



Wachiska
Audubon Society

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

The Babbling Brook

Our 51st Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2024

JANUARY 2024

Volume 33 - Issue 1

Wachiska Program and General Meeting — Thursday, January 11, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also via YouTube link: <https://youtube.com/live/huXFrYAjfno?feature=share>

Forgotten Flyers: Unveiling the Beauty of Underappreciated Birds

by *Monica Macoubrie*

In the vast tapestry of our natural world, certain avian wonders often flutter on the periphery of our attention, overshadowed by their more glamorous counterparts. "Unveiling the Beauty of Underappreciated Birds" seeks to shift the spotlight onto these unsung heroes of the avian realm, inviting us to explore and appreciate the unique charm they bring to our ecosystems.



Monica Macoubrie

These underappreciated birds, though not adorned with the vibrant plumage of exotic species, possess a subtle, understated beauty that demands a closer look. From the unassuming sparrows that serenade us with their melodious tunes to the industrious pigeons navigating our urban landscapes, each bird plays a crucial role in maintaining an ecological balance.

This presentation is not merely a showcase of feathered creatures; it is a journey into the intricacies of their lives. We will delve into their remarkable adaptations, survival strategies, and

the critical roles they play in the intricate web of biodiversity. Whether it's the unpretentious crow demonstrating exceptional problem-solving skills or the often-overlooked starling showcasing its mesmerizing murmurations, every bird has a story waiting to be unveiled.

Through captivating visuals and fascinating anecdotes, "Unveiling the Beauty of Underappreciated Birds" aims to foster a deeper connection between us and these feathered companions. It encourages us to recognize the value of every bird, irrespective of its size, color, or popularity and emphasizes the importance of preserving their habitats for generations to come.

Join us on this exploration into the avian world, where we will discover that true beauty lies not just in the conspicuous and flashy, but also in the subtle, the overlooked, and the underappreciated.

Monica Macoubrie was born in Lincoln where she earned a B.S. degree in Fisheries and Wildlife with an emphasis in conservation biology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a M.S. degree from the University of Nebraska-Kearney in Natural & Life Sciences. For the past 11 years Macoubrie has worked for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in the education division. She has a deep passion for reptiles and amphibians and loves cupcakes, books, and coffee.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, January 11, at 7:00 p.m.** at Lincoln's Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, to learn more about these overlooked birds. This free, public, in-person talk will also be live-streamed on YouTube at

<https://youtube.com/live/huXFrYAjfno?feature=share>.

No registration is needed. This program can also be viewed at a later time. Check Wachiska's website for links to past programs.

Calendar

January 2024

- 2 Education/Outreach Committee via Zoom, 6:00 p.m.
- 8 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 11 General Meeting, "Forgotten Flyers: Unveiling the Beauty of Underappreciated Birds," by Monica Macoubrie, 7:00 p.m., in-person meeting at the Unitarian Church and also live-streamed; no registration needed (see link above)
- 15 Newsletter submission deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 16 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman

Our 50th anniversary celebration was a big hit. We had 175 members and friends join us for lunch and around 335 people attended the Doug Tallamy talk. Thanks to everyone who attended and those who were there in spirit. I have received several complimentary comments about Dr. Tallamy's talk. I even had a couple inquiries about joining Wachiska because they attended the program.



It was great to see some of the first Audubon leaders in Nebraska as well as so many of the chapter's past presidents at the event. I had the pleasure of getting a private audience with Dr. Tallamy when I drove him to the Omaha airport to fly home. We share a common bond of graduate work in the entomology field. He said when he retires from college teaching in a few years, he plans to come to the central flyway and experience the sandhill crane migration. This is on his bucket list.

We have a new concern that popped up a couple of weeks ago. A 200,000-head poultry facility is being proposed ½ mile from Wachiska's Lamb Prairie, located two miles west and two miles south of Sterling in Johnson County. We will continue to monitor the project and see how it turns out.

We did one last seed collection recently. This was the third time this fall that we collected seed on one of Jarel Vinduska's prairies near Schramm Park, south of Gretna. Many of the prairie plants have dropped their seed, but we were able to collect a few species. Eight of us collected for a couple of hours. Some of the seeds will be used on our prairies, and some seed will be sold to aid in other projects.

As 2023 comes to a close, I want to thank all of you for your generosity of time commitment and donations. By celebrating our 50th anniversary, we have shown we are a serious conservation organization that provides education, prairie protection, and conservation across Southeast Nebraska. We can all be proud of what we have been, what we are today, and what we strive for in the future.

Avoid RMD Taxes by Donating to Wachiska

Use qualified charitable distributions (QCD) to manage your required minimum distributions from an IRA. A QCD allows individuals 70½ years old or older to donate up to \$100,000 total to one or more charities directly from a taxable IRA instead of taking their required minimum distributions, thus avoiding income tax on their RMDs.

2024 Board Welcomes Treasurer, Carol Bodeen

by Theresa Pella, Chapter President

Shortly after the November annual meeting, Carol Bodeen stepped forward with an interest in serving Wachiska in the treasurer's position.



Carol is currently the director of policy and outreach with the Nebraska Housing Developers Association. Prior to that she served in leadership roles for the Lincoln County Community Development, a non-profit affordable housing development organization in North Platte, director of development for Mid-Plains Community College and vice president, interim president for the North Platte Chamber & Development. She also has direct experience in finance, having worked for Wells Fargo Bank for 14 years.

Carol grew up in Newman Grove and graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan University with a B.S. in Business/Finance. Her volunteer time has included board member and treasurer for the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and board chair for the Prairie Plains Resource Institute.

Her passion for grasslands and prairie, from the grand scale landscape to the microbes in the soil, made it an easy decision to bring her into the Wachiska flock, and the Board enthusiastically endorsed her during the November Board meeting! Her two-year term begins January 1, 2024.

The Board and finance committee thank outgoing treasurer, Dylan Aufdenkamp, for his skills and energy the past two years to transition Wachiska to a more efficient financial system.

50th Anniversary Included Tallamy Talk

by Mark Brohman, Executive Director

December 3rd turned out to be a wonderful afternoon on UNL's Innovation Campus when 174 folks gathered for a luncheon followed by 335 people attending Dr. Doug Tallamy's presentation. Dr. Tallamy shared his experiences on his 10-acre home in Delaware. His property had been farm ground without any insect and invertebrate activity before transforming it into a haven for all kinds of insects and wildlife. He was especially excited with the high number of species and quantity of caterpillars which provide the main diet for many bird species. Native plantings of grasses, forbs, and especially trees came from local sources. He was pleasantly surprised when all kinds of insects appeared almost immediately. He explained how the right tree can be a host for thousands of insects which, in turn, feed birds and other wildlife. One juicy caterpillar can replace hundreds of small insects in a bird's diet.

After the lecture, Tallamy signed books and visited with guests. Francie & Finch Bookshop sold Tallamy's books, and several people brought their own copies to be signed. A portion of the book sales was donated to Wachiska. A cookie reception capped off the afternoon. (See photos on page 4.)

Treasures in Our Lives

by Mark Brohman

Everyone has a few things that they treasure dearly. Maybe it is something your grandfather gave you when you were young, maybe it is a fossil or artifact that you found. It could be a piece of artwork or a gift from a dear friend. As a collector of numerous items, I have many things that fit into that category. Now I have a new treasure that I get to enjoy every day I go to work. My new treasure hangs above my head in my office.

I recently acquired Dr. Paul Johnsgard's Trumpeter Swan carving. My story starts back in 1983 when I took Dr. Johnsgard's ornithology course at UNL's Cedar Point Biological Station below Lake McConaughy, while I was an undergraduate at Chadron State College. My advisor at CSC suggested if I was going to be a wildlife biologist, I should take ornithology from the Master, and not a part-time birder. This was my introduction to Dr. Johnsgard, and it lasted for the next 38 years. I remember in a lab quiz that summer he had several mounted birds and among them was a curious purple specimen. Being a farm kid, I had dispatched a number of English house sparrows over my lifetime with my bb and pellet guns. I knew right away that this was a male English sparrow that had been dyed purple. Well, the entire class guessed it to be a purple finch or a purple martin. I was the only student who correctly identified this specimen, and Dr. Johnsgard was impressed. Fast forward many years and I was visiting him in his office in Lincoln and as we talked, I kept looking at this impressive bird hanging above his head. As I looked more intently, I noticed this was not a real mounted trumpeter swan, but a carving. I remarked to Dr. Johnsgard that I had first thought it to be a mounted bird and not a carving. That was the first time I laid eyes on this "treasure."



Recently I learned from Dr. Johnsgard's son, Scott, that Dr. Johnsgard had carved this specimen to celebrate surviving a heart attack. I also learned he had carved 60 - 70 birds over his career, and he had only carved two trumpeter swans. The other is in the Sheldon Museum of Art at UNL. This was the only carving he ever made of a flying bird. When I learned this carving was going to be available at a tag sale in Omaha, I couldn't resist. I got to the sale at noon when they started handing out numbers (I was number 5), and I was back at 4:00 p.m. when the doors opened. I went immediately to the carving and was fortunate to be the first to lay hands on it. As I walked out of the house with my new "treasure," I felt like a kid on Christmas morning. (I digress with another small "treasure" story. When I was three years old, I got a Murray pedal car for Christmas, and it was the best gift ever. Then 25 years later, three boys having destroyed it with hard play, it was restored, and that pedal car sits in my house gleaming as it did all those years ago. I find myself occasionally looking at it and smiling as I pass.)



Back to my story, all the way home from Omaha, I kept looking in my rear-view mirror. Seeing that carving with a five-foot wingspan in the back of my Prius was a beautiful sight. Now my prize possession hangs above my desk, just like it did for so many years in Dr. Johnsgard's office. Every day I can look up and value my new "treasure." We lost Dr. Johnsgard in 2021, but a little piece of him is just four feet away.

Raptor Conservation Alliance Visits Elliott School

by Tim Knott, Education/Outreach Committee

The after-school program kids at Elliott School had an opportunity to see two Nebraska birds recently—a kestrel and a real falcon. Doug Finch, Rachel Green and son Ev, and Annie Piersol gave students a close-up look and a description of the birds they care for as members of the Raptor Conservation Alliance. About 35 students and their teachers learned what these birds look like, what they eat, where they live, and that some are quite rare and need protection even though they are found in our state. The kids asked lots of good questions. Wachiska's education committee sponsored the event on December 1st.



Wachiska Seed Collectors

by Kay Kottas, Prairie Legacy, Inc.

Thank you to those who spent time collecting seeds and are doing so much for saving and expanding prairie ecosystems. Your volunteerism not only helps Wachiska get funding to protect prairies, but it helps create new habitat to keep local ecotype seed and plants available for urban and rural habitat creation. In 2013, as I began to collect seed on my remnant prairies, we were hit by herbicide overspray. The resulting years-long loss of diversity brought me to Wachiska to find local seed to provide for seed plots. I purchased seed then and still do so every year from Wachiska. Now, as we fight through a persistent drought here in Saline County, I am grateful once again for the volunteers who have collected seed from Wachiska prairies. You have continued to help me by providing local seed to create local ecotype seed mixes and plants for Wachiska, Homestead National Monument, and many other local projects. It may seem like a small thing, but the effects are far-reaching for Wachiska, for the planet, and for all those who need local seed. I want to extend a humble thank you from Prairie Legacy, Inc.



Carbon Capture Head Scratcher

by Kay Kottas, Ph.D., President, Prairie Legacy, Inc.

Our prairie ecosystems have been fighting a losing battle for some time against development, the plow, chemical drift, and other threats. Now they face threats from CO₂ sequestration. While prairies are some of the most efficient ecosystems for sequestering carbon themselves, they face yet another threat from the hasty federal push to sequester carbon any way—anywhere—with no federal or state guidance. Zero net loss of remnant prairies seems like a no-brainer for carbon sequestration, yet the push from big companies to collect federal funding for such has these companies bolstering ethanol, chemical, and fertilizer plants. Instead of preserving the efficient and natural carbon sequestration of remnant prairies, they are trying to uproot them to put in pipe that would transport CO₂ from these chemical plants to underground storage locations.

Why cross prairies and not crop ground? Crop ground has more economic value and, therefore, is more expensive to lease or purchase and often has pivot irrigation systems that must be avoided. In addition, crop ground more often has road systems running through it. Crossing under a road is also more expensive, and it would require county zoning authorization. Most counties have no way of knowing where these pipes are going as long as they stay underground.

What is the matter with breaking prairie, you say? You can just plant it back to prairie. No harm done. Not so! First, you release the carbon sequestered in the soil when you break the prairie, much like burning a rainforest. It takes many years for the microorganisms beneath the soil to become efficient at capturing carbon. Even if you could find enough local seed to attempt to put back all of the species which were once there (an unlikely prospect), many of the rare species found on remnant prairies will not tolerate disturbances and cannot be restored. By plowing the prairie, you set its carbon sequestration power back many, many years. In addition, these pipes give off heat that affects the soil moisture and balance of microorganisms. This way of moving carbon is very new, and there are no research studies to determine the total detrimental effect on carbon sequestration where pipelines are put beneath once-remnant prairies. These prairies will never be the same—and they certainly will never be remnant prairie again.

So, does that mean we are against carbon sequestration? Not at all, but we should take a good hard look at how it is being done. Look before you leap, as the saying goes, making sure what we do actually does take more carbon out of the air than it puts into the air and that it does not remove the last vestiges of the biodiversity that will ultimately be required to save this planet. Mother Nature has been sequestering carbon for centuries. Why stop her now? Let's work *with* nature, not against it.

"Adopt the pace of nature; her secret is patience."

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

50th Anniversary Gala Memories



Executive Director Mark Brohman (standing) welcoming past Wachiska leaders including Ron Klataske (third from right) who encouraged the formation of Wachiska in 1973



**Doug and Betsy Finch
Betsy established the chapter in 1973**



Dave and Linda Titterington, owners of Wild Bird Habitat Store, major sponsor



**Doug Tallamy
guest speaker and author**

Photos taken by Linda R. Brown, Nancy Hamer, and Ethan Freese.

Feathers and Fashion

by Richard Peterson

During two walks along the streets of Manhattan in 1886, Frank Chapman, the American Museum of Natural History ornithologist, spotted 40 species of birds—not in their natural habitat, however. They had been killed, plucked, disassembled or stuffed, and painstakingly positioned on many of the 700 women's hats he saw. This was the count of Chapman's Feathered Hat Census which included the bird's common name and the number of hats the feathers were seen attached: Grebes 7, Blue Jay 5, Green-backed Heron 1, Eastern Bluebird 3, Virginia Rail 1, American Robin 4, Greater Yellowlegs 1, Northern Shrike 1, Sanderling 5, Brown Thrasher 1, Laughing Gull 1, Bohemian Waxwing 1, Common Tern 21, Cedar Waxwing 23, Black Tern 1, Blackburnian Warbler 1, Ruffed Grouse 2, Blackpoll Warbler 3, Greater Prairie Chicken 1, Wilson's Warbler 3, Northern Bobwhite 16, Tree Sparrow 2, California Quail 2, White-throated Sparrow 1, Mourning Dove 1, Snow Bunting 15, Northern Saw-whet Owl 1, Bobolink 1, Northern Flicker 21, Meadowlarks 2, Red-headed Woodpecker 2, Common Grackle 5, Pileated Woodpecker 1, Northern Oriole 9, Eastern Kingbird 1, Scarlet Tanager 3, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 1, Pine Grosbeak 1, and Tree Swallow 1. (modified from Strom, 1986)

The main drivers of the plume trade were the millinery centers in New York and London. London was described as “the Mecca of the feather killers of the world.” In a single nine-month period, the London market had consumed feathers from nearly 130,000 egrets. It was estimated that 50 North American species were being slaughtered for their feathers.

By the turn of the century, millions of birds had been killed by plume hunters. This had been going on for over 40 years. The plume trade was supplied by hunters who killed and skinned mature birds, leaving orphaned hatchlings to starve or fend for themselves. It was common for a rookery of several hundred birds to be attacked and decimated in three days.

In 1896, Boston socialite Harriet Lawrence Hemenway read an article about the trade. She took action. She contacted her cousin, Minna B. Hall, and together they organized like-minded people to put a stop to the fashion statement. In 1900, Congress passed the Lacey Act prohibiting transport across state lines of birds taken in violation of state laws. Their boycott would result in the formation of the National Audubon Society. Other Audubon societies were formed across the country and they, too, took up the crusade. This resulted in passage of the Weeks-McLean Law, also known as the Migratory Bird Act, which was passed by Congress on March 4, 1913. The law, a landmark in American conservation history, outlawed market hunting and forbade interstate transport of birds. In 1920, after a series of court challenges, the Supreme Court upheld a subsequent piece of legislation, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, writing for the majority, said that protection of birds was in the “national interest.”



Water Seminar Series “Water, Wildlife, and Livestock”

The 2024 Spring Water Seminar Series begins the end of this month. Various aspects of “Water, Wildlife, and Livestock” will be presented in Hardin Hall on the UNL East Campus from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on January 31, February 14, February 28, March 20, April 3, April 17, and May 1. The purpose of the seminar series is to provide a forum to increase awareness of water issues and for thoughtful discussion of alternatives aimed at wise management of Nebraska's surface and groundwater resources. These free lectures will also be live-streamed via Zoom at this time. For more details and a list of presenters, go to watercenter.unl.edu.

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center January Programs

Winter Walkabout

Saturday, January 6, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Our first exploration of the prairie in the new year! Join us for this leisurely stroll through the winter tallgrass looking for animal tracks and to chat about what birds and beasts do to survive the winter. Free admission (donations welcome).

Holiday Open House

Sunday, January 14, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Celebrate the new year with an afternoon gathering of music, crafts, and homemade treats and cider. Local bluegrass band, the McGovern String Band, will provide entertainment while visitors of all ages can make resolutions and decorations from recycled materials. Trails will be open for a winter walk. Free admission.

More information on these and other programs can be found on our website, <https://springcreek.audubon.org/events>. Questions to 402-797-2301; scp@audubon.org.

Remember . . .

“Wachiska” is believed to mean “stream” or “creek” in the languages of the Omaha and Ponca Indigenous Peoples of Eastern Nebraska.

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 efforts with theirs in honoring and stewarding this land of prairies, rivers, and streams.

Earth is Beyond Six of Nine Planetary Boundaries

by Chuck Francis, Education/Outreach Committee

For those who are keeping score, we should recognize that we are beyond six critical boundaries describing limits to keep our planet sustainable for life. In *Science Advances*, September 2023, an article from prominent scientist Katherine Richardson and colleagues state that “Earth is now well outside of the safe operating space for humanity,” and that “human appropriation of net primary production is proposed as a control variable for functional biosphere integrity.” In other words, we have pushed the global ecosystem to limits beyond which recovery is in question. This impacts the birds and the bees as well as all human life. Access the document at <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.adh2458#con1> or read on for a summary.

Specialists describe how ‘environmental forcing’ by humans continues in spite of broad awareness of climate challenges. The authors list nine indicators of ‘disequilibrium’ that are apparent in important system components, and how these are out of step with what is needed for our changing environment. We are aware of the conditions, yet we fail to act on most of them. First, the good news on three of the boundaries where action has been successful and then major challenges we face with six boundaries already exceeded.

Stratospheric ozone depletion has been measurably slowed due to reduced carbon emissions, recognizing how these are caused, switching to electric vehicles, altering farming practices, and reducing rates of deforestation. Much still needs to be done, but widespread knowledge and concern in societies around the globe are pushing for further improvement—exceptions are the U.S. and China which are highly resistant to change due to expected economic losses if strict rules are enforced.

Atmospheric aerosol loading is still within tolerance limits, probably due to interactions with the sheer volume of water in oceans and the resilience this has on buffering changes in water quality. Yet this, too, has limits, and both general warming of oceans and threats to processes such as the Gulf Stream that warms England and Norway could drastically change global climates.

Ocean acidification along with rising water temperatures are linked with loss of coral reefs through bleaching, a major indicator being substantial losses of the Great Barrier Reef near Australia. Current acidification is within limits of tolerance at a global level, but the tendencies toward increase are still happening and will become more critical in the future.

Freshwater changes are indicators of the first of six boundaries that exceed tolerance levels, with rising temperatures harming

fish spawning habitat and agricultural and industrial pollution with excess nutrients causing changes difficult to reverse.

Land system changes are obvious as we convert more arable regions of the world to intensive agriculture and continue to decimate rain forests in tropical countries that function as ‘lungs for the Earth’ and help sustain the human population.

Climate change is a phenomenon widely publicized, with increase in temperature linked to atmospheric ozone depletion. Although CO₂ emissions receive most attention, several other ‘greenhouse gases’ have a substantially greater impact on global warming.

Biogeochemical flows, especially nitrogen and phosphorus, have been greatly altered by human manipulation of these key elements for plant growth. Massive applications of chemical fertilizers play a large role in changing these flows from baseline levels of pre-Anthropocene.

Novel activities include interactions among the ones above that keep the world in balance. These interactions are more difficult to measure and cannot be solved by simply tweaking one measure; thus, they are among the most difficult to reverse.

Biosphere integrity is the largest and probably most important factor of all, incorporating other changes well beyond the level needed for a safe and habitable Earth. This includes losses of ‘functional integrity’ of biological and physical systems that work to provide us with air, water, food, and a livable planet, and more frightening are losses of ‘genetic integrity’ or species loss. Thus, we lose fundamental bases for evolution of all species, the loss of which endangers future evolution essential in a changing global environment.

Bottom line is that we are continuing to ‘foul our nest’ in a number of ways that can be measured, studied, and interpreted, and we are facing critical changes that are threatening to our existence. These can be understood through science as well as what we observe in our daily experiences. To ignore these changes is to keep our heads in the sand and to continue on the same self-destructive path we currently pursue. Will the consequences be apparent in our lifetimes? Most of the indicators show that Planet Earth is becoming less habitable. Our challenge is to better understand these changes and to do something about them.

What can each of us do to reverse these trends? Many changes are due to sheer numbers of humans on Earth. We can encourage funding for education that has proven successful to reduce human population and impact. Limiting fossil fuel-based transportation to what is absolutely needed and not just for convenience and pleasure will help reduce emissions and global warming. Bicycles are a great alternative. Likewise, we can turn down thermostats and put on sweaters in winter and limit air conditioning in summer. Reducing food waste and consuming fewer fast foods can both lower our ‘ecological footprint.’

Public Officials

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State Capitol Switchboard

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Lincoln Journal Star

Letters to the editor, 21st and N St, Lincoln NE 68508
E-mail: oped@journalstar.com

Join now! Become a Friend of Wachiska Audubon Society!

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

Friends of Wachiska (local membership)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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

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

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



American Goldfinches

___ **I prefer to receive my newsletter by email.**

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

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(continued from page 6, column 2)

Buying locally-grown foods helps our nearby economy. Food choices such as lowering beef consumption and opting for more vegetable protein will help. Limiting purchases by appreciating the difference between needs and wants would reduce material consumption. We are all familiar with these and other personal choices, and the question is what can we do to improve the situation, model this behavior, and convince others to do the same?



Wachiska will continue to collect 2024 calendars until further notice if they are dropped off at the office. Please call first.

WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2024

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

OFFICERS

President *Theresa Pella
Vice President *Andrea Faas
Secretary *April Stevenson
Treasurer/Finance..... *Carol Bodeen

STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large *Dakota Altman
Director at Large *Ann Briggs
Director at Large *Doug Campbell
Director at Large *Ethan Freese
Director at Large *Stu Lutlich
Director at Large *Tom Lynch
Director at Large *Mercy Manzanares
Director at Large *Kris Powers
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
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www.WachiskaAudubon.org

If you missed a monthly program or want to view one again, Wachiska Audubon’s monthly programs are available on YouTube via the homepage at www.WachiskaAudubon.org.



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

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

A Gift to the Future

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

