2,000 participants. Come out to Holmes Lake Park on Saturday, June 7, and check out Wachiska's table and the displays of many organizations on the theme of our water sources and uses. There will be games, handouts, trinkets, etc. for everyone. This is a free summer family event.

Keystone XL Pipeline Update

On April 18, the U.S. State Department stated that it will delay a decision on the proposed Keystone XL pipeline because of the continuing litigation over the route through Nebraska. The Lancaster County District Court declared LB 1161 unconstitutional in February 2014. Part of that decision voided Governor Heineman's approval of the proposed pipeline route. The case is currently on appeal to the Nebraska Supreme Court. It appears unlikely the Supreme Court will decide the case before November 2014.

Ken Winston of the Nebraska Sierra Club stated recently that "Today's delay is another victory for all the people who have spoken out against KXL in the past four years, the thousands who have attended State Department and legislative hearings, attended rallies, written letters, made phone calls, and signed petitions. Your sacrifices, your voices have made the difference throughout this process. Every delay means that more tar sands will stay in the ground. The longer this goes on, the more people find out about KXL and its threats to our water, land, and climate, the more likely they are to oppose it. To paraphrase my daughter Helen, TransCanada may have the money, but when people come together, we have the power."

In fact that the State Department is being both consistent and logical, they delayed the permit process in 2011 because there was no route through Nebraska. President Obama denied the permit in 2012 for the same reason. The court threw out the route, so once again there is no route through Nebraska. It also makes no sense for the State Department to proceed with the permit application if there is no route through Nebraska.

Yampa Valley Crane Festival

Look into attending Colorado's crane festival September 12-15 in Steamboat Springs and Hayden which features greater sandhill cranes of the Rockies. All community activities and events are free and include daily crane viewings, expert speakers, films, crane art, workshops, and family activities. Check out the website at coloradocranes.org and Facebook. Questions and accommodations should be directed to coloradocranes@gmail.com.

Public Officials

President Barack Obama

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

Senator Mike Johanns

100 Centennial Mall N Rm 294, Lincoln NE 68508-3803
Lincoln phone: 402-476-1400 Fax: 402-476-0605
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-4224 Fax: 202-228-0436
E-mail: mike_johanns@johanns.senate.gov

Senator Deb Fischer

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

Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (1st District)

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

Congressman Lee Terry (2nd District)

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

Congressman Adrian Smith (3rd District)

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

Capitol Hill Switchboard

888-436-8427 or 202-224-3121

Governor Dave Heineman

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

State Senator _____

District ___ State Capitol
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604
State Capitol Switchboard 402-471-2311

Lancaster County Commissioners

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

Mayor Chris Beutler

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10th St Rm 208, Lincoln NE 68508-2828
Phone: 402-441-7511 Fax: 402-441-7120
E-mail: mayor@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln City Council

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

Lincoln Journal Star

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

Membership

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

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

Friends of Wachiska (local membership)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Recruited by _____

E-mail _____

_____ \$20 Individual/Friend

_____ \$50 Sustainer

_____ \$30 Families

_____ \$100 Patron

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

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

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

OR

National Membership in National Audubon Society

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Recruited by _____

E-mail _____

Enclose introductory membership fee of \$20.

Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society** and mail to:

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

C4ZP040Z

Volunteers Needed Now

Ways to help your chapter:

1. Call the office and offer to make a few phone calls each month to line up cookie donors for general meetings. The list of donors is established—you just need to schedule the month needed.
2. Recycle aluminum cans at A-Can Recycling Center, 3255 South 10th Street. Ask that proceeds be credited to Wachiska Audubon.
3. Send your Birdathon donation today or make a note to take part in Give to Lincoln Day on May 29 (see page 2).

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Wachiska Audubon Society
4547 Calvert St Ste 10
Lincoln NE 68506-5643
402-486-4846
office@wachiskaaudubon.org
www.wachiskaaudubon.org

WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2014

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Corresponding Secretary.....	*Joe Francis.....	402-489-7965
Treasurer.....	*Gary Fehr.....	402-570-4382
Immediate Past President.....	*Arnold Mendenhall (Hickman)	402-525-4884

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Director at Large.....	*Mitch Renteria.....	402-483-7275
Director at Large.....	*Benjamin Vogt.....	402-499-5851
Director at Large.....	*vacant.....	
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Program Coordinator.....	Tim Knott.....	402-483-5656
Publicity/Public Relations.....	Jeanne Kern.....	402-423-0428

*Denotes Board member

OTHER ASSOCIATES

Bird Questions.....	vacant.....	
NAS Regional Board Member.....	Michele Crist (Boise, ID).....	208-863-1918
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Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Director.....	Roger Furrer.....	402-797-2301
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. Information changes daily—and even more often when excitement arises. Offerings of recent sightings, questions, and new photos are all welcome.

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

A Gift to the Future

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