



**Wachiska**  
Audubon Society

*Wachiska Audubon Society's vision:  
To share the experience and love for nature—and help protect its diversity*

# The Babbling Brook

*Our 53<sup>rd</sup> Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2026*

**FEBRUARY 2026**

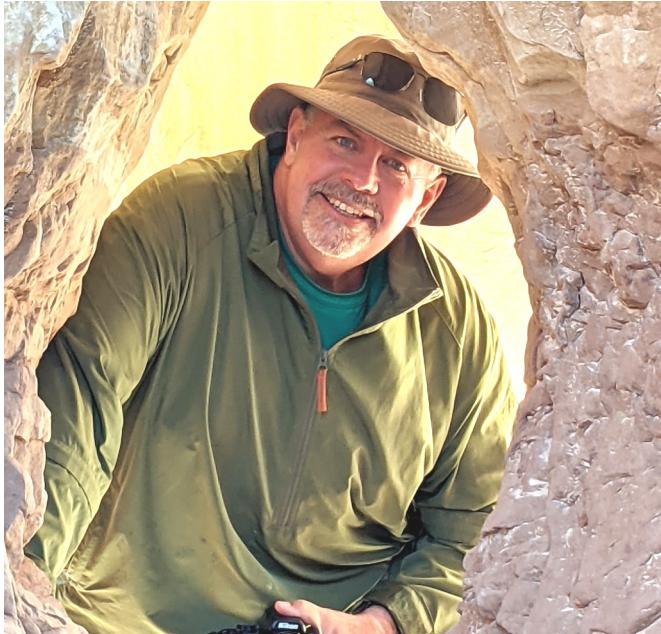
**Volume 35 - Issue 2**

**Wachiska Program and General Meeting — Thursday, February 12, 7:00 PM, Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also via YouTube link: <https://youtube.com/live/mMH5RAY1xXw?feature=share>**

## THE BEST OF INTENTIONS: A Visit with Author Larkin Powell

**L**arkin Powell grew up on a small farm in southern Iowa. His work on the nature staff at the Iowa 4H Camp in college led him away from a pre-vet program and toward graduate school in wildlife ecology and management. He attended Graceland College, Iowa State University, and University of Georgia. His wife, Kelly, and son, Tristan, moved to Lincoln in 2001. Kelly has an MS in animal ecology and is an adjunct professor in the School of Natural Resources. Larkin is Director for the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The program has 85 faculty with expertise in climate, water, soils, and biodiversity in working landscapes.

As professor of conservation biology and animal ecology in the School, Larkin taught undergraduate and graduate courses on wildlife management and research, and his research program focused on landscape dynamics, animal demography and movements, and decisions made by private landowners in the Great Plains and throughout the world. He's a Fellow of the Wildlife Society, and author of eight books including *The Best*



Larkin Powell

*of Intentions: A Story of Landscape Change in the Heart of the Great Plains*, released in 2026. In *The Best of Intentions*, Larkin Powell blends historical photographs, personal narratives, and decades of ecological research to reveal how Nebraska's working landscapes have been transformed through time — and what that means for our future. His book explores the delicate balance between agricultural productivity, rural community vitality, and the conservation of grasslands, wetlands, and wildlife. Powell focuses on three themes: ethics and how we use our land, 'conductors'—socioeconomic forces that orchestrate change on

the landscape, and environmental designs which shape landscapes that work for all.

Join Wachiska Thursday, February 12, 7:00 PM, at the Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street or stream live: <https://youtube.com/live/mMH5RAY1xXw?feature=share>

### WACHISKA'S FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 2 Education Committee: 6PM ZOOM**
- 9 Conservation Committee: 6:30PM ZOOM**
- 12 General Meeting: Larkin Powell 7PM, UU Church**
- 14 ONLINE BIRDSEED SALE OPENS (WEB ONLY)**
- 15 Newsletter Deadline: NOON**
- 17 Board Meeting: 7PM**

### Job Posting For Education Coordinator

#### Prairie Pines Partners

Are you an educator looking to share nature and make a difference in a non-profit organization, or do you know someone who is? Do you enjoy spending time outdoors with various groups of people? Do you enjoy planning nature-based programming, events, and working with volunteers?

**Prairie Pines Partners is seeking a part time education coordinator at the Prairie Pines Nature Preserve.**

Contact [sue@prairiepines.org](mailto:sue@prairiepines.org) for questions, job description and application.

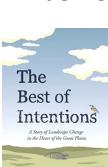
# Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman

The New Year is underway, the weather has been mild, and the snowfall has been light. But sometimes those Nebraska February and March storms can make up for snowfall in a hurry. We continue to have many visitors stopping by Prairie Pines, and many are first-timers and they can't believe they had never heard of Prairie Pines.

Everyone enjoys walking on the many trails and the kids always love the ninja course. Our feeders and heated bird bath continue to be a hit with the birds and squirrels and provide much entertainment. *We'd love to hear some of your favorite stories about experiences you've had through Wachiska. Please send a paragraph or two to our office email by February 10th: office@wachiskaudubon.org.*

Last month we had a great talk from Adam Hintz, the Director of Friends of Wilderness Park. Adam had several Friends of Wilderness Park in the audience and many Wachiska members

 are also members of that organization, including myself. There are many things our two organizations have in common, and we will continue to work together. This month, Dr. Larkin Powell from UNL will be our speaker; highlighting his new book, *The Best of Intentions: A Story of Landscape Change in the Heart of the Great Plains*. Larkin is always entertaining and I hope you can make it to the talk or join us online.

Our **BIRDSEED SALE FUNDRAISER** goes **LIVE** at our [online shop](#)

**FEBRUARY 14TH! [WACHISKAUDUBON.ORG/SHOP](http://WACHISKAUDUBON.ORG/SHOP)**

If you're uncomfortable ordering online, our paper order forms will be in the March newsletter! **Pick up will be March 20-21st.** Finally, there are two legislative developments. **LR158** on the Niobrara River, appears to be on hold, while **LR298CA**, to protect the Nebraska Environmental Trust, is something for all of us to get behind. Be sure and get out and enjoy Prairie Pines or one of the other nine prairies. Maybe make it a goal to visit all 10 of Wachiska's prairies this year!



Adam Hintz /Wachiska Speaker Series.



Friends of Wachiska.



Executive Director  
Mark Brohman

# 2026 LEGISLATIVE WATCH

by Mark Brohman

The 109th Legislative session began January 7th. This is a 60-day second session, ending mid-April. There are several bills carried over from last session, and I'll continue monitoring them. The Speaker indicated any carry-over bills will need to be prioritized to get floor time during this session and they will concentrate on the budget shortfall.

All of the carry-over bills we are monitoring, except **LB663**, are in committee. Some parts of these bills were incorporated into other bills last session.

I will monitor these carryover bills: **23, 121, 137, 145, 163, 484, 540, 638, 652, 663, 673, 674, and 695.** I'll monitor **LR22CA**, a proposed Constitutional Amendment to provide the right to a clean and healthy natural environment, and **LR28CA**, that eliminates the Board of Educational Lands and Funds.

In regards to the Niobrara River, I'm monitoring **LR158** that was an interim study to examine the feasibility of the State assuming the administration of the 76-mile stretch of the Niobrara River designated as a national scenic river and to turn management over from the National Parks Service to the NRD, the Niobrara Council, and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Senator Storer cancelled the interim study hearing and has stated she will not introduce a bill this session, but will collect information and could introduce a bill next session.

The legislation to be watching very close, is **LR298CA**. This is a Constitutional Amendment by Senator Brandt, chairman of the Natural Resources Committee that will protect the Nebraska Environmental Trust by requiring all funds be allocated through their grant process. This would prevent future raids of the NET or State agencies being given NET funds without applying for them through the grant process.

**THESE ARE NEW BILLS TO WATCH IN 2026: LB1072: The governor's budget bill which involves taking \$40.7 million dollars from the Nebraska Environmental Trust. LB759, LB760, LB761, LB770, LB794, LB807, LB823, LB827, LB897, LB916, LB947, LB1003, LB1010, LB1026, LB1027, LB1028**

**TO FOLLOW ALONG AND LEARN MORE, PLEASE GO TO THE OFFICIAL SITE OF THE NEBRASKA UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE:**

**[HTTPS://NEBRASKALEGISLATURE.GOV](https://nebraskalegislature.gov)**

*Wachiska Audubon's Executive Director, Mark Brohman, monitors legislation, along with many other groups, to keep Friends of Wachiska informed on environmental legislation.*

*For up-to-date daily changes be sure to check out the Nebraska legislature site link (above) or follow us on Facebook at: WACHISKA AUDUBON SOCIETY.*



## Protecting Our Prairies Spotlight: KLAPKA-MENDENHALL PRAIRIE

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By Elizabeth Nelson  
*Past President*

Wachiska is continually, literally every month of every year, working on protecting prairies! A lot of this work is completed by a handful of very dedicated people and can easily go unnoticed. Here's a bit about recent projects completed on our largest prairie, the Klapka-Mendenhall Prairie.

The Klapka-Mendenhall Prairie is the largest piece of land owned by Wachiska Audubon. Donated to Wachiska in 2003, the 400 acre property in Pawnee County was originally half native prairie and half cropland. Now, 20 years later, after hundreds of hours of work by volunteers, the entire property is native and restored prairie grassland. For many years this heartfelt effort was led by the dedication of Arnold Mendenhall, who passed away May 18, 2024.



Eastern Bluebird

The Wachiska Audubon Prairie Conservation and Management Committee (*formerly Conservation Committee*) has developed conservation and habitat improvement plans to guide the management of all the prairies Wachiska owns or holds conservation agreements on.



Klapka-Mendenhall Prairie

On Klapka-Mendenhall Prairie, we use grazing as part of our prairie habitat management processes. In the past several years we have replaced nearly four miles of fencing, installed new gates, replaced seven water tanks, and built two

permanent livestock corrals. This work has been supported by grants from the Nebraska Environmental Trust and Nebraska Game and Parks. This allows us to strategically manage the prairie while earning income from grazing and haying rights, which pays the property taxes, a considerable annual expense.



Seven new livestock watering tanks have been installed at Klapka-Mendenhall Prairie.



This past summer, the nearly 350-foot-long dam which prevents drainage erosion was repaired and reinforced, then reseeded with native seed.

Additionally, we are continually monitoring and treating the prairie to control invasive species. Brome grass, Eastern Red Cedar trees, and other invasives are running rampant on prairies from Texas to Canada. It takes diligence and a lot of work to keep our prairies functioning as important habitats for a wide variety of birds, flora, and other fauna. Swallowtail butterflies, Prairie Violets and Bluebirds are among the many who make the prairie their homes.



Wachiska member, Stu Luttich, inspects new gates and fencing at Klapka-Mendenhall Prairie.

## THE GREAT RESCUE OF THE LITTLE COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD

Last fall a Costa's hummingbird was found living outside the Lincoln, Nebraska residence of Jennifer Munson. As winter approached, a call between Nebraska Wildlife Rehab Executive Director, Laura Stastny, and Julia Lehman at Southern Arizona Hummingbird Rescue set a remarkable rescue in motion: to bring the little hummingbird that Jennifer had named "Bob" to warmer weather in Tucson, Arizona.

By week's end, Bob was free in the Arizona desert. How Bob found his way to Nebraska may remain a mystery, but the kindness that carried him home is not.

*The following is a letter of appreciation from Lincoln resident, Jennifer Munson, to the wildlife rescuers in Arizona and Nebraska, after they helped save the young Costa's hummingbird. This letter from Nebraska was originally printed in the Tucson.com news edition.*

Hello, Julia!  
My name is Jennifer. I wanted to reach out to you and convey my deepest, heartfelt thanks to you for taking in Bob, my little housemate for the last two months. His presence was one of the few things that made me feel a sliver of happiness during the darkest days of

my life. I feel the need to tell you a story that will likely make me sound like a lunatic, but I'm going to tell it anyway.

For years, I have planted almost exclusively for pollinators and hummingbirds. My grandmother adored hummingbirds, and I've kept trinkets and things related to them since she passed to soothe the way life feels without her.

Here in Nebraska, I help run a small (domesticated) 501c3 animal rescue. We take in dogs, cats, maybe some finches, the occasional pig, etc. What I'm getting at is that hummingbirds were well outside my wheelhouse.

When Bob showed up at the beginning of October, hanging around the canna lily jungle that was growing feral in my garden, I didn't realize he was in trouble. I have a decent amount of (ruby-throated hummingbirds) that come to see me during late summer, and I assumed he was one of their aging members, given his coloration. To reiterate: I knew absolutely nothing about hummingbirds!

He would perch in the towering lilies and watch me sit, maybe



Photo of "Bob" by Kirill Belashchenko

pull a weed. I didn't have much energy for gardening this year. My dad died unexpectedly (on April 15), and the plants I had in the ground prior to his passing were on their own. I didn't have the energy to live, much less maintain a garden. Everything was left to its own devices, and despite my neglect, it somehow flourished.

After Bob had hung around a few weeks, and I had seen none of his compatriots, I snapped a photo of him and sent it to a friend of mine, Dina Barta, who shares my interest in plants and hummingbirds. She also happens to be a game warden, fresh into retirement, who urged me to reach out to (Nebraska) Game and Parks about my little friend, stating that he may be quite significant.

I did so, and a nice man came to my house with a camera that you would typically see on the sidelines of a major sporting event. He confirmed my little visitor was, in fact, the fourth ever recorded Costa's hummingbird in Nebraska history.

That gentleman asked if it would be okay if he told his associates about the little bird at my place, and of course, I said that was fine. The bird by no means belonged to me, and if he was as rare as they said he was, other folks deserved to be happy in his presence, too.

Over the next several weeks, throngs of birders descended upon my house, some traveling from states away. They camped on my porch in the cold and drank coffee and watched the little bird at the feeder. So many people commented on how charismatic he was and how much personality he had. You couldn't ignore it; the guy was really special.

I kept thinking he would get the memo that the days were shortening, growing colder, and winter was descending upon the place he decided was home. I thought maybe the crowds would drive him away, but none of those things spooked him. Day in and day out, he stayed at my house, the maple out front, or in the old robin's nest on my pillar out front that has housed many birds over the years, but none so small.

I would sit on the porch when the birders were gone, and it was just he and I again, and he would sing away, healing my heart. At home, we jokingly started referring to him as Bob, like the sportscaster Bob Costas, and the name stuck.



Photo of "Bob"  
by  
Kirill Belashchenko



Photo of "Bob" by Dina Barta

He brought me so much joy — joy that quickly turned to concern when our first hard freeze struck. All his beloved cannas died. I did my best to cover the salvia I planted at the beginning of the season, but you can't cover up 14 degrees. I saw Bob once that frigid morning and not again the rest of the day. At this point, I knew if he didn't eat within hours that he would die. I watched all day at the windows to see if he visited the feeder. He did not. I was so freaking sad.

I left that afternoon, about 3 p.m., and thought I heard him singing at me. "Wishful thinking," I said to myself. I moped the rest of the day and went to bed feeling heavy.



**Photo of "Bob" by Judson Buescher**

Now, I'm not trying to proselytize you or anything of the sort. But that night, I had a dream. I was talking to my dad. His voice was crystal clear: *"What did you think of the bird?"*

It took me a few to respond as I was flabbergasted. "... you gotta be s-----g me, dad." He chuckled. Dad was never a bird guy, but he was the kind of guy that raised daughters that knew to name a bird after a sportscaster. "I think that bird, like you, is dead as a door nail. I failed him, too."

"Why do you think that?"

"Just the way this year is going, dad. I tried to catch him and I failed. He probably froze."

"Jenny, will you never learn that not everything needs your intervention to survive?"

I bolted awake, and felt somehow reassured? Maybe he flew south? But in my heart, I knew that wasn't possible. He was trapped at my house, to my feeders. There was nothing left after the cold shot to support him on any journey away from here.

That morning, I was at work when my dear friend, Dina, the retired game warden, called me at work. She had the intuition to come by my house and look out for him, just to be sure he was gone. I answered the phone, and she said "You gotta get here quick. Bob's here, and he's panicking. All the feeders are iced over."

I made up a lie and told my co-workers that I had to run to my daughter's school, but instead I came home and immediately started thawing out one of the feeders while simultaneously mixing up some warm hummingbird soup, heavy on the sugar.

I had just got the feeder loaded and was walking out the front door with it when Bob started working that feeder while it was still in my hands. Clearly, he was in a crisis.

I knew at that point that, contrary to the last conversation I had with my dad in my dream, not everything requires my intervention, but by God, one more time, at no surprise to my Pops, I was not going to listen to Dad. I knew that we were the only thing that little bird had. The freeze had been so deep and overwhelming throughout the Midwest that there were no resources to support Bob on any flight out of here. My restaurant was the last one open. And I knew that the situation was only going to get more dire as the cold inevitably got worse.

We got really serious about Bob at that point. I tried everything I could conjure up to bring Bob in and end his struggle in the elements he was not built to survive. The biggest problem was my work schedule. I was gone before daybreak, making it impossible for me to get around him in the early morning hours when he was a sure shot to arrive. Freshly retired Dina did not have those same scheduling (issues). After I spent another unsuccessful weekend trying to help him, Dina came by my house again the following Monday morning. And Dina hit paydirt.

Again, she called me at work, but this time, she had Bob! I cried into the phone from the pit of my soul. I cried from a part of me that I thought died along with my dad. Suddenly, I felt things that I had not felt since April 15. I felt joy. I felt hope. I felt purpose. And that leads me to why I am writing you this novel now.

I'm not sure if this is the case for wildlife rescue, but it is certainly the case for domesticated animal rescue: The human element in these operations is often glossed over. Many times, we don't take into account the significant, often life-altering impact the animals we save have on the people around us as they live on.

You have had that profound impact on me, Julia.

You, Laura, Dina — all of you incredible women

out there saving animals are sometimes saving people, too, without even knowing it. You made the worst year of my life bearable. You have helped me overcome feelings of despair that I did not think I could survive. I am forever indebted to you for taking care of my tiny friend and saving my spirit at the same time. ~Jennifer Munson



**Photo of "Bob" after arriving in Tucson.**

**By Julie Lehman of Southern Arizona Hummingbird Rescue**

**MEMBERSHIP VOTE FORTHCOMING**  
**Wachiska Audubon Society Constitution**  
**and Bylaws Updates**  
**by**  
***Theresa Pella, Board President***

The Board recently completed its biannual review of the Constitution and Bylaws and now turns to membership for your input.

You may access both the 2022 version and the 2025 version on Wachiska's homepage – [www.wachiskaaudubon.org](http://www.wachiskaaudubon.org). If you'd prefer a hard copy, call (402-486-4846) or email the office: [office@wachiskaaudubon.org](mailto:office@wachiskaaudubon.org).

Membership action is tentatively scheduled for the February 12th general meeting. If you have any questions or comments about the edits, please email me at [pella\\_t@yahoo.com](mailto:pella_t@yahoo.com).

An explanation of the revisions follows:

**CONSTITUTION**

\*The purpose of the chapter and its relationship to the National Audubon Society was clarified.

\*The chapter vision was added and reads – Wachiska Audubon Society's vision is to share the experience and love for nature and help protect its diversity.

\*In the event the chapter is dissolved, dispersion of assets was clarified.

**BYLAWS**

\*The election of officers and directors will still take place at the November general meeting. An annual meeting will be held in March to allow for a full and accurate report out of the previous year's fiscal year activities and financials (Jan – Dec).

\*Wachiska is now under contract with a CPA firm so duties of the treasurer and responsibilities for the annual budget were clarified. The Finance Committee's authority was clarified to include oversight of the investment accounts.

\*The authority of the Prairie Conservation Management Committee was clarified.

\*The purpose of the Membership Committee was updated.

\*The Nominating Committee will be replaced by a Nominating and Governance Committee to assist the board in identifying best practices, improve the nominating process, and participate in oversight of executive director performance.

**AUDUBON CHAPTER  
ENGAGEMENT SURVEY**

Wachiska Audubon Society is independent yet affiliated with the National Audubon Society. This means total autonomy at the local level allows us to have a greater impact where we live, but the relationship with National connects the Chapter to a larger movement to protect birds and the places they need.

**LINK TO SURVEY:**

[https://audubonresearch.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5tkdE06jEAa1CyG](https://audubonresearch.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5tkdE06jEAa1CyG)

**OR:**



Scan this QR code to take the survey!

The survey should take ~15 minutes to complete

Community Building is an important focus area in National's current strategic plan. With over 400 local chapters and 100 campus chapters, they are trying to learn about chapter needs, starting with a short survey (10-minute). The survey is intended to capture the experiences of chapter leaders, staff, members, volunteers, and other participants. If you are reading this, you are encouraged to complete the survey – please!

If you select Wachiska Audubon Society at the end of the survey (not mandatory) your input will be combined with others in an anonymous and generalized manner that can be helpful to the chapter as we try to better serve our community.

Wachiska's Board values everyone's voice and this is an easy way to obtain input without duplicating efforts. Your insights will help improve programs, boost engagement, and make our chapter a stronger one. Thank you for taking the time!



**Wachiska Audubon's Monthly Speaker Series.**  
**Second Thursday each month, 7PM at The Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street. Free and open to the public.**

## Public Officials

### President Donald Trump

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 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>

### Senator Pete Ricketts

1248 O St Ste 1000, 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>

### Congressman Mike Flood (1st District)

301 S 13<sup>th</sup> St Ste 100, Lincoln NE 68508  
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: 308-633-6335  
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-6435 Fax: 202-225-0207  
E-mail at website: <http://adriansmith.house.gov>

### Capitol Hill Switchboard

888-436-8427 or 202-224-3121

### Governor 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  
3100 N 112th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68527



Eastern Meadowlark

### 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:

**3100 N 112th St, Lincoln NE 68527.**

### **Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, Nebraska.**

Send address changes, newsletter submissions and requests to our office of publication, listed above. You may also email: [office@wachiskaudubon.org](mailto:office@wachiskaudubon.org)



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

## REMEMBERING WACHISKA'S HISTORY

Wachiska means “stream” or “creek” in the languages of Indigenous people of eastern Nebraska, the Omaha and Ponca.

The environmental stewardship efforts of the Wachiska Audubon Society take place on the past, present, and future homelands of the Pawnee, Ponca, Otoe-Missouria, and Omaha Peoples, as well as those of the relocated Ho-Chunk, Sac and Fox, and Ioway. We humbly join our efforts with theirs in honoring and stewarding this land of prairies, rivers, and streams.

## WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2025

Executive Director ..... Mark Brohman  
Office Administrator ..... WJ Bantam

## OFFICERS

OFFICERS  
President ..... \*Theresa Pella  
Vice President ..... \*Ann Briggs  
Secretary ..... \*April Stevenson  
Treasurer/Finance ..... \*Carol Bodeen

## **STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS**

Director at Large .....	*Dakota Altman
Director at Large .....	*Andrea Faas
Director at Large .....	*Al Davis
Director at Large .....	*Ethan Freese
Director at Large .....	*Nancy Bare
Director at Large .....	*Tom Lynch
Director at Large .....	*Roxanne Smith
Director at Large .....	*Alyx Knight
Conservation .....	*Ross Scott
Education/Outreach.....	*Tim Knott
Membership .....	Linda Brown

**\*Denotes voting Board member**

For contact information of officers and committee chairs, call or email the Wachiska office.

## **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**

3100 N 112th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68527  
402-486-4846  
[office@WachiskaAudubon.org](mailto:office@WachiskaAudubon.org)  
[www.WachiskaAudubon.org](http://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](http://www.WachiskaAudubon.org).

# Wish List for Wachiska at Prairie Pines

- \*We would like sound equipment so we can better host speakers and performers for community outdoor events. We need microphones, microphone stands, a portable PA system, speakers and stands, instrument cables with 1/4 inch jack, XLR cables (for microphones).
- \*We need help from an electrician to update main outlet in the Quonset building.
- \*We need hands-on help organizing our basement storage to access it easily. Please call Mark Brohman if you'd like to set up a time to help! 402.525.1504

*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**.



Our events are listed on our Facebook page, along with weekly updates and news! Stay current and follow us on FACEBOOK at: Wachiska Audubon!