

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 43rd Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2016

MARCH 2016

Volume 25 - Issue 3

General Meeting — Thursday, March 10, 7:00 p.m., Union College Dick Auditorium, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln

Mid-State and the Grassroots Campaign to “Save the Platte” A Look Back and a Look at the Outcome

As March approaches, many of us eagerly make plans for a beloved ritual: the annual pilgrimage to the central Platte River to see sandhill cranes. The Platte River is widely regarded as a state—and national—treasure. So it's strange to think that not so long ago, the Platte's migration spectacle was a little-known phenomenon; one whose existence was in imminent peril.



Doreen Pfost

The Mid-State Reclamation project was an ambitious plan to deliver irrigation water from the Platte River to farms in Buffalo, Hall, and Merrick counties north of the Platte's Big Bend. Congress approved Mid-State in 1967, and it appeared to be just a few hurdles away from becoming a reality.

The problem: The project threatened to dry up the central Platte for most of the year, thus hastening the steady march of trees

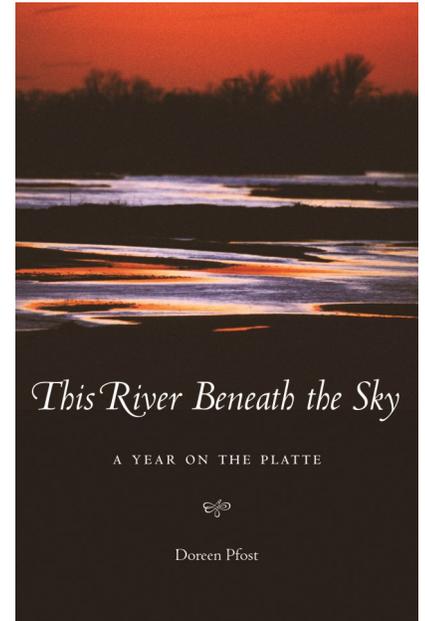
and weeds that were overwhelming the river's channels and habitat. The bigger problem: Almost nobody seemed to care.

At our March meeting, author **Doreen Pfost** will tell the story of Mid-State and the grassroots campaign that opposed the project. Some Wachiska members still recall the Save the Platte Committee, made up of members from Nebraska's fledgling Audubon chapters and other groups. Forty years later, a handful of these ardent workers are Wachiska members yet today.

Pfost, a longtime volunteer and crane-season guide at Rowe Sanctuary, is a nature writer and communication consultant. She is working on a book about the history of Platte River conservation. Her first book, published last month, is *This River Beneath the Sky: A Year on the Platte*. It weaves memoir, natural and human history into a series of essays that follow the Platte through the year's changing seasons. The book will be available for purchase at our March meeting, and Doreen will sign copies; a portion of the proceeds will benefit Wachiska.

Preview the book at <https://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/This-River-Beneath-the-Sky.677033.aspx>.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, March 10, at 7:00 p.m.** for this free public presentation in the Union College Dick Auditorium, 3800 South 48th Street, in Lincoln. Free parking is available on 48th Street and in the church parking lots. Look for Audubon signs on the doors. There is a ramp at the east entrance and an elevator inside. Refreshments will be served after the program.



Calendar

March

- 1 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 6 Field Trip to Pawnee Lake SRA, 10:30 a.m. (page 2)
- 7 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 6:00 p.m.
- 10 General Meeting, “Mid-State and Grassroots Campaign to ‘Save the Platte’,” by Doreen Pfost, Union College, 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 21 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 24 Legislation Committee, DaVinci's, 11th & G, 6:00 p.m.



Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Last Chance for Winter Birds

A hodgepodge of birds gathers in small flocks to forage together and winter in sheltered woods. Join us for a hike along a creek at Pawnee Lake State Recreation Area to see what we can find. Golden-crowned kinglets, brown creepers, yellow-rumped warblers, and even a winter wren could potentially make an appearance. A scan of the lake should reveal any bald eagles and flocks of ducks and geese migrating through the area.

We'll meet at **10:30 a.m.** on **Sunday, March 6**, on the south side of the State Capitol in Lincoln, at 15th and H streets across from the governor's mansion. Anyone preferring to meet at the lake can join the group around 11:00 a.m. on the north side of the lake in the parking lot by the Lakeview Campground entrance booth. Bring a water bottle and binoculars and scope if you have them. Be prepared to hike muddy or snowy trails. State park entry permits are required and day passes are available for \$5/vehicle. The public is welcome. If you have questions, call John at 402-475-7275.

Outcomes of Recent Field Trips

by Shari Schwartz

Esa Jarvi offered interesting and insightful birding tips during two Birding 101 sessions he led in November. Participants received excellent detailed hand-outs with information on various aspects of birding and helpful tidbits for both beginning and intermediate birders. The first four people who signed in received a Kenn Kaufman field guide generously provided by Esa. Our first session was at Pioneers Park where the group was treated to a good view of a Cooper's hawk and the first winter sparrows of the season. A Harris's sparrow also made an appearance and some birders enjoyed seeing a ring-necked pheasant. The second session was held on the following weekend and drew a group of intrepid birders despite frigid winter winds. An adult bald eagle surprised the group as it flew overhead at Oak Lake. We also explored Lincoln's saline wetlands with a brisk walk that allowed us to view large skeins of migrating snow geese.

Our January field trip to see a northern saw-whet owl was unfortunately cancelled because the owl we planned to view was not located on search attempts the previous two days. That may have ultimately worked out for the best because that particular day was reported to have the coldest temperatures of the entire winter season starting out at -13° that morning in Iowa. More recently Don Poggensee reported seeing an owl with a leg band that has since returned to the park. That owl's face looks familiar and we suspect it's "Faithful," an owl seen by our group last winter which was one of several saw-whets banded after our visit.

Court Orders EPA to Finalize Rules so Polluters Pay for their Own Toxic Messes

submitted by Stu Luttich, Chair, Conservation Committee

After decades of delay, "financial assurance" regs will prevent polluters from leaving staggering cleanup cost to the public.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit today ordered the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to stop letting polluters off the financial hook for contamination they have caused. The judges directed the EPA to finalize long-awaited "financial assurance" regulations that will first apply to metal (hard rock) mining and other industries.

The case was brought by Earthjustice, a national nonprofit environmental law firm, on behalf of the Idaho Conservation League, Earthworks, Sierra Club, Amigos Bravos, Great Basin Resource Watch, and Communities for a Better Environment.

The conservation groups asked the federal judges to force the EPA to put into effect so-called financial assurance regulations as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, or CERCLA. The rules were required to have been initiated in 1983 but have languished for decades. "Neighbors living with toxic contamination in their backyards have waited more than 30 years for this day," said Earthjustice attorney Amanda Goodin. "Today's court ruling is clear—we will no longer see polluters cheating the system, evading their financial obligations, and skipping town on their toxic messes, leaving taxpayers stuck with hefty cleanup bills."

The court recognized that, "[I]t is a common practice for operators [of sites that produce hazardous substances] to avoid paying environmental liabilities by declaring bankruptcy or otherwise sheltering assets," and that financial assurance rules would help prevent these polluters from skipping town on their toxic messes.

Run for the Bridges Set for this Month

by Rosina Paolini

The 5th annual Run for the Bridges in Wilderness Park is set for Saturday, March 12, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at First and Park streets in Lincoln. This fundraiser was created to match grant funds to replace and repair the bridges in the park. The bridge that connects the Pioneers Boulevard section to the Old Cheney section was put in place last year. Now the Saltillo bridge section is next. Lincoln Parks and Rec and the Great Plains Trails Network are partners in this endeavor to reconnect the park.

The route will be different: a 10-K and a 1.8-mile distance will be offered due to the continued closure of the southern portion of the park which resulted from last year's flood.

To register to participate in this run, go to getmeregistered.com. Volunteers who can commit two hours are needed, also. For more information, call me at 402-423-1260.

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

The big climate news is, of course, the half-page document the Supreme Court issued which stays the Clean Power Plan (CPP). Issued before the federal appeals court had reviewed the case, it left legal analysts searching for a precedent for issuing a stay on a generally applicable regulation at this stage. None has been found.

The stay implies, but the half page does not state, that the majority do not think the EPA has a strong chance of winning on the merits and that they believe the public interest would not be harmed by delay.

Opponents of the CPP argued that "some of the nation's largest coal companies have declared bankruptcy, due in no small part to this rule." Supporters of the CPP attributed recent hard times for the coal business to the large supply of inexpensive natural gas, lowered prices of wind and solar generation, use of energy efficiency and methods to reduce peak loads, high maintenance costs on old coal plants, and public opinion favoring clean energy.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia will hear the CPP case in June.

Last month we cheered for the court decision stopping enforcement of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's 2013 rule to change permits for unintentional killing of eagles from five to 30 years. National Audubon's website now reports more good news: although the agency initially appealed, it withdrew its appeal in late January, without explanation. Mike Daulton, Audubon's vice president for government relations, said, "It's time to start over and write a rule that will give America's eagles the protections they deserve."

National Audubon's Birds and Climate Change Report <http://climate.audubon.org/> looks at how breeding and wintering ranges may shift and shrink over the next century. Dr. Brooke Bateman from the University of Wisconsin has asked different but related questions: What is causing birds to relocate right now? Where are they moving? Her report was published in December in *Global Change Biology*. Check out this link: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.13154/abstract>. Using data about rainfall, temperature, weather, and other variables by month for every breeding season from 1950 to 2011, Dr. Bateman looked at 285 North American species. She learned birds are moving faster than we had thought, and they're going to unexpected places.

According to National Audubon <https://www.audubon.org/news/the-surprising-way-birds-are-trying-dodge-climate-change> "Previous estimates had breeding ranges shifting by an average of .4 miles a year, but Bateman's work proves that some species

are moving at twice that speed, up to as much as three miles a year. The quickest drifters include meat eaters, insect eaters, and species that forage high up in the canopy or at the bottom of the forest floor (they're probably stalking their prey to new spaces). Birds that are staying put include woodpeckers, hummingbirds, plant eaters, and non-migrants.

The study concludes that "while the majority of the species are flying northward (as predicted), more than a quarter of them are creeping westward—specifically to Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and South Dakota."

Native Plant Expert to Speak

Justin Evertson will be giving a 2:00 p.m., free public presentation on Saturday, March 12, at the 2 Pillars Church on the northwest corner of 15th and South streets in Lincoln. Sponsored by the Friends of Wilderness Park, the program will highlight woody and prairie plant species that attract and sustain biodiversity, including pollinators, right in our own yards.

Evertson says one of the best things we can do to address biodiversity collapse, climate change, plant and animal extinctions, water scarcity, and soil degradation is to plant and celebrate regionally native plants.

Justin Evertson has been involved with the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and the Nebraska Forest Service since 1990. Since 2010, he has been the green infrastructure coordinator for the Community Forestry and Sustainable Landscapes unit of NFS/NSA. Justin oversees programs that provide funding, technical assistance, and landscape enhancements across the state. He has authored numerous publications with an emphasis on woody plants. He earned his architecture and community planning degrees from UNL (1988/92). Growing up on a farm in Kimball County, he learned an appreciation for shortgrass prairie and Nebraska's wide-open spaces. Justin is passionate about trees, native landscape, biodiversity, and sustainable landscape development.

The Friends of Wilderness Park annual native plant sale catalog will be available at the program. For more information, contact Mary at 402-477-8282.

Butterfly Habitat Funds Available

by Arlys Reitan



In a small article in the Lincoln *Journal Star* recently, there appeared an announcement that the Agriculture Department has made available grant money to assist Nebraska farmers in creating suitable habitat for monarch butterflies. Farmers and ranchers can apply for funds from a \$100,000 allotment until March 18. As most Wachiskans realize, monarchs are becoming less common. The majority of our edible plants must have these pollinators for fertilization and reproduction.

Great News for Albatrosses and Petrels

by Mike Daulton, Vice President for Government Relations,
National Audubon Society

Albatrosses and petrels have long been in decline, and some species teeter on the brink of extinction. However, the recently-introduced Albatross and Petrel Conservation Act of 2016 (no bill number yet) could give them a much needed lifeline by reducing the deaths of an estimated 100,000 albatrosses that tragically die each year after being hooked or entangled in fishing gear. Each year one of these birds is killed in this way every five minutes.

These are some of the most endangered and legendary birds on Earth. This legislation has been a longtime priority for Audubon and BirdLife International in order to give these birds a lift as they navigate threats during their epic journeys across oceans and on nesting islands.

Fortunately, many countries came together in 2001 to adopt the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) in order to protect these vulnerable species. For the U.S. to join the Agreement, the Senate must ratify the treaty, and Congress must pass legislation to comply with it. This legislation is a crucial step in the process. It authorizes the U.S. to further address threats such as fisheries bycatch, invasive species, and plastics in the ocean.

You can help by asking Nebraska's U.S. House members (contact info on page 7) to cosponsor this legislation. This can also be done quickly by going to audubonaction.org/ACAP. Help spread the word by asking others to do the same.



Photo by Kiah Walker, USFWS

Wisdom, a 64-year-old Laysan albatross, has returned to her nesting grounds at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge.

Actions to Protect Birds

1. Reduce or eliminate pesticide and herbicide use.
2. Plant native plants.
3. Identify the non-native invasive plants in your area.
4. Attract hummingbirds with sugar water.
5. Make your windows visible to birds to prevent collisions.
6. Let your yard get a little messy!
7. Close your blinds at night and turn off lights you aren't using.
8. Create or protect water sources in your yard.

Build a Nest Box to Welcome Spring Birds

from National Audubon's website

You've seen nest boxes nailed to trees, stuck to the sides of fence posts, and propped up on poles near the edges of ponds. You've probably even watched a livestream of what goes on inside them. But do you know how to make one yourself?

Nest boxes are important for birds because there aren't enough hollows in dead trees, cracks in old buildings, and other natural cavities to accommodate all the birds needing homes. Old trees are cut down to make way for new tree growth or commercial development, and many old, cracked buildings are renovated.

A wide range of bird species seek out hollows to build their nests. In the U.S., nest boxes can be home to water birds like the wood duck and the great blue heron as well as titmice, barn swallows, warblers, bluebirds, and wrens.

There is no one-size-fits-all policy when it comes to nest boxes. Eastern bluebirds, for instance, will go for boxes that face east towards open land, while barn swallows will nest in open boxes set up in sheltered areas close to a mud source. The Cornell Lab's NestWatch program has a handy guide to what kinds of boxes each bird prefers. Their website provides downloadable construction plans and data on what nest boxes are needed most from region to region. It has suggestions on how to keep out invasive species like starlings, including limiting the size of the nest box hole or plugging the hole until nesting time begins.

As for first-time nest box builders, buy or make the right box for the species you want to attract and site the box accordingly. Most importantly, be patient. It can take several years before a nest box is used for the first time.



Photo by Hazel Erikson, NAS Winner

Eastern Bluebird

Worm Composting Systems Benefit Gardens

Earthworms digest organic matter and turn it into rich castings that plants love. To start a worm composting system, fill a worm bin half-full with bedding such as shredded newspaper or leaves mixed with some soil or sand, and then moisten. Bury vegetable scraps, crushed eggshells, or other food (avoid citrus, dairy, meat, bones, onions, and garlic). Add about a pound of earthworms per pound of food matter. Keep the pile moist and replenish the food every week. In a few months the compost will be ready to use. Start soon to get your gardens ready.



From the Board ...

by Elizabeth Nelson, Past President

Wachiska Needs Your Help—PLEASE BECOME A FRIEND so you'll continue to receive this newsletter in your mailbox

Currently, National Audubon Society members in our chapter area receive *Audubon* magazine and Wachiska's newsletter, *The Babbling Brook*. However, last year Wachiska's financial support from National Audubon averaged only \$2.65/membership—far less than it costs to print and mail this monthly eight-page newsletter. Of our 1,200 members, 1,000 are National Audubon members assigned to our 17-county area, and 257 are Friends of Wachiska members. You can choose to be a national member, a local-only Friend member, or both.

The point of this article is to encourage YOU to become a Friend of Wachiska and to explain a policy change regarding *The Babbling Brook*. Over the past several months, Wachiska's finance, membership, and publications committees along with the board of directors, have worked hard to create a balanced, sustainable 2016 budget. Until now, we have been sending printed newsletters to everyone on the membership roster (National and Friends); however, with the increasing cost of printing and postage, this expense has become unsustainable.

To achieve a balanced budget, the Wachiska Board has revised our policies as follows:

- We will continue to offer the newsletter free for anyone to view on our website immediately upon publication or via email to any member requesting it.
- **The newsletter will be MAILED MONTHLY ONLY to Friends of Wachiska members.**
- **The newsletter will be mailed to National Audubon members three times a year.**
- The office administrator's hours have been reduced by 20 percent.
- While maintaining member services including field trips, monthly speaker programs, education and conservation efforts, and advocacy for the protection of the natural world on local, state, and national levels, we need to increase our local fundraising efforts to support office staff and preserve these services.
- Fundraising efforts will be increased through the Birdathon, Give To Lincoln Day, birdseed sales, other fundraisers, increased grant applications, and by encouraging membership in the Friends of Wachiska.
- We are continuing to fundraise for our Prairie Management Fund which will help us carry out our obligations for the management and maintenance of the prairies Wachiska owns and the monitoring and legal defense of the conservation easements we hold.

We thank our many current Friend members for their support, and the many National Audubon members who give generously of their time and monetary support. We hope this change in newsletter delivery is understandable and acceptable given the high cost of production and mailing.

Please become a Friend of Wachiska and receive a printed *Babbling Brook* each month.

When you are a Friend of Wachiska, you will receive *The Babbling Brook* newsletter in your mailbox or via email each month that will support Wachiska's education, outreach, and conservation programs. If you are not already a Friend of Wachiska, we encourage you to use the membership form on page 7 and become a Friend today! Thank you for your continued support of Wachiska Audubon!

Some Lincoln Records

by Richard Peterson

I found the following online, titled *Birds of Nebraska: Newspaper Accounts, 1854-1923*. It is credited to Robert H. Wolcott. 1901. Proceedings of the Nebraska Ornithological Union 2: 99-100.

A male lazuli bunting was shot May 6, 1899, in the timber fringing Salt Creek at a point about two miles south of Lincoln, and the skin is in the collection of the Union.

On April 28, 1900, a female purple finch was secured from the tips of the elms in which it was feeding. The skin is also in the collection of the Union.

A flock of American crossbills was seen daily by Mr. August Eiche feeding in a patch of dead sunflowers near his home in East Lincoln "for several days" previous to September 26, 1898, and they remained in the vicinity all winter. On March 8, 1899, a small flock also made its appearance on the Capitol grounds, feeding on the pine cones of the trees there until May 25, when the writer left the city. They appeared to pair early in May and were usually seen thereafter, a male and a female together. Other flocks were reported during the winter, and on April 6, the timber along Salt Creek south of the city was alive with the birds during the whole day spent in exploring along the creek for a distance of two miles, they were rarely out of sight or hearing.

The turnstone was first seen and collected on the Salt Creek Basin near Lincoln on May 16, 1895. Since then it has been noted on the following dates: May 25, 1895; May 23, 1896; April 30, 1898; May 22, 1899; May 10, 1900. It has not so far been seen in the Fall.

On the 29th of June 1900, Mr. J. S. Hinter and the writer visited Salt Lake and the "sloughs" near it, west of Lincoln, and observed the following species: one ruddy duck on the lake, probably a crippled bird; a male spoonbill, the mate of which



Hooded Merganser

was doubtless on her nest in the vicinity; a flock of six hooded mergansers, which arose from the lake and flew close over our heads; three yellow-legs on the shore of the lake; a gull, without much doubt the ring-billed, flying over the water; two Baird's sandpipers, about a pond on the "slough"; and a flock of yellow-headed blackbirds at the same place. Of all these, only the spoonbill and blue-winged teal have ever been known to breed here, though it is possible the yellow-headed blackbird does so in the vicinity, and that the mergansers raised their young here this season.

The "American crossbill," "turnstone," and "spoonbill" are all a long way from their home today assuming there has not been a name change in the ensuing years. Although we have a modern checklist of Lancaster County birds, wouldn't it be interesting to have a checklist of those encountered in Lincoln in 1900?

Wachiska Receives Environmental Recognition

by Arlys Reitan

In mid-February, Wachiska received a note along with a check for \$420 from Jeff McPeak, representing Olsson Associates in Lincoln. It read: "On behalf of the Olsson Associates' environmental team, I am pleased to make this donation to your organization. We are donating to celebrate our 60-year anniversary. The funds are the result of a[n] initial company donation matched by personal donations from our team. Your organization was selected by a popular vote of the environmental team members." Sincerely, Jeff McPeak

Aluminum Can Recycling During 2015

by Arlys Reitan

For the past several years Wachiska members have dutifully recycled their aluminum cans at A-Can Recycling Center on South 10th Street and requested the funds be added to the chapter's account. While there were times when this was almost a lucrative activity, times have changed at this point—but we have always been confident that we were doing the right thing. This is still the feeling during times when aluminum recycling payments are at a low point; thus, our annual check was for \$35 this time compared to over three times that much in past years.

So keep taking those cans in because they still take the same amount of space in the landfill no matter what the going price is! Thanks very much to our members who continue to help in this way—keeping cans out of the landfill and bringing in a few dollars to the Wachiska coffers. Continued appreciation to Connie and Ben Dahlberg at A-Can Recycling for maintaining our account there.

New Friends of Wachiska

Recently John & Martha Eischeid, Keith & Shelly Forney, and Valeree Krueger have become Friends of Wachiska. Check the article on page 5 and the membership form on page 7 to become familiar with how you can join this growing group. Thanks to everyone for your continued support.

Gift Received Memorializing Bird Watcher

Administrators of Wachiska Audubon Society:

"The enclosed check is a memorial for my father, Robert Brehm. Dad and Mom loved watching birds on their acreage. [This memorial] is from my husband's law firm of McHenry, Haszard, Roth, Hupp, Burkholder & Blomenberg, PC. Thanks for all the great work you do!"

Regards, Laurie Brehm Haszard

Public Officials

President Barack Obama

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

Senator Ben Sasse

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

Senator Deb Fischer

440 N 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 Brad Ashford (2nd District)

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

Congressman Adrian Smith (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 Pete Ricketts

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

State Senator _____

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

State Capitol Switchboard

402-471-2311

Lancaster County Commissioners

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

Mayor 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

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 _____

E-mail _____

- ___ \$25 Individual/Friend
- ___ \$35 Family Friend
- ___ \$50 Black-capped Chickadee Friend
- ___ \$100 Northern Cardinal Friend
- ___ \$250 Western Meadowlark Friend
- ___ \$500 Bald Eagle Friend
- ___ \$1000 Peregrine Falcon Friend

Select the level of support that is right for you and make your check payable to **Wachiska Audubon Society**. All funds 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

___ 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 monthly newsletter each month. If you wish to join NAS or receive *Audubon* magazine, please contact National Audubon Society directly.



American Goldfinch family

Members Recycle Cans for Wachiska

Thanks to all Wachiska members and friends who are recycling aluminum cans at A-Can Recycling Center, 3255 South 10th Street, in Lincoln.

Owners Ben and Connie Dahlberg have set up an account for Wachiska whereby anyone can bring in their cans and specify that the proceeds should be credited to the Wachiska Audubon account.

Stop in Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday, 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Call the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846 if you have questions.

Cranes are Here!

Word has it that the sandhill cranes and migratory geese are arriving on the Platte River now. Contact Rowe Sanctuary for reservations to view the birds from Audubon's blinds right on the river, 308-468-5282.



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WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2016

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Director at Large	*Roxanne Smith	402-477-1319
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	*Tim Knott	402-483-5656
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	*Ken Reitan	402-423-3540
Hospitality	Cheryl Moncure	402-488-0036
Legislation	Bruce Kennedy (Malcolm)	402-796-2114
	*Sam Truax	402-325-9012
Membership	Joyce Vannier	402-570-8469
	*Lana Novak	402-475-8693
Monthly Programs/General Meetings	Arlys Reitan	WAS office 402-486-4846
Newsletter Editor	Arlys Reitan	WAS office 402-486-4846
Population/Environment	*Colleen Babcock	308-850-0445
Publicity/Public Relations	Jeanne Kern	402-423-0428

*Denotes Board member

OTHER ASSOCIATES

Bird Questions	Kevin Poague	402-797-2301
Facebook Coordinator	Benjamin Vogt	402-499-5851
NAS Regional Board Member	Michele Crist (Boise, ID)	208-863-1918
Newsletter Layout	Linda Sullivan	402-580-8515
Raptor Recovery	Betsy Finch (Elmwood)	402-994-2009
Executive Director Audubon Nebraska	Marian Langan	402-797-2301
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Director	Glynnis Collins	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. Posts change daily—and even more often when excitement arises. Offerings of recent sightings, questions, and new photos are all welcome.

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

A Gift to the Future

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