



Wachiska
Audubon Society

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 45th Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2018

JUNE 2018

Volume 27 - Issue 6

General Meeting and Program — Thursday, June 14, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, Lincoln

An Introduction to and Anecdotes from *Birds of Nebraska – Online*

by Joel Jorgensen and Ross Silcock

NEbraska has a rich history of bird study over two centuries. Periodically, individuals have attempted to synthesize all existing available information about Nebraska's birds and their distribution and temporal occurrence to provide it in a format that was usable and informative. Previously, those efforts would result in a hard-copy publication, but since the observation of birds is never-ending, those publications immediately become dated.

Here, with the *Birds of Nebraska - Online*, we are providing a traditional state bird reference in an open-access format on an online platform with stand-alone species accounts that we intend to update periodically. This general format is similar to the *Birds of North America Online*, but without a subscription fee. We believe the accessibility, flexibility, and efficiency of this format greatly outweigh any shortcomings. *Birds of Nebraska - Online* is a complete revision of our previous work, *Birds of Nebraska: Their Distribution and Temporal Occurrence* that was co-authored with the late Roger S. Sharpe and published by the University of Nebraska Press in 2001. In this talk, we will provide an overview of the project and provide some interesting tidbits.



BIRDS OF NEBRASKA - ONLINE

<https://birds.outdoornebraska.gov/>



Yellow-headed Blackbird

Ross Silcock, a retired insurance agent, resides in Tabor, Iowa. He is a member of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union records committee, co-editor with Joseph Grzybowski, of the *Southern Great Plains Region of North American Birds*, and an eBird regional reviewer who has compiled seasonal reports for Nebraska Bird Review since 1992. Ross is a New Zealander by birth, now a U.S. citizen, and has frequently operated birding trips to New Zealand. He holds a PhD in applied biochemistry from Penn State University's Food Science and Biotechnology Department.

Joel Jorgensen lives in Lincoln and is currently the nongame bird program manager for Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. In this position, which he has held since 2006, Joel works on an array of monitoring, research, regulatory, and conservation issues focused on nongame birds. He is the current president of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, state coordinator for the Breeding Bird Survey, and an eBird regional reviewer who organizes two annual Christmas Bird Counts. Joel was born and raised in Blair and attended the University of Nebraska - Omaha as an undergraduate and graduate student. For his Master's research, Joel studied the migration ecology of the buff-breasted sandpipers in the Rainwater Basin of Nebraska.

Join Wachiska Audubon to learn more from these seasoned birders at our monthly general meeting on **Thursday, June 14**, at **7:00 p.m.** at Lincoln's Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, where there is ample parking and easy access to the building with no steps. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Calendar

June

- 4 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 6:00 p.m.
- 10 Field Trip to Waubonsie State Park in Iowa, near Nebraska City (page 2)
- 11 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 14 General Meeting, "Birds of Nebraska - Online," by Joel Jorgensen & Ross Silcock, Unitarian Church, 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 17 **29th annual Backyard Garden Tour, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (pages 4-5)**
- 19 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 30 Fertig Prairie Open House, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. (page 2)



Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Waubonsie Walkabout

Nothing beats the reprieve of a big shady forest for birding in the summertime.

Waubonsie State Park's forest encompasses the uniquely diverse flora and fauna of Iowa's Loess Hills and is just an hour's drive from

the east edge of Lincoln. Dozens of Loess Hills's plant and animal species are of special interest because they are either eastern species on the western edge of their range, western species on the eastern end of their range, or are rare and protected. The hilly forests provide a home for eastern species such as paw paw trees, zebra swallowtail butterflies, ovenbirds, and broad-winged hawks. The steep hills also produce emergent freshwater seep streams hosting terrestrial communities of uncommon associated species, including mosses and Louisiana waterthrushes, that previously have not been properly inventoried. Our hike will take us on steep maintained open trails, but anyone interested in leaving the trail to investigate the seep stream habitat will have various opportunities available for short bushwhacking forays through dense scratchy vegetation to explore for rarities.

We'll meet at **6:30 a.m.** on **Sunday, June 10**, at the Wachiska office parking lot, 4547 Calvert Street in Lincoln. Participants can caravan or carpool the 60 miles to our destination near Nebraska City. Those preferring to join the group at Waubonsie State Park can meet shortly before 8:00 a.m. at the equestrian trailhead parking lot accessed from the park entrance on the north side of Highway 2. Recommended items to bring include water bottle, insect repellent, protective clothing/footwear, and binoculars if you have them. The public is welcome to this free trip. If you have questions, call John at 402-475-7275.

Fertig Prairie Open House

by Tim Knott, Conservation Committee

Wachiska members and friends are invited to an open house at Fertig Prairie on **Saturday, June 30**, from **2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.** Our main purpose is to thank the four principal donors who made it possible for Wachiska to purchase the prairie last August. Those donors are the Nebraska Environmental Trust, the Woollam Foundation, the Cooper Foundation, and the Lower Platte North NRD. By attending, Wachiska members can see for themselves what an exceptional prairie this is. It should be in prime condition at the end of June for blooming wildflowers,



Louisiana Waterthrush

Photo by Nathan Banfield

prairie birds, and other wildlife. See the November 2017 issue of NEBRASKAland magazine for an article by Gerry Steinauer.

About 2:15 p.m. we will have a short program with introductions of our donors and members of the Fertig family and a short talk about tallgrass prairies in Nebraska. Refreshments will follow, which might include leadplant iced tea. Then attendees will be free to explore the prairie with the guidance of our conservation committee members who are experts on the prairie.

Fertig Prairie is located between Schuyler and Columbus near the Platte River and is about 1.75 hours from Lincoln. To find the prairie, proceed west five miles from Schuyler on Highway 30. At the junction of Highway 30 and County Road 6, turn south at the large 4-H sign with a green four-leaf clover on it. Follow Road 6 south for 2.5 miles to the prairie. It is advisable to bring sunscreen and hats. If you have questions, call me at 402-483-5656. We hope you all can join us on the prairie.



Fertig Prairie

Nebraska Native Plant Society Field Day June 9

by Jim Locklear, Director of Conservation, Lauritzen Gardens

The Nebraska Native Plant Society is hosting a field day on Saturday, June 9, in the vicinity of Columbus and Schuyler. The day will begin with an exploration of the Platte and Loup river bottomlands near Columbus led by Mike Gutzmer, an environmental consultant living in the area. Mike has done a study of the local flora under the direction of Dr. Robert Kaul. The second part of the day will be a tour of Fertig Prairie near Schuyler, a 45-acre tract of flood plain tallgrass prairie acquired by Wachiska Audubon last August. Here's the basic schedule for the day:

8:45 a.m. – Participants gather at T-Bone Truck Stop at 4018 Highway 30 south of Columbus, just west of the intersection of Highway 30 and Highway 81

9:00 a.m. – Mike Gutzmer leads group to Witchey's Island

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. – Tour Witchey's Island and Loup/Platte river bottomlands

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. – Lunch and drive to Fertig Prairie

1:00 - 3:00 p.m. – Tour Fertig Prairie

This field day is open to anyone with an interest in the flora of Nebraska. A lunch of buffalo or hamburgers plus potato salad, chips, and baked beans will be provided at no charge by hosts Mike and Melanie Gutzmer, or you can bring your own sack lunch and beverages. There is no registration fee, but it is necessary to RSVP to Jim Locklear if you plan to attend, j.locklear@omahabotanicalgardens.org.



From the Board ...

by Jessi Umberger
Immediate Past President

Prepping for the Prairie

The sun is shining, soaking into the grasses and gently rolling hills that surround you. A meadowlark can be heard serenading amongst the rustling of the bluestem. Welcome to the prairie! In a landscape that once greeted the pioneers on their way across Nebraska, now only two percent of native prairies remain.

As a nonprofit conservation education organization, Wachiska is dedicated to protecting native grasslands in Southeast Nebraska. The Wachiska Audubon Society is fortunate to own some of these beautiful prairies, and public access is encouraged. Visit our website for more information on these and other prairies in Southeast Nebraska.

Dieken Prairie (14 acres, Otoe County, southwest of Unadilla)

Klapka Prairie (400 acres total, Pawnee County, southeast of Table Rock)

Lamb Prairie (6.3 acres, Johnson County, southwest of Sterling)

Knott Prairie aka Yutan Prairie or Storm Prairie in the past (21 acres, Saunders County, northeast of Yutan)

Wildcat Prairie (30.5 acres, Gage County, south-southwest of Virginia)

With so many perfect locations to explore, following are a few tips before heading out into the great unknown. Wear long comfortable pants and sturdy shoes (preferably over your ankles). Tick season is upon us, and tucking your pants into your shoes is one easy way to help prevent going home with these undesired prairie inhabitants. Check for ticks often! Their favorite spots tend to be underarms, anywhere clothing presses tightly on the skin, neck, hairline, in and behind the ears. If you find a tick, use tweezers to remove it, ensuring you pull it out in its entirety. Save the tick in a plastic container or bag in case testing is needed later on. Wash the bite area well with soap and water and put an antiseptic lotion or cream on the site.

You really can't have too much sunscreen and water for a day on the prairie. The trick is to start before they are needed. Apply sunscreen 20-30 minutes before going outside, then again every 2-3 hours. Dehydration is a serious issue on the prairie, so drink water more than usual—starting the day before a big excursion.

A study by the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies found that opossums are great tick killers. They groom themselves meticulously, like cats. If they find a tick, they lick it off and swallow it. Extrapolating from their findings, this team estimated that in one season, an opossum can kill about 5,000 ticks.

Do you own or manage a native prairie pasture in Southeast Nebraska? Or a virgin hay meadow? These remnants of our natural heritage are dwindling due to attractive commodity prices and the shortage of feed for livestock. If you would like to make sure your native hay land or pasture is maintained for future generations, Wachiska Audubon would like to help you. Please contact the office for more information.

Help with Publicity Needed

Opportunities for getting Wachiska's word out there are expanding with new communication techniques popping up all the time. Social media offers numerous ways to publicize our meetings, field trips, fundraisers, and most pressing issues of the day. With these offerings comes the need for more people to help in both new and tried-and-true ways. There are many of you out there who could band together and each one do just one part—what's the old saying about the sum of the parts . . .

The TV stations offer space on their websites if organizations go to the site and directly type in the information. Both local TV stations have weekday forums where you have 2-5 minutes to visit with the anchors about events and activities coming up. It's not scary because YOU give them a couple of questions ahead of time to ask you about, and the time on air is so short that you don't worry about anything except getting your activity announced. The local newspaper has changed its way of submitting events now, so that will be an interesting learning experience. In the past the Lincoln *Journal Star* has always been receptive of our publicity needs. The same has been true of our radio stations. Much of this can still be done via email messages to them. Call or email Arlys shortly if you have ideas for getting our activities out there for the public to learn and enjoy.

Wouldn't it be something if Wachiska had a publicity committee of 3-5 people? Contact Arlys NOW at 402-486-4846 or office@wachiskaaudubon.org. Thanks for your consideration!

Nebraska Wildflower Week in June

by Beth Coufal

Wachiska Audubon will be participating in Nebraska Wildflower Week by hosting a tour of the Berg West Prairie on June 9. This prairie is small but packed with spring-blooming wildflowers. If you would like to see the anemone and penstemon, meet at the Wachiska office at **8:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 9**, to carpool or caravan. You can also meet up with us at 9:00 a.m. at Love's Truck Stop by Syracuse. We will be at the prairie from about 9:30 until 11:00. (First announcement appeared in last month's *Babbling Brook*.) If you have questions or would like a reminder via email, please contact me at bethngaryc@windstream.net.

Amazon Rebates for Wachiska

Do you use Amazon.com to order anything? If you start your order on the [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) site, you can designate Wachiska Audubon to receive a portion of your purchases as a donation! Thank you for participating!

Wachiska's 29th Annual

by Anne and Lynn Senkbeil, Co-chairs of the Backyard Garden Tour

The 29th annual Wachiska Audubon Society Garden Tour will be held on **Father's Day, Sunday, June 17**, from **11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Once again the most diverse and interesting wildlife gardens in Lincoln will be open for the public to see. Set aside June 17 to visit the great gardens of Lincoln. Call Anne at 402-423-6524 right away if you can help for a couple of hours. Homeowners will be on hand to answer questions. Visitors can start at any location. Maps and brochures will be available at each site. A donation of \$7 is suggested and children under 12 are free.

Sue and Walt Gardner – 2300 West Foothills Road

It has taken 30 years to create this peaceful country setting which originated from a bare three-acre lot. Today ornamental pears and crabapple trees line the stately drive. To the north are various pine trees including lacebark, Korean pine, Swiss stone, dragon's eye, vanderwolf, white pine, and larch. On the south side of the drive are various deciduous trees including a variety of oaks, maples, ginkgo, catalpa, smoke trees, ash, horse chestnut, black birch, and linden. Many other interesting trees and a large variety of shrubs throughout the landscape provide shelter for the martins, cardinals, orioles, bats, woodpeckers, and many other birds. Several water features include fountains, ponds, waterfalls, and a stream. Additional highlights on this property are a straw bale guest house, marble statuary, and a two-story conservatory/greenhouse. Multiple paths meander through flower gardens made up of a combination of annuals and perennials. The once sprawling vegetable garden was converted to a tidier formal raised-bed garden in 2015 and sits just beyond the flower garden.



Brett and Linda Ratcliffe – 6310 Sumner Street

This garden contains elements of a small Japanese stroll garden with lush vegetation. Most plants are labeled with common and scientific names. Continuing through the garden, you will find paths of gravel for contemplation, stone lanterns, Japanese banners, and ornamental pines being trained. Most plants are of Asian origin. There are over 50 cultivars of hostas. A bird list consists of 37 species (including eight fly-overs); 15 species of butterflies are recorded.

Jake and Kristi Sittner – 17001 Midway, Walton

In May of 2009, the homeowners purchased 20 acres of clay-ridden property that had only been used for producing brome grass and native red cedar trees. Since then the property has become a wonderful home for growing their landscape business, raising their family, and creating countless memories for years to come. Now the gardens boast a variety of trees, shrubs, and perennials. All of the gardens on the property serve a useful purpose, whether for entertainment, drainage and erosion control, pollination, or concealing unsightly lagoons. They're packed full of old and new botanical varieties comingling and coexisting for people, wildlife, insects, and all things in nature to use and enjoy. As all gardeners know—life in the garden is a constantly evolving, continually exciting labor of love.

Jim and Jeanne Johnson – 6601 Sumner Street

In 1966, there were no houses north of this property to "O" Street, and the wind blew through with a vengeance. One winter the now huge maple tree was tied to the house with the garden hose. On the front side of the house you will find rock gardens filled with succulents and spring bulbs. Proceeding to the back a chocolate vine takes over the clothesline. A shaded area is filled with variegated Solomon's seal, a pond, and ferns. Next is a dry stream with a variety of flowering shrubs. The garden shed is about a ten-year addition meant today for storage. Last fall the seven sons bush was covered with constantly fluttering painted lady butterflies, a gorgeous site. A variety of interesting wildlife—deer, numerous birds including a yellow-headed blackbird, and even a turkey—have found their way this far into town. The garden has provided therapy as the sign says, "An hour in the garden puts all of life's problems in perspective."

Cathy Schlaebitz – 6500 Rexford Drive

When this homeowner moved into her prairie style house (inspired by the architect Frank Lloyd Wright), she found herself soon having "flower withdrawal." She wanted the house to bring the "outside in" so it could connect with nature. Two sitting areas were created where nature could be enjoyed. Both areas have water features with nearby evergreens providing peaceful whistling sounds as the ever-blowing Nebraska winds pass through them. Numerous bird calls can be heard in the yard as well as from mature neighboring trees. Nested among the abundant variety of perennials are seasonal vegetables and herbs. Throughout the growing seasons there is always something blooming and fruiting for all wildlife, insects, and humans to enjoy.

Backyard Garden Tour

Karen Creswell – 2525 Calvert Street

This garden guides you through a series of gates, both real and imagined, to arrive at a fountain in the backyard. Birds gather there, humans pause for the sound of falling water, and leaf litter strewn about serves as home to insects and food for birds. Recently five backyard trees had to be removed, transforming a shade garden into a sunny prairie garden and home for pollinators. Garden maintenance is kept to a minimum to allow time to garden at Beattie School, church and community gardens. Lawn work is kept to a minimum by having large shrub borders. Mulching is minimized by allowing fallen leaves to act as mulch. A dwarf fescue grass requires very little fertilizer, watering, or mowing. Additionally, the grass doesn't have any plant diseases that need to be treated. Roses are grown that do not need spraying; they are only fertilized when, and if, the task is remembered. The garden has been low maintenance and high enjoyment. There are so many other gardens to tend.

Beattie Elementary School Garden – 19th and Calvert streets

When Mike Hillis was volunteering in his son's kindergarten classroom, one of the students told him that tomatoes came from Styrofoam packaging in the supermarket. Mike knew at that moment that the children needed to see their food growing. He worked with community resources to fund, plant, and care for the school garden. Eighteen years later the garden continues to flourish. Mark Canney and Luann Finke provided designs for the Beattie gardens, and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum provided plants. The Beattie Families assemble one night a month from March through October to maintain the gardens. On these family nights, children sail through the gardens while their parents work and visit. The plants, designs, and structures are truly a work of love of nature.



No-See-Ums

by Richard Peterson

Some call them “punkies,” others call them “sandflies,” “five-O's,” “pinyon gnats,” “moose flies,” or “biting midges.” Whatever you call them, the adult female produces a painful bite. They can be a nuisance at dawn and dusk and into the early evening to anyone at the beach or really outside anywhere. They are also active during the day if it's overcast. They are insects in the Order Diptera, the Family Ceratopogonidae. The Genus Culicoides is common in our area. It should be mentioned that the name “sandflies” is also used for members of the insect Family Psychodidae which are involved in leishmaniasis transmission.

Culicoides larvae are found in damp environments such as under bark, in wet rotting wood, mud, along stream margins, in wet tree holes, in cow dung pats, and in your backyard compost pile. Because of their worldwide distribution, they can also be found breeding in salt and brackish water including salt marshes and mangrove swamps along the coast. These pests can adversely affect tourism in coastal summer resorts.

The very small 1-3 mm adult with its piercing and sucking mouthparts is not often seen. Like the mosquito, only the females bite because they need protein, i.e., blood for their egg development. These no-see-ums are not strong fliers and some Culicoides are small enough to pass through mosquito netting and the standard 16-mesh screen used on windows and doors.

These insects like warm days with little or no air movement. They will find you. Whether it's up your sleeves or into your armpit, to

the back of your neck, in your hair, down your collar or around your ears, you name it, when they are hungry for a meal they will exploit every nook and cranny. Don't wear shorts when outdoors.

No-see-ums play a role in the transmission of disease-carrying pathogens. The list of worldwide diseases where the Culicoides are known to be involved include the virus of blue tongue in sheep, filarial worms in cattle and horses, encephalitis in man and animals, and a number of others. They are currently not known to transmit disease agents to humans in the U.S.; here they are primarily a nuisance, and the only medical issue is allergic reaction to their bite.

The bites often form small, itching, oozing lesions that are easily infected by scratching. To help minimize being bitten, limit your activities to when the fly is not usually active. Unlike chiggers which wait for you to pass by and then grab on, these flies search you out for a meal.

Controlling the larvae and adults is very difficult. Specialty camping tents are often equipped with extra-fine mesh. Repellents containing DEET provide only limited protection. Treat the itch as you would a chigger bite, and to speed the healing process try, just try, to avoid scratching the itchy welt.



“No-See-Um”

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

You can combine the pleasures of birdwatching with the satisfaction of making a contribution to knowledge of climate change's effects on birds. A National Audubon effort called "Climate Watch" has so far enlisted 44 local chapters nationwide.

By following a specific protocol as you birdwatch and reporting to the national network, you can help with compiling knowledge about how birds are responding to climate change. The program follows up on Audubon's authoritative 2014 report on birds and climate change. Learning more about how birds are adapting will provide direction as to where and how Audubon's resources should be deployed; for example, in identifying climate "strongholds" and other habitat for preservation.

Climate Watch needs participants, local coordinators, and in Nebraska, a regional coordinator. Even before a regional coordinator has been identified, however, local coordinators can communicate directly with National staff and get started. The program has been running for two years with feedback from local groups, and a rich offering of guidance has already been developed. It is available on the National website and includes information about target species, mapping tools, and videos for coordinator training.

Everyone who loves prairie and worries about clean water, a stable climate, and loss of habitat for many species including pollinators, has something to celebrate. After ten years of planning and seven years of structured scientific evidence gathering and analysis, teams of farmers and scientists from Iowa State University have results: By converting 10 percent of a crop field to diverse, native perennials farmers and farmland owners can reduce the amount of soil leaving their fields by 90 percent and the amount of nitrogen leaving their fields through surface runoff by up to 85 percent. Prairie strips also provide potential habitat for wildlife, including pollinators and other beneficial insects. Check out <https://www.nrem.iastate.edu/research/STRIPS/>.

The name of the project is an acronym for Science-based Trials of Rowcrops Integrated with Prairie Strips, STRIPS for short. The results of the study were recently published in one of the world's top scientific journals, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science of the United States of America*. The paper is titled "Prairie strips improve biodiversity and the delivery of multiple ecosystem services from corn-soybean croplands."

Originally started in 2008 on Iowa's Neil Smith National Wildlife Refuge, in 2012 STRIPS began collaborating with farmers and now works with 40 Iowa farms across the state. Communication within the team has been essential to the project which includes six partner organizations, 16 researchers, 32 graduate students

from ISU Extension—agronomists, ecologists, entomologists, hydrologists, and soil scientists—and the farmers.

STRIPS' purpose is to determine how prairie strips planted on commercial farms impact ecosystems; but in practice, the question that will determine its impact is whether the benefits are big and measurable enough so farmers can afford to plant and maintain prairie strips in their corn and soybean fields. The answer is "yes."

Birds benefit by having patches of prairie to build their nests—corn and soybean fields are not inviting for that purpose—and insects need the prairie plants. (Google the video, "Testing a Trio: Prairie Strips, Row Crops and Birds.")

USDA partially funded the STRIPS project which was used as an example in hearings on the 2018 Farm Bill by a new ag research advocacy network, FedByScience, which is co-chaired by UNL Chancellor Ronnie Green. Green testified, as did Lisa Schulte Moore from ISU. Schulte reported that her team estimates prairie strips could be used on 9.6 million acres of cropland in Iowa and a large portion of the 170 million acres under similar management in the U.S.

A Grand Way to Celebrate Earth Day

by Mary King, Population and Environment Committee



The long anticipated arrival of spring welcomed Lincoln's 2018 Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 28, at Union Plaza\Antelope Valley. Buoyed by warm sunshine and gentle breezes, Wachiska's population and environment committee set up tables with several

activities focusing on bird nests. There were pictures to color, a bird and nest matching challenge, and a true/false quiz for folks of all ages (example: Do all birds have feathers? Do all birds fly?).

Participants also assembled small burlap bags full of nesting materials for our feathered friends, choosing from pine needles, small leaves, and an assortment of dried grasses and flowers. These bundles—and there were 95 made—are hopefully adorning lots of trees and bushes in the Lincoln area as their contents are plucked for construction.

Earth Day committee members Colleen Babcock, Theresa Pella, and Patty Spitzer shared their time, creativity, and enthusiasm. However, we all join in thanking our volunteers: Janet Buck, Anna and Kelly Cidlik, Barb and Chuck Francis, Claudia Licht, Roberta Sandhorst, and Melinda Varley. We couldn't do these public events without volunteers—those who schedule and those who just drop by!



Public Officials

President Donald Trump

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

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Senator Deb Fischer

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Wash. DC phone: 202-225-6435 Fax: 202-225-0207
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State Senator _____

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Lancaster County Commissioners

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Mayor Chris Beutler

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10th St Rm 301, Lincoln NE 68508-2828
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Lincoln City Council

402-441-7515
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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.**

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



American Goldfinch Family

Garden Tour Needs Volunteers

Six (6) more people are needed to help at various locations in the Father's Day Backyard Garden Tour. Duties include passing out maps, answering simple questions, directing visitors to the distinctive features at that site, and just talking to people, in general. A couple of hours would be all that's needed, and then you could be on your way to visit the other locations. Everyone working at this event will get in free of charge to all garden sites that day. Call Anne NOW at 402-423-6524 if you are sure you can help on Father's Day, Sunday, June 17, some time between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.



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Wachiska Audubon Society

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WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2018

OFFICERS

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Recording Secretary.....	*Richard Peterson.....	402-489-2996
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Immediate Past President.....	*Jessi Umberger (Otoe).....	402-580-3057

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Director at Large.....	*Terry Stentz.....	402-202-8819
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	*Sam Truax.....	402-325-9012
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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
Raptor Recovery.....	Betsy Finch (Elmwood).....	402-994-2009
Interim Executive Director Audubon Nebraska.....	Bill Taddicken.....	308-468-5282
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Director.....	Glynnis Collins.....	402-797-2301

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**.