



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

JUNE 2023

Volume 32 - Issue 6

Wachiska Program and General Meeting — Thursday, June 8, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also via YouTube link: <https://youtube.com/live/dMlYj6hYGa8>



Trumpeter Swans

by Dr. Mark Vrtiska

Professor of Practice, Wildlife Management

School of Natural Resources, UNL



Trumpeter swans were extirpated from most of North America during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Restoration efforts were initiated in the 1960s at Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge at Martin, South Dakota, near the South Dakota/Nebraska state line. Trumpeter swans in the Sandhills of Nebraska are part of the High Plains flock and are considered a tier-one species in the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project. The High Plains flock has expanded from their range across the Sandhills and continues to grow in number; however, few data are available regarding the biology and ecology for the species in Nebraska.

Trumpeter swans nest and raise young on Sandhills lakes and wetlands. Aerial survey data indicate that they primarily use the Niobrara, Snake, North and Middle Loup and Calamus rivers during winter. However, other areas may be used (e.g., Blue Creek) but have not been documented. Wind and energy projects proposed in the Sandhills may affect trumpeter swan movements and may cause increased mortality via strikes with

power lines or degradation of wintering habitat. Information regarding movements of trumpeter swans within and between wintering sites would provide insights for managers to alleviate impacts of energy development as well as provide information for conservation planning. Recent studies were conducted on nesting trumpeters, using new technology to track movements and habitat use. Studies provided some of the initial information regarding trumpeter swans in Nebraska and have provided some interesting information on these birds. Trumpeter swan populations have also increased across North America, representing another wildlife restoration success.

Dr. Mark Vrtiska is currently professor of practice, wildlife management at the School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Prior to that, he was the waterfowl program manager with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for 20+ years and a regional biologist with Ducks Unlimited, Inc., in Ridgeland, Mississippi. Both past positions as well as his graduate and technician work have taken him across the U.S. and into parts of Canada studying waterfowl. Originally from Beatrice, Nebraska, Vrtiska received his bachelor's degree from UNL, his master's at Eastern Kentucky University, and Ph.D. from Mississippi State. When not working, Mark likes to take his dog Tessie hunting, reading history, watching Cornhusker sports, and interacting with grandkids.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, June 8, at 7:00 p.m.** at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln, 6300 A Street, for this free, public, in-person talk which will also be live-streamed at <https://youtube.com/live/dMlYj6hYGa8>. No registration is needed. The program can also be viewed at a later date. Check Wachiska's website for links to past programs.

NOTE: Due to scheduling conflicts in June, there will not be a wetlands video following the regular program. These popular videos will resume at the July meeting following the picnic.

Calendar

June

- 5 Education/Outreach Committee via Zoom, 6:00 p.m.
- 8 General Meeting, "Trumpeter Swans," by Dr. Mark Vrtiska, 7:00 p.m. in-person, Unitarian Church, and also live-streamed; no registration (see above)
- 12 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 20 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events – Save the Dates

- July 13 Potluck picnic, Unitarian Church, 6:00 p.m. followed by program
- July 29 "Tour the Wild Side," 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Dec. 3 50th Anniversary Celebration, Innovation Campus, details later

Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman

May continued to be a busy month with many activities, including Birdathon. Over 130 bird species were reported this year. Give to Lincoln Day was May 24. Wachiska had a booth in Town Square in downtown Lincoln on that day. We continue to promote Give Nebraska where folks can donate through their employer. Contributions from these events are paramount to our fundraising and our ability to do great work across Southeast Nebraska, so we greatly appreciate everyone's generosity.

The Nebraska Legislature this 90-day session on June 1. Wachiska tracked several pieces of legislation. One of the bills we monitored closely this year was LB814. It was one of the main appropriations bills. It passed on May 18, and the governor signed it with the provision to take \$14M from the Nebraska Environmental Trust and give it to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for their Water Resources Cash Fund. These are funds that should have been distributed via the grant process for environmental projects across the state but that now are in the hands of the DNR for their distribution. LB400, the Pheasant Restoration Act, was rolled into LB425 (Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's bill to adjust fees), that was rolled into LB565 (Nuclear and Hydrogen Development Act) and was passed and signed by the governor. Fortunately, some of the language in LB400 about setting a \$10 bounty on a list of nest predators was eliminated, but it is still unthinkable to consider native predators as less important than an introduced non-native species, the ring-necked pheasant.

Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) notified Wachiska that as their service area continues to grow and energy needs increase, they are making long-term plans. On May 16, OPPD leadership presented a recommendation to the board of directors to tackle this unprecedented growth by adding generation with a mix of renewables, thermal generation, and battery technology totaling nearly 2.5 gigawatts of generation. These additions, along with Power with Purpose, will nearly double OPPD's generation capabilities over the next decade. These recommendations are consistent with their goals for net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The board of directors will vote on the recommendation at their June meeting. Travel safely this summer.

Give To Lincoln Day

A big thank you to all the donors taking part in Give To Lincoln Day during May 1-24. Of the 456 participating nonprofit organizations, Wachiska ended up in 90th place, collecting \$17,978. The entire campaign had 24,110 donors, raising \$7.6M. Watch for a final report next month after the matched allocation has been reported. Thank you once again to everyone who participated in this 12th annual fundraiser for nonprofits.

Education Committee has had a Busy Spring

by Tim Knott, co-chair

Wachiska's education committee participated in two Family Nature Nights this spring. One was held at Weeping Water Elementary School with the other at Saratoga Elementary School in Lincoln. Sponsored by the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, over 100 kids participated each night. The one-hour early evening events allow kids to bring their parents to their school gym to learn and observe new things about nature. Wachiska's exhibit allows kids to search for creatures of the soil such as earth worms, pill bugs, centipedes, and fungi and look at them under the microscope. Other nonprofit organizations show students turtles, lizards, and snakes with lots of nature demonstrations and puzzles.

Our volunteers also presented the Creatures of the Soil activity at Lincoln's Earth Day on Innovation Campus, at the Arbor Day celebration, and at Pioneers Park Nature Center's 60th Anniversary celebration of "Wild Adventures" where hundreds of kids learned some of the basics about nature in Nebraska from many conservation-oriented organizations.

This spring our committee participated in two tree-clearing days at an educational prairie west of Arnold Elementary School in Arnold Heights. We hope to restore this prairie to a more representative example of a true prairie for future students at Arnold. In early May we brought Betsy and Doug Finch of the Raptor Conservation Alliance to Clinton School to show the kids real raptors. A peregrine falcon and a barn owl were exciting and created lots of questions. There, students learned how important, yet vulnerable, raptors are in our state. More activities are being planned on an on-going schedule.

Birdathon Fundraiser is Ongoing

by Tim Knott

Wachiska's annual Birdathon fundraiser is still underway. This major annual fundraiser is vital to our chapter's continuation of numerous nature-related activities for kids and adults.

Members and Friends took advantage of Give to Lincoln Day on May 24 to contribute support for our chapter and all of our programs (update next month after the allocated matched funds have been distributed).

In addition, others have traditionally sent their checks using the return envelope in the Birdathon letter. Even though the letter came out later than usual this year, our chapter still depends on your Birdathon donation. If you haven't participated yet, please contribute this year using the Birdathon return envelope, donate online at our website, or mail or hand-deliver your check even if you no longer have the official envelope. We depend on your donation each year to continue all our activities. Thank you for your continued interest and support!

Bird Species Seen on Birdathon 2023 Weekend

compiled by Ken Reitan

Weather conditions on Birdathon Weekend, May 13 and 14, were mostly favorable for Wachiska's 35th annual bird count. Saturday began cool and cloudy but eventually cleared, bringing nice sunny weather to Lincoln's Wilderness Park. Birders covered two trails on the west side of 14th Street. Many indigo buntings were found along with numerous yellow-throated vireos. Red-bellied woodpeckers were plentiful as well.

At Platte River State Park on Sunday, skies were clear to partly cloudy and calm with little wind. Temperature was 60 - 70 degrees.

Reports are sketchy as to areas covered; however, some additional venues were Pawnee Lake SRA and Memphis Lake SRA. A highlight for John Carlini and Shari Schwartz was spying a piping plover (a threatened species in Nebraska) sitting tight on its nest at the Lyman-Richey Sand and Gravel Company next to Linoma Beach.

The final tally reveals that **136 species** were identified by sight/sound this year. Compare that to previous totals: 2022 - 159; 2021 - 134; 2020 - 151; 2019 - 124; 2018 and 2017 - 148 both years.

Bird species identified during Birdathon 2023 were:

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



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

Wachiska Board Retains its Name

by Theresa Pella, Chapter President
and NAS Board Member

Throughout its 50-year history, the question of what “Wachiska” means has been asked by members, potential donors, partner organizations, and others. The answer was usually “we don’t know for sure.” Research last year pointed to a Native American word that may have something to do with water, possibly an archaic Kanza (Kaw) word that meant small river, stream, or creek. The Kaw were one of the native peoples who came to Wachiska’s region in the past, most likely to hunt and gather plants, possibly to collect salt in the Salt Creek watershed.

In 2022, National Audubon’s board of directors began a thorough evaluation process regarding John James Audubon’s life and whether it should be removed from the organization’s name. This initiative was integral to the organization’s mission to root itself in equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging (EDIB) and the need to interrogate present decisions through the prism of the Audubon that the organization would like to become in the future. The results from an extensive stakeholder engagement by the National Audubon Society revealed five key learnings:

- There are polarizing reactions to either maintaining or changing the Audubon name.
- There are broader needs to improve EDIB regardless of an Audubon naming decision.
- Audubon’s non-partisanship is considered a key asset and perceived to be at risk as a result of a name change.
- Either naming outcome impacts immediate and long-term support differently.
- Current brand equities and trademarks create unique opportunities and challenges in the context of a name change.

The March 15, 2023, National Audubon board decision to keep the name was complex and difficult; the majority of the board voted to retain the name and felt it best allowed Audubon to focus on the mission to protect birds and the places they need.

Likewise, recent Wachiska Board discussions brought forth negative and positive thoughts about changing the chapter’s name. The conclusion was that rather than a negative, keeping “Wachiska” could be a way to honor those ancestral peoples who lived throughout our 17-county region, reminding our membership and others that developing meaningful partnerships with indigenous descendants helps everyone move forward. Also, the Board thought keeping a focus on the chapter’s mission and vision would be the best approach rather than trying to erase “Audubon” from the chapter’s name. The decision does not ignore the person’s history—but a focus on developing relations with today’s many different populations will move us all to a more positive place.

In conclusion, the Board decided our chapter name should remain as Wachiska Audubon Society.

In the Past Half Century

by Ken and Arlys Reitan

(Editor’s Note: Seven years ago Ken Reitan wrote the following newsletter article about Wachiska’s contribution to Wilderness Park. During Wachiska’s 50th anniversary year, we are recalling some of the notable accomplishments of the chapter. The following is one of these.)

Just north of the 14th Street entrance to Wilderness Park south of Southwest High School, a sign was erected on the west side of the road. It listed the names of several organizations, including Wachiska Audubon Society.



That sign is no longer present but once was situated on a 12.19-acre property that was purchased by the City of

Lincoln from the estate of Otis Glebe. The purchase took place in 2004 at a price of \$113,850; Wachiska contributed \$1,400 towards the purchase.

At the time of the *Babbling Brook* article in August 2016, the property was still being farmed, but plans were to convert it to a more natural type of habitat at some point. In attempting to update this article, the Lower Platte South NRD was contacted, but we were unable to obtain any further information. Note in this photo that the property was flooded at the time.



American Robin Eggs

Help Monitor Nesting Birds

from Project FeederWatch eNews, April 5, 2023

If you spot nesting birds, you can submit your observations to NestWatch at Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s free citizen-science projects website focused on breeding birds. Project participants report the location of a nest, the species using it, the number of eggs laid, and other important milestones as the adult birds incubate eggs and raise nestlings.

Participants are invited to report their nest observations on the [NestWatch](https://www.nestwatch.org) website or by using the NestWatch mobile app. It works in remote areas with patchy cellular service or no Wi-Fi, so observations from even the most rural nests can be reported. Learn about the NestWatch app and find out about the project, sign up, and learn how to safely monitor nests on the [NestWatch.org](https://www.nestwatch.org) website.

Composting Demonstration at Pioneers Park

Mark your calendars that on three Saturdays—June 24, September 23, and October 21—Extension Master Gardeners will demonstrate how you can achieve a proper carbon:nitrogen ratio, or “green” materials vs. “brown” materials and show several types of structures that can be built or purchased for composting. You’ll learn how to construct a compost pile. Discussions will include basic troubleshooting if your compost pile is not breaking down as it should. At each session, two random participants will win either a composting bin or a thermometer. Backyard composting of landscape waste, tree leaves and grass clippings, and kitchen scraps such as coffee grounds and eggshells can significantly reduce home waste. Compost can be used in the garden to improve the soil and fertilize plants. All sessions are scheduled for 10:00-11:00 a.m. at Lincoln’s Pioneers Park across from the Nature Center. Look for Extension’s banner.

Birds Tell Us to Act on Climate

by National Audubon Society

On May 11, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a proposed plan to cut climate pollution from coal and natural gas power plants. These climate standards have the potential to slow the rise in global temperatures, improve air quality, and accelerate the transition from fossil fuels to clean electricity. Combined with the buildout of clean energy being accelerated through the historic investments in the Inflation Reduction Act, the plan would help cut climate pollution in half by 2030 and deliver important benefits to birds, people, and the places we all need.

The EPA’s proposal would set strong limits on one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases and one of the largest sources of harmful air pollution impacting the health and wellbeing of communities living near our nation’s power plants. This bold action is a common sense approach to embracing the future of clean energy, and it would be crucial to meeting our climate goals and realizing a healthier future for people and wildlife. Audubon welcomes working with the administration to make sure the strongest possible climate pollution standards are finalized and implemented to benefit birds and communities across the country.

Audubon’s Survival by Degrees report found that two-thirds of North American bird species will be vulnerable to extinction if global temperatures are allowed to rise at the current rate. Adopting forward-looking climate and clean energy policy is critical to reducing pollution, slowing the rise in global temperatures, and preserving the high-quality habitats that birds need to survive. Audubon staff are working to make sure that wind, solar, and transmission infrastructure is built responsibly to minimize and mitigate impacts on birds and other wildlife.

Red Admiral

by Richard Peterson

The red admiral butterfly, *Vanessa atalanta*, (Linnaeus, 1758) is in the Lepidoptera family Nymphalidae and is one of the brush-footed butterflies. It is widely distributed across temperate regions of the world—North Africa to Europe, Asia, the Caribbean, the Americas south to Guatemala, and has been naturalized in Hawaii. After the monarch, this is probably the most recognizable butterfly in North America. Some refer to the red admiral as “unmistakable and unforgettable.”



This medium-sized butterfly has a wingspan range from 1.75 to 2.59 inches. It has predominately black wings with an oblique orange-red vermilion band on each of the front wings with a group of white subapical spots. The underside is partly variegated with blue. There are summer and winter morphs with the summer morph more brightly colored. Males are territorial and perch during the afternoon or they will fly the perimeter of their territory chasing away would-be competitors. Overcast hours or days may alter this pattern. Only males that can successfully guard their territory are successful in courting females. Males court females for several hours before they begin to mate. It's the females who choose whether they mate.

The primary larval food plants are in the family Urticaceae. This includes the common or stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), false nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*), pellitories (*Parietaria*), and hops (*Humulus*). Certain plants in the families Compositae and Cannabaceae may also be used as larval hosts. The eastern comma and the question mark butterflies also feed on nettles.

In the U.S., the red admiral has two broods which occur from March through October. Adults feed on the nectar from a range of plants and on the fluids from fallen, overripe fruit. Adult butterflies also nectar feed on *Buddleia*. If you make a pile of rotting fruit (past-their-prime bananas are a good choice) you can create a feeding site in a sunny location that will attract not only the red admiral but other butterflies and insects. In late fall, however, there is a collective migration south. Some will stay in Texas, but most will keep going. In northern Europe, the red admiral is one of the last butterflies seen before winter sets in. Migration is fueled by high altitude winds.

Overwintering populations south of us search for nettle and other larval food plants and continue breeding. Most of North America must be recolonized each spring by southern migrants from Texas and points south. The new generations arriving back in the spring move north before mating and until nettles are available for the larvae. The red admiral can be seen practically everywhere from forest edges, stream sides and fields, gardens, and city parks.



Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

This column is about a Flight Plan and a Roadmap. The Flight Plan is National Audubon's strategic plan for our organization, as described by CEO Elizabeth Gray. Climate change is right in the center of the "Guiding Star Vision" where it belongs. The plan seeks to "halt and ultimately reverse the precipitous decline of birds across the Americas." Recognizing that climate change is "the single greatest threat to birds and other species," it calls for habitat conservation to protect the migration routes from boreal Canada to the forests of Columbia, as well as swift deployment of carefully sited solar and wind energy generation and transmission. It calls for increasing "public funding in the Farm Bill and elsewhere for resilient habitat protection and natural climate solutions."

Those priorities match nicely with a new series of reports from one of the best science-based authorities on climate: the Drawdown Project. Drawdown collected a library of solutions, <https://drawdown.org/solutions>, but more important, it has now produced a Roadmap, a description of the needed ordering and timing of those solutions.

As Chuck Francis wrote in May's Babbling Brook, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has told us that we have "all the knowledge, tools, and financial resources to achieve climate goals, but after decades of ignoring scientific warnings and delaying climate efforts, the window for action is rapidly closing." Drawdown's roadmap also emphasizes that timing is everything.

A summary video on the web, "The Drawdown Roadmap: A Science Based Framework to Accelerate Climate Solutions" (17 minutes) stresses the importance of the "time value of carbon" which is like the time value of money saved for retirement: early actions matter the most. Climate solutions are cumulative. We need to take action over 30 years—but 75 percent of that work must happen in this first decade, Drawdown finds. About 94 percent is about cutting emissions and only six percent is carbon removal. They compare their projections for success against what philanthropy, business, and government are doing. For example, venture capital is putting 60 percent of its funds into electric cars which is only 13 percent of the problem. Right now, we can—we must—stop deforestation, plug methane leaks, and make gains in energy efficiency while building a low carbon infrastructure.

If you go to drawdown.org/drawdown-roadmap you will find four "units" that are 10 or 20 minutes long. All are worth watching. I can think of at least two practical uses for the Drawdown Roadmap, besides its guidance to philanthropies, banks, businesses, and governments. First, it's an antidote to despair. Second, it is something you can offer to anyone who is a reasonable human being striving to base opinions on facts,

science, and reason. If you do watch the four units, you might think about who you can pass it on to.

"Time is as important as tech," Drawdown says. But see also "Carbon Capture is Hard" by Eric Niiler in The Wall Street Journal 5/12/23 for some difficulties with the leading tech fix.

As Elizabeth Gray says in the video that outlines Audubon's Flight Plan: "Birds are telling us it's time to act. There is no time to lose."

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center's Upcoming Programs

Pollinator-Palooza!

June 20-25

Enjoy free, self-exploratory activities like scavenger hunts along the prairie trails to learn about pollinators. Great outdoor fun for families!

Third Tuesday Bird Outing – Grassland Bird Special

Tuesday, June 20, 7:00-9:00 a.m.

Our June guided bird outing will focus on finding prairie specialty species like Henslow's sparrows, bobolinks, and grasshopper sparrows. We will cover more territory this time, so come prepared for a longer walk than usual and uneven, mowed trails that could be wet. Free admission.

Summer Accessible Bird Outings

Mondays, June 26, July 10, July 17, & August 21

– 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Nebraska's BIRDABILITY captain, Cassandra Dean, will lead these free, low-impact, and accessible birding mornings in and around the picnic area. Accessible birding gear like monoculars, binoculars, and noise canceling headphones will be available to borrow. Outings will be mostly stationary, near bathrooms.

Information on these and other programs can be found at <https://springcreek.audubon.org/events>.

Questions to 402-797-2301; scp@audubon.org.

The Power of Birds: Beacons of Hope

Birds are such a vibrant part of our world. Their colors, songs, and behaviors bring us joy, peace, and wonder. They connect us to the cycles of nature and remind us of the awe-inspiring variety of life on Earth.

People need to celebrate these wonders because we share a love of birds, are amazed by their powers, and even gain solace from them as a deep, clean breath of hope.

Now more than ever we need bird conservation! Half of bird species in the U.S. are declining. One in eight bird species is threatened with extinction worldwide. More species are slipping closer to that point. We must prevent the silence created each time another species is lost forever.

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

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

Congressman Mike Flood

301 S 13th St Ste 100, Lincoln NE 68508 (1st 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 (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: 308-633-6333
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 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: councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln Journal Star

Letters to the editor, 21st and N 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.**

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- ___ \$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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Late or "No-show" Newsletters?

If you don't receive your hard copy newsletter by about the fifth of the month, contact the Wachiska office to have another mailed to you. Those receiving electronic newsletters can check the website if they've missed the emailed link.

Also remember that the monthly general meetings/ programs are held on the second Thursday each month as they've been for 50 years. You can count on that day unless an announcement is made the previous month. If all else fails, call or email the Wachiska office for clarification. Remember you can participate by attending meetings in person or via YouTube. All programs can be viewed at a later date by using the links found in the newsletters and on the Wachiska website.

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/Outreach..... *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

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.



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

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

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**.

