



Wachiska  
Audubon Society

Wachiska Audubon Society's vision: To share the experience and love of nature—that life may sustainably flourish in all its natural diversity

# The Babbling Brook

Our 50th Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2023

**MARCH 2023**

**Volume 32 - Issue 3**

Wachiska Program and General Meeting — Thursday, March 9, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also via YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/OLi-S -Ekq4>

## Exploring the Diversity of Nebraska's Wetlands and the People and Wildlife Depending on Them

by Ted LaGrange, Wetland Program Manager, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

For Wachiska's March program, we will learn about the recently completed "Wetlands of Nebraska Outreach and Education" project that produced a series of products to increase awareness of the importance of wetlands in our state. The products include five feature films about Nebraska's wetlands and the wildlife and people that depend on them along with several wetlands publications. The talented team from Platte Basin Timelapse produced the films that will take you on a journey across Nebraska to meet some interesting characters. You will see scenes and wildlife that few people get to experience. The quality of the videography is outstanding. Scenes from several of the films will be shown, and the new publications will be distributed at the meeting.



Photo by Ariana Broscious

Ted LaGrange

These new products are available on the wetlands section of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's (NGPC) website, [www.NebraskaWetlands.com](http://www.NebraskaWetlands.com). NGPC helped coordinate the project alongside partners assisting with grant implementation and funding: EPA, Platte Basin Timelapse group at UNL, Ducks Unlimited, Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit.

Ted LaGrange has been the wetland program manager for NGPC for 29 years. In this capacity, he works on a variety of wetland issues throughout Nebraska, including partnerships, private land restoration programs, public lands management, research, regulations, and outreach. For eight years prior to moving to Nebraska, Ted was a waterfowl research technician for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. LaGrange received BS and MS degrees in wildlife biology from Iowa State University. His professional interests are in prairie wetlands and waterfowl/water bird ecology.



Photo by Dakota Altman

Ted on a muskrat house

Join Wachiska for this wetlands presentation on **Thursday, March 9, at 7:00 p.m.** for this program. We are meeting in person at the Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, in Lincoln. This free public talk will also be live streamed on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/OLi-S -Ekq4>. Copy this link into your browser before the program begins. No registration will be necessary. Invite family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues to join us either in person or online. The program can also be viewed at a later date. Check the Wachiska website for program links to view past programs.

### Calendar

#### March

- 6 Education/Outreach Committee via Zoom, 6:00 p.m.
- 9 **Spring Birdseed Sale order deadline** (pages 3-4)
- 9 General Meeting, New Wetlands Project, by Ted LaGrange, 7:00 p.m. in-person at Unitarian Church and also live-streamed; no registration (see above)
- 13 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 17-18 **Spring Birdseed Sale distribution** (pages 3-4)
- 21 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
- 26 Field Trip to Branched Oak Reservoir, 9:00 a.m. (page 2)



## Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman

We continue the planning process for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. See a save-the-date notice (next column) for our December 3<sup>rd</sup> event.

We are also planning a cedar-cutting event at Arnold Elementary School on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. If we have inclement weather, the back-up date will be March 19<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to volunteer, contact me ahead of time so we can estimate how many volunteers we may have that day; you can show up at the parking lot at Arnold Elementary School, 5000 Mike Scholl Street (near NW 48<sup>th</sup> and West Cuming streets), at 1:00 p.m. The parking lot is on the west side of the school, and the prairie we will be cutting trees on is just west of the parking lot and school. We will be cutting mostly cedar trees, but there are a few other species like locust, elm, etc. The other species will require spot herbicide to prevent the tree from growing back from the root, but the cedars will not require herbicide.

We will have a few pairs of gloves, loppers, and hand saws, but if you have your own gloves and cutting tools, we encourage you to bring them. It may be chilly, so dress appropriately. Wearing layers of clothes is always a good idea, and wearing comfortable shoes or boots and a long-sleeved shirt or jacket protects your arms from getting scratched. Wearing glasses, sunglasses, or some kind of safety glasses is advisable to avoid eye injuries. A water bottle is handy, but I will also try to bring some water to share. This prairie is less than 14 acres and is owned by the City of Lincoln. The kids at Arnold Elementary use it for field trips. Tim Knott and I taught three different classes on this tract last year.

Don't forget to order your birdseed. The order deadline is March 9<sup>th</sup> and the pick up days are March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate everyone's orders as this is one of our annual revenue-raising events. Unfortunately, birdseed prices, like everything, have gone up the last few years, but we do sell a high-quality Midwest product, so you can be assured that the birds appreciate it.

The Nebraska Legislature is getting close to the halfway mark of this 90-day session ending in early June. Wachiska is tracking several pieces of legislation. Bills range from LB814 that appropriates \$14M from the Nebraska Environmental Trust to the Water Cash Fund at the Department of Natural Resources, to LB400 that creates the Pheasant Protection Act and provides for a \$10 bounty for "nest predators" including coyotes, raccoons, badgers, opossum, red fox, and striped skunk. We are also watching several bills pertaining to natural resources, energy efficiency, climate change, and public power.

Keep your bird feeders full, and, if you can, keep water in your bird baths. Happy birding!



Save-the-Date

## Wachiska's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

by Mark Brohman

On **Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**, Wachiska will be hosting a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration! The location will be the banquet hall at UNL's Innovation Campus (site of the former Nebraska State Fair). There will be a luncheon and ceremony at 1:00 p.m. followed by a presentation by guest speaker Doug Tallamy at 3:00 in the adjoining auditorium. Tickets for the luncheon will be available later this year. Tallamy's talk will be free and open to the public, but you will need to get a free ticket which will also be available later this year. Two of Tallamy's latest books are *Nature's Best Hope* and *Bringing Nature Home*. Details are just beginning to be firmed up, but we want everyone to "save the date" at this time. Mark your calendars for December 3<sup>rd</sup>. More information on Tallamy's presentation will be included in future *Babbling Brook* articles and on the website in coming months.

## March Field Trip to Branched Oak Reservoir

by Todd Paddock

In March we'll take a field trip to Branched Oak Reservoir. Let's meet at the parking lot on Lieber's Point on **Sunday, March 26, at 9:00 a.m.** Early migration will be well underway, so look forward to enjoying a wide variety of birds.

From the intersection of NE 79<sup>th</sup> and West Raymond Road (also known as 55T), follow West Raymond Road west for 6 miles to NW 140<sup>th</sup> Street. Go right (north) on 140<sup>th</sup> Street for half a mile, then right (east) on West Branched Oak Road for 2 miles. Proceed to the parking lot just short of the tip of the point.

Bring binoculars if you have them, a face mask for COVID-19 protection, and dress for the weather. There is no fee, and the public is welcome as long as you are fully vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19 (those under 5 years of age are exempt from this requirement). Call Todd at 507-458-9416 if you have questions. You're also welcome to call me if you wish to carpool.

## Spring Birdseed Sale this Month

Plan to order your spring birdseed from Wachiska by March 9. See pages 3-4 for ordering information, order form and seed descriptions, mailing deadline, and pick up dates. Forms and info can be found at [www.WachiskaAudubon.org](http://www.WachiskaAudubon.org).

This time you can also order online by going to this site. This is a major fundraiser which began about 35 years ago. What can be a more perfect project than providing nourishment for our feathered friends! Let us know if you can spare an hour to help at the distribution site.

**"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn."**

— Hal Borland



## Wachiska Audubon Spring 2023 Birdseed Sale Order Form

	Bag Size	Bag Code	Price Each	Quantity	Total Cost
<b>ALL PRICES INCLUDE SALES TAX</b>					
FEED MIXES	Standard Audubon Mix	40 lb bag	ST40	\$ 49.00	\$
	Classic Audubon Mix	20 lb bag	CL20	\$ 34.00	\$
		40 lb bag	CL40	\$ 50.00	\$
	Attraction Audubon Mix	35 lb bag	AT35	\$ 67.00	\$
	Woodpecker Gourmet	20 lb bag	WO20	\$ 45.00	\$
	Bushy Tail Treat	20 lb bag	BT20	\$ 38.00	\$
SEEDS	Millet, White (98%)	50 lb bag	MI50	\$ 48.00	\$
	Peanuts, shelled rejects	20 lb bag	PR20	\$ 40.00	\$
	Safflower Seed	20 lb bag	SA20	\$ 40.00	\$
		50 lb bag	SA50	\$ 92.00	\$
	Safflower Seed, Nutra-Saff	20 lb bag	Not Available		
	Sunflower Hearts, coarse	20 lb bag	HC20	\$ 55.00	\$
		50 lb bag	HC50	\$ 110.00	\$
	Sunflower Hearts, fine	20 lb bag	HF20	\$ 57.00	\$
Sunflower Seed, black oil	25 lb bag	SB25	\$ 32.00	\$	
SUET CAKES	High Energy Treat, 11.75 oz. cake		EN-C	\$ 2.00	\$
	Berry Treat, 11 oz. cake		BT-C	\$ 2.00	\$
<b>Total number of bags and cost</b> (All prices INCLUDE sales tax)					\$
<b>Tax Deductible Donation</b> to support Wachiska's education & conservation activities					\$
<b>Total Enclosed.</b> Make check payable to Wachiska Audubon Society.					\$

Name (Print)	Email address	Phone Number (required)
Mailing Address		

**This form and your check must be postmarked by Thursday, March 9, 2023.**  
 Mail to: Wachiska Audubon Society Birdseed Sale - 4547 Calvert St, Suite 10,  
 Lincoln NE 68506-5643

### ORDER PICK UP DATES - MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

**PLEASE—Plan to pick up your order during one of these times**

**Friday, March 17**  
3:00 -6:00 p.m.

**Saturday, March 18**  
9:00 -11:00 a.m.

**Note: stay in car; we will bring the seed to you.**

Pick up location: 14th & Arapahoe streets (between Van Dorn & Hwy 2)

Are you interested in volunteering for the birdseed pick up  Yes (check box)

# Wachiska Audubon Spring 2023 Birdseed Sale & Fundraiser

Wachiska's Birdseed Sales are an important part of our fundraising and offer you a great deal on birdseed! **Our prices are very competitive.** The great majority of Wachiska's budget for education and conservation programs comes from donations and fundraising, and our twice-a-year birdseed sales are two of our major fundraisers. If you feed birds regularly, or want to give it a try, please buy from Wachiska. Our new convenient pickup location in SW Lincoln makes it easier than ever to get your birdseed. We depend on your purchases, and so do our feathered friends! Thank you!

## FEED MIXES

**Standard Audubon Mix** – white millet, sunflower seed, cracked corn, peanuts, oat groats

**Classic Audubon Mix** – sunflower seed and hearts, white millet, cracked corn, safflower seed, peanuts, oat groats

**Attraction Audubon Mix** – sunflower seed and hearts, safflower seed, peanuts, raisins, protein pellets

**Woodpecker Gourmet** – 75% nuts (almonds, peanuts, walnuts), pumpkin seed, corn, black oil sunflower seed and hearts, safflower seed

**Bushy Tail Treat** – peanuts, sunflower seed, whole corn, raisins, pumpkin seed, feed pellets. Treat your favorite backyard squirrels and keep them away from the bird feeders!

## SUET CAKES

**High Energy Treat** – sunflower seeds, millet, cracked corn; enjoyed by most wild birds

**NEW! Berry Treat** – a wonderful winter treat

## SEEDS

**White Millet (98%)** – popular with cardinals, mourning doves, house finches, juncos, sparrows

**Peanuts (shelled)** – attractive for woodpeckers and blue jays

**Safflower Seed** – good for house finches, chickadees, cardinals, wood peckers – NOT FAVORED by squirrels and grackles.

~~Nutra-Saff Seed is without the hard, outer shell.~~

**Sunflower Hearts** – highly prized by birds and leave less mess—use coarse hearts for feeders with large openings that might allow fine hearts to drop out

**Black Oil Sunflower Seed** – favored by most seed-eating birds; high oil content for more energy

**Additional copies of this flyer and the order form are available on our website:**

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

## ORDER PICK UP DATES - MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

Pick up site is:  
N.W. Corner of 14<sup>th</sup> &  
Arapahoe Street  
(between Van Dorn &  
Hwy 2) in Lincoln.

Look for Signs

**Reminder: stay in your car; we will bring the seed to you.**

Friday, March 17

3:00 -6:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 18

9:00-11:00 a.m.

**PLEASE—Plan to pick up your order during one of these times.**

Orders that are not picked up cause a lot of extra work for our volunteers whose help we greatly appreciate! If it is impossible for you to pick up your seed, **please contact Cathy Shaner at 402/421-1652 or Arlys at 402/486-4846 to make alternate pickup arrangements.**

If anyone is interested in volunteering to assist, please contact Jeff Meyer, 402/483-2757.

## In the Past Half Century

by Arlys Reitan

When I offered to reminisce about “the good ‘ole days of Wachiska” during our golden anniversary year, a flood of remembrances immediately came to mind. Now trying to narrow these memories to fit in one column, it’s difficult to prioritize.

Wachiska has been an extremely active group of conservation-minded people from the beginning. I recall in 1987 on my first trip to Washington, DC to attend National Audubon’s boot camp, Mort Stelling and I were met by the lead attorney who commented on finally meeting leaders from “that chapter in Nebraska that does it all.” That observation carried with it an expectation that we couldn’t let up—it would disappoint people around the country!

During subsequent strategic planning sessions over 45 years, one central theme would surface: what can we cut out to make our lives and our chapter easier to maintain? It never failed that, by the end of the session, there was little we were doing that wasn’t necessary to make our planet better in our local place. Thus, Wachiska’s involvement in creating, sponsoring, mentoring, or in some way garnering support and organizing for such groups as Save the Platte, Raptor Recovery Nebraska (recently becoming Raptor Conservation Alliance), Bluebirds Across Nebraska, Save the Niobrara (later renamed Friends of the Niobrara), Friends of Wilderness Park. Wachiska’s Ernie Rousek was instrumental in getting a law passed in the Unicameral to make it possible for Nine-Mile Prairie to be protected by the University of Nebraska. Gene Sengstake, Jan Burch, Tim Knott, Mort Stelling and others worked diligently to research and organize what was needed to fulfill dreams of protecting virgin prairies in as many of the 17 counties in our membership area as possible. Don Pepperl took on the legal work for this endeavor and remains a vital part of its existence today.

From the beginning, the National Audubon Society (NAS) encouraged chapters to observe John James Audubon’s birthday in April. Wachiska took up the lead and invited an NAS staff person to speak at our April meeting each year for a decade. This was another reason why the attorney in DC recognized us as an active chapter. We were never disappointed with these notable speakers who were experts in their respective fields.

In the 1980s the Nebraska Audubon Council was formed. Three times a year chapter leaders gathered in all parts of the state to get to know and inform one another of our respective concerns. That’s where we found the expertise of Dave Sands who then followed legislation at the Capitol on behalf of the Council.

After the nationwide strategic planning/overhaul of NAS in 1994-95 where it was decided there should be a state office in as many states as possible, the Council voted to become the first to create a state office “from scratch”—meaning it wouldn’t be created from an existing nature center or sanctuary. Sands then became the first executive director of Audubon Nebraska.

Stay tuned for explanations and descriptions of many of the above programs, organizations, projects, and initiatives.

## Sage and Sweetgrass

by Richard Peterson

The prairie means different things to different people. To the Native Americans it represents something quite different. It afforded grazing for the bison and pronghorn and forage for their horses. The prairie ecosystem and the associated riparian edges represented nature’s garden. It offered those less settled native groups, those who did not grow their own vegetables like corn, beans, and squash with naturally growing root vegetables, fruits, berries, etc. to supplement their high protein diet. More importantly, perhaps, sage and sweetgrass provided plants to serve their medicinal, crafting, and ceremonial needs.

*Artemisia ludoviciana* is a North American flowering plant in the daisy family Asteraceae. *Artemisia* is a very diverse genus with over 300 species. Unless you know what specific plant you are looking for, it is not easy to identify. In English, we refer to this plant as prairie sage, silver wormwood, white sagebrush, etc. Native groups have their own language names for this sage. Widespread across most of the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, this is a perennial rhizome growing to three feet tall. Small yellow blooms appear from July to October. The Sioux (Lakota, Nakota, and Dakota people), as one example, use the plant in smudging. The sage is wrapped tight, like a fat cigar as long as your index finger. The end is lit like incense, and the sweet-scented smoke cleanses and protects. Sage bundles were kept on the east side of homes for protection. Some Native groups used sage as a spice in food or as a tea for the treatment for sore throat and tonsillitis; others as a topical treatment for skin problems. It can be used to purify and was laid on the fire during sweat lodge ceremonies.



*Hierochloa odorata* (or *Anthoxanthum nitens*) is an aromatic herb native to North America and northern Eurasia. Common names include sweetgrass, holy grass, vanilla grass, or Mary’s grass. It owes its distinctive sweet vanilla scent to the presence of coumarin which, along with phytol, repels mosquitoes. This grows in wet meadows, low prairies, the edges of sloughs and marches, bogs, and shaded stream banks. The plant is harvested in early to late summer, but, if left until after a frost, it is less scented and less desirable for weaving. In Minnesota, Ojibwe weavers sun-dried the grass until it was brittle, then stored it. When needed, they soaked it in water to make it pliable. It was braided into threads of different thickness, then coiled and used to make basketry, bowls, and flat mats. Some men wore two braids of sweetgrass around their necks which hung like braids of hair, kept it in their medicine bundles, and often burned it at the beginning of a prayer or ceremony for positive energy. Some mixed sweetgrass with red willow and bearberry as a pipe-smoking mixture. Although used for many purposes, as well as a smudge, its main purpose was to attract the positive. Some groups referred to it as the hair of Mother Earth.



# Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

Last month's column discussed home-based climate strategies that can be summarized as Electrify Everything! Electricity can power heat pumps to heat and cool your air and heat your water. There are substantial federal subsidies to help make that change, but we have now learned that they will not be available until next fall.

Canary Media reported in February that the 2022 sale of home heat pumps increased above four million units, outpacing sale of gas furnaces, <https://www.canarymedia.com/articles/heat-pumps/chart-americans-bought-more-heat-pumps-than-gas-furnaces-last-year>. In the past, heat pumps have been popular in the Southeast, but technology has improved, prices have dropped, and now sales are rising in places with real winters like Maine and Massachusetts. Russia's war in Ukraine has also boosted the use of heat pumps in Europe, especially in Poland.

If you are considering a heat pump, an excellent place to start is to ask yourself these ten questions listed at <https://www.canarymedia.com/articles/heat-pumps/10-questions-to-ask-if-you-want-to-get-a-heat-pump>.

An individual's choices, I usually think, are less effective than political action, like the kind that Audubon in Minnesota and allies achieved in February. Minnesota has adopted a goal of getting 100 percent of their electricity from fossil-free sources by 2040. Celebrate this great victory for the common loons and their associates!

There are some individual choices some birders make that probably need to get a second look. An excellent essay by Jenny McKee asks, "Is it time for birders to move way from high-carbon birding? A new book, *Low Carbon Birding*, challenges birders to give up air travel and twitching and instead enjoy their local species." The questions raised in *Low Carbon Birding* and the related website [lowcarbonbirding.net](http://lowcarbonbirding.net) are not easy ones. I can't say it better than McKee did, so I refer you to her article on the National Audubon website at <https://www.audubon.org/news/is-it-time-birders-move-away-high-carbon-birding>.

"Making peace with nature is the defining task of the 21st century," stated Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations, in his recent State of the Planet address. The United Nations website at <https://www.un.org/en/actnow/> also offers this list of actions that individuals and families can take: save energy at home; walk, bike, or take public transit; eat more vegetables; consider your travel; throw away less food; reduce, reuse, repair, recycle; switch to an electric vehicle; make your purchases and savings count; and speak up!

One thing not on that list but available to many Audubon members is to consider the uses of the land around our homes. The broadest and deepest consideration of "a new approach to conservation that starts in your yard," I think, is

Douglas Tallamy's terrific book, *Nature's Best Hope*. Tallamy is a professor of wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware and will be our featured speaker at Wachiska's 50th anniversary celebration in December (see page 2). He explains how our choices about lawns have major effects on birds. Two other brand new local publications on lawns are "The Seed: Let's Rethink the Lawn" from Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. They declared 2023 as "the year of lawns" and offer many options in 15 pages. Also, you can get a signed copy of Wachiska member Benjamin Vogt's new book, *Prairie Up: An Introduction to Natural Garden Design* at <https://www.monarchgard.com/books.html>. On my copy Ben wrote "Unlawn America!"

## Exciting Upcoming Events

by Jason "the Birdnerd" St. Sauver

On Saturday, April 1, Lincoln's Indian Center will host Return of the Thunderbirds from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. For details, contact Jason at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, 402-797-2301.

Jill Deppe, senior director of National Audubon's Migratory Bird Initiative, will be at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center on Sunday, April 2, for a public talk at 3:00 p.m. on the Bird Migration Explorer. This state-of-the-art digital platform ([www.birdmigrationexplorer.org](http://www.birdmigrationexplorer.org)) reveals migration data for more than 450 bird species that breed in the U.S. and Canada and migrate within the Western Hemisphere. The free, interactive platform, available in English and Spanish, reveals the most complete understanding of the places migratory birds use across the full annual cycle, connections among places across the hemisphere, and the hazards they face. The Bird Migration Explorer was created by Audubon, nine partner organizations, and hundreds of researchers and institutions from across the globe. Join us for a demonstration of the Explorer to learn about the migratory birds of our area and what you can do to protect them.

## Climate Signs Available from Wachiska Audubon

Join your friends and neighbors to show your concern about our climate and our elected officials. Stop by the Wachiska office and pick up your Climate yard sign.

Yard signs that say "VOTE with CLIMATE in Mind" are available for \$10 each. The signs are made of material that will hold

up well to the elements and come with a metal holder to push into the ground. You are encouraged to put your signs out now until the spring elections. You can also keep the signs in your yard year 'round. They are durable and could easily last three or four years in your yard.



"In the depth of winter, I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer."  
— Albert Camus

## 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 Pete Ricketts**

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://ricketts.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 Mike Flood**

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

### **Congressman Don Bacon (2<sup>nd</sup> District)**

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

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

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

### **Capitol Hill Switchboard**

888-436-8427 or 202-224-3121

### **Governor Jim Pillen**

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

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

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

### **State Capitol Switchboard**

402-471-2311

### **Lancaster County Commissioners**

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10<sup>th</sup> St Rm 110, Lincoln NE 68508  
Phone: 402-441-7447 Fax: 402-441-6301  
E-mail: [commish@lancaster.ne.gov](mailto:commish@lancaster.ne.gov)

### **Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird**

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

### **Lincoln City Council**

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

### **Lincoln Journal Star**

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

## **Join now! Become a Friend of Wachiska Audubon Society!**

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

### **Friends of Wachiska (local membership)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_ \$25 Individual/Friend
- \_\_\_ \$35 Family Friend
- \_\_\_ \$50 Black-capped Chickadee Friend
- \_\_\_ \$100 Northern Cardinal Friend
- \_\_\_ \$250 Western Meadowlark Friend
- \_\_\_ \$500 Bald Eagle Friend
- \_\_\_ \$1,000 Peregrine Falcon Friend

Select the level of support that is right for you and make your check payable to **Wachiska Audubon Society**. All funds will remain with our local chapter and are tax deductible. Mail to:

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



American Goldfinches

\_\_\_ **I prefer to receive my newsletter by email.**

Please note: If you are already a member of National Audubon Society (NAS) you automatically become a member of Wachiska, but not a Wachiska Friend member. Only Wachiska Friends receive the printed newsletter each month. If you wish to join NAS or receive *Audubon* magazine, please contact the National Audubon Society directly.

*The Babbling Brook* (ISSN #1068-2104) is published monthly by Wachiska Audubon Society. The known office of publication is 4547 Calvert St Ste 10, Lincoln NE 68506-5643. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Send address changes to *The Babbling Brook*  
Wachiska Audubon Society, 4547 Calvert St Ste 10  
Lincoln NE 68506-5643



*The Babbling Brook* is printed on recycled and recyclable paper.



Reusable Bag Program



The Wachiska Audubon Society has been selected again to receive \$1 from every \$2.50 reusable red "My Heart" bag sold during March and April 2023 at the Hy-Vee at 6001 Village Drive in Lincoln. Just mention at check-out that you want to purchase a bag and to credit Wachiska Audubon with the purchase.

This is another way to support your chapter and help the planet at the same time!

### WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2023

Executive Director..... Mark Brohman  
Office Administrator ..... Arlys Reitan

#### OFFICERS

President ..... \*Theresa Pella  
Vice President..... \*Andrea Faas  
Secretary ..... \*April Stevenson  
Treasurer ..... \*Dylan Aufdenkamp

#### STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large ..... \*Dakota Altman  
Director at Large ..... \*Ann Briggs  
Director at Large ..... \*Doug Campbell  
Director at Large ..... \*Ethan Freese  
Director at Large ..... \*Stu Luttich  
Director at Large ..... \*Mercy Manzanares  
Director at Large ..... \*Kris Powers  
Conservation..... \*Ross Scott  
Education..... \*Tim Knott  
\*Bruce Mellberg

\*Denotes voting Board member

For contact information of officers and committee chairs, call the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846.

### Mission Statement of the Wachiska Audubon Society

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

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

**Spring Birdseed Sale  
Order Form Inside**

If you missed a monthly program or want to view one again, Wachiska Audubon's monthly programs are available on YouTube via the homepage at [www.WachiskaAudubon.org](http://www.WachiskaAudubon.org).

### Donate to Wachiska When Shopping Online

Remember to shop for deals at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon app. Sign up for AmazonSmile and select Wachiska Audubon Society as your preferred charity at [smile.amazon.com/ch/51-0229888](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/51-0229888). Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of the purchase price of eligible purchases to the Wachiska Audubon Society at no cost to you.

***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**.

