



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 49th Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2022

**MAY 2022**

**Volume 31 - Issue 5**

Wachiska Program — Thursday, May 12, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom web conference (registration required)  
Link to register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqdOCvrT4tGtztkoVxC1KkFtzb-Ar3THFu>

## Effects of Ultraviolet Light on Power Lines to Prevent Crane Collisions on the Platte River

with Amanda Hegg, Conservation Program Associate, Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary

May's general meeting program will spotlight a new type of technology implemented to deter cranes from colliding with power lines at Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary on the Platte River near Gibbon, Nebraska.



Amanda Hegg

Amanda Hegg, Rowe Sanctuary's conservation program associate, will discuss how this technology, and use of ultraviolet light, could help to mitigate the long-standing conservation issue of bird collisions with human-made structures like power lines. She will also present findings from a recent study designed to test the effectiveness of this technology at preventing crane collisions at Rowe Sanctuary. Amanda assists with the science

and conservation programs and also coordinates Bird Friendly Communities in Central Nebraska. She is a former Marian Langan Young Conservation Leader who joined the permanent staff after successfully completing the internship.

The Marian Langan Young Conservation Leader is a one-year position designed to enhance the skills of a young person in conservation and education. The position was created and funded as a memorial for Marian Langan, past Audubon Nebraska state director.

Amanda grew up in South Dakota and is a graduate of the University of South Dakota where she studied conservation biology and sustainability. She spent three years studying the impacts of invasive plants on nesting success of birds in Missouri River riparian forests. She also worked for the National Park Service and South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks. In addition, she is a dedicated volunteer with Nebraska's Raptor Conservation Alliance.

This program was organized by the Audubon Society of Omaha, and Wachiska is again partnering with the Omaha chapter to bring this presentation to members in both areas. Join ASO and Wachiska for the next monthly Zoom program on **Thursday, May 12, at 7:00 p.m.** This free, public presentation is available to those who register in advance at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqdOCvrT4tGtztkoVxC1KkFtzb-Ar3THFu>.

Copy and paste this link into your browser or go to Wachiska's website after May 1 and click on the link directly from the notice to register. You will then receive a confirmation email with the meeting number and password. Keep that and a few minutes before the program is to begin, click on that confirmation and you'll be invited into the meeting. Encourage friends and colleagues to join us, too.

### Calendar

#### May

- 1 City Nature Challenge, Walt Branch Library, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- 9 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 12 General Meeting via Zoom, "Effects of Ultraviolet Light on Power Lines to Prevent Crane Collisions on the Platte River," by Amanda Hegg, 7:00 p.m. (NOTE required registration)
- 14 - 15 **Birdathon Weekend** Field Trips to Platte River SP and Wilderness Park, 9:00 a.m. (page 2).
- 15 Field trip to Wagon Train SRA, 9:00 a.m. (page 4)
- 15 Newsletter deadline in Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 17 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
- 26 **Give to Lincoln Day** (page 3)

# Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman

The legislative session has come to an end and here are some of the biggest stories related to conservation. LB1135 that would have limited conservation easements to 99 years, failed to advance. The Legislature approved LB925 to adopt the Resilient Soils and Water Quality Act which will promote healthy soils. There was \$150,000 appropriated to the University of Nebraska to update the Climate Change Report. Funds were also appropriated to do studies and begin engineering on two water projects that the conservation organizations believe are fraught with problems—the Perkins County Canal and the lake development adjacent to the Platte River between Lincoln and Omaha. Both projects have a long road ahead of them and both will probably involve litigation.



I want to thank all the volunteers who helped with events this month. Dwayne Wilson hosted a booth at the annual FFA State Convention. He was joined by volunteers over two days at Pinnacle Arena. Tim Knott, with volunteers, successfully carried out three Family Nature Nights at Lincoln elementary schools. Theresa Pella operated a booth with volunteers at the Return of the Thunderbird at the Indian Center. I had volunteers staff our booth at the Spring Hop-A-Long event at Whitehall Mansion. Several volunteers helped at our booth at Lincoln's Earth Day celebration at Innovation Campus. Hundreds of kids and parents were exposed to Wachiska at these events. I also want to thank Todd Paddock for hosting field trips the last couple of months.

We have some very important events coming up, including Birdathon and Give to Lincoln Day. We are so thankful for having an active Board, membership, and community supporters.

As spring turns to summer, I hope everyone can get out and enjoy our prairies along with city, state, and federal sites across Nebraska—whether it is a quick trip to Dieken Prairie, a half day at Spring Creek Prairie, a day trip to Homestead National Historical Park, or a weekend to the Niobrara River and Smith Falls State Park.

## Woodmen Tower Female Falcon Dies

Chayton, the female peregrine falcon that has raised 14 chicks since 2018 with her mate, Mintaka, was found dead in their nest box on the Woodmen Life Tower in Omaha on April 18. The cause is undetermined yet but could be avian flu. The eggs have been taken in by Raptor Conservation Alliance in an attempt to incubate and hatch them.

## Wachiska's 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Birdathon Is Underway with Birding Field Trips

by Tim Knott

Wachiska's most important fundraising months each year are April and May when Birdathon is in full swing. During this time members have an opportunity to contribute to the success of the chapter by making monetary donations and participating in birding field trips. **Birdathon Weekend is May 14-15** this year. If you count birds in your backyard, go birding on your own, or participate in Wachiska's organized birding field trips, make a list of the species you see and email ([office@wachiskaaudubon.org](mailto:office@wachiskaaudubon.org)) or mail your tally to the Wachiska office by May 20. You should have received the Birdathon letter which includes a return envelope. Thank you in advance for making Birdathon 34 our biggest fundraiser ever!

Each year for several years two or more field trips have been held during Birdathon Weekend. Despite giving in to COVID-19 for hiking and gathering to enjoy each other's finds for two years, field trips are back this year. We want to again see some of the spectacular species that migrate through Nebraska this time of year.

Three hikes are scheduled for May 14-15. There is no fee, and the public is welcome as long as you're fully vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19. Trips will end by 11:30 a.m., but you can leave any time. Beginning birders are welcome on all trips.

On **Saturday**, Esa Jarvi will lead a trip at **9:00 a.m.** to one of the best birding spots in Lincoln's **Wilderness Park**, a great place to see rose-breasted grosbeaks, newly arrived warblers, bluebirds, indigo buntings, and others. Meet at the 14<sup>th</sup> Street parking lot entrance on the west side about 200 yards south of the railroad tracks or one-third mile north of Rokeby Road.

On **Sunday** morning at **9:00 a.m.** Todd Paddock will lead a trip to **Wagon Train Lake** to look for ducks, geese, shorebirds, and grassland birds (see field trip article on page 4). A park permit is required at this state rec area.

Also, on **Sunday** morning, Linda Brown and I will lead a trip to **Platte River State Park** which is a wonderful location for spotting warblers, vireos, and often tanagers on their way north. A park permit is required. Meet at the observation tower near the restaurant at **9:00 a.m.** Platte River State Park is about an hour from Lincoln. From I-80, turn south at Exit 426 (Mahoney State Park exit) and follow Road N-66 past South Bend to the park entrance. Go ½ mile and turn right at the kiosk; proceed to the observation tower mentioned above.

*"You will find something more in woods than in books. Trees and stones will teach you that which you can never learn from masters."*

-- Saint Bernard of Clairvaux

*"Nothing is more beautiful than the loveliness of the woods before sunrise."*

-- George Washington Carver

## 2022 Birdathon and Give to Lincoln Day Frequently Asked Questions

by Theresa Pella, President

This time of the year, terms and acronyms such as Birdathon, GTLD, and LCF begin appearing in articles and letters and can be confusing. The following FAQs are intended to help make things a little clearer.

1. Why do Birdathon and Give to Lincoln Day (GTLD) occur at the same time?
  - Wachiska's Birdathon has existed for over 30 years as one of the primary fundraisers for the annual operating budget. A few years ago, when the Lincoln Community Foundation (LCF) initiated its GTLD fundraiser for local nonprofits, Wachiska participated because of the possibility of receiving match funds that would boost the power of donations. Last year Wachiska received approximately \$1,200 in challenge match funds. Timing of the two events is coincidental.
2. What's the difference between the two?
  - Birdathon accepts donations at any time, kicking off each year in April when letters are mailed. Donors can write a check to Wachiska Audubon Society and mail or drop it off at the Wachiska office in the Birdathon envelope. Birdathon donations can also be made online via Wachiska's website (specify "Birdathon" in the comments box) at <https://www.wachiskaaudubon.org/>.
  - Give to Lincoln Day donations are accepted only during the month of May up through the 26th. Checks must be made payable to Lincoln Community Foundation (with Wachiska Audubon noted on the memo line) and can be mailed or dropped off at Wachiska's office through May 18 or mailed to the LCF office by May 18. Donations may also be made directly on the Foundation's website at [www.givetolincoln.com](http://www.givetolincoln.com). All donations, regardless of the method, have a 2.9 percent processing fee. Credit card donations also have a small transaction fee. Giving during GTLD helps Wachiska increase its matched portion from the Foundation.
  - Whether you donate through Birdathon or GTLD, your donation is vital to the continued operation of Wachiska by supporting staff, office expenses, and committee work.
3. I'm currently a Wachiska Friend and my membership is due for renewal during this time. How can I be sure my renewal doesn't get mixed up with the two fundraising events?
  - To ensure your check is correctly attributed, note that the purpose is membership and include the Friends renewal letter with the check. If you renew online, select the membership option. If you are making both a Friend donation and a Birdathon donation, it is extremely helpful if you write separate checks or clearly detail how to allocate the donation.

4. If I'm not a Friend, will a Birdathon or GTLD donation give me that status?

- Wachiska loves its Friends and all its donors! Making a separate commitment through a financial donation to become a Friend provides that an individual may fully participate in activities, including voting; plus, only Friends receive a printed, mailed copy of our newsletter, The Babbling Brook, every month.

5. What else should I know?

- If you're bringing something to the Wachiska office, be aware it is usually staffed Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It's always a good idea to call first to be sure someone is in the office, 402-486-4846.

## "Game Birds of the World" Collection Now Available Online

from University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Institute of  
Agriculture and Natural Resources News Now

The "Game Birds of the World" collection from the Nebraska State Museum is now available online. The collection is currently housed in Hardin Hall and now can be viewed on the School of Natural Resources website at <https://snr.unl.edu/data/appliedecology/madsonbird/default.aspx>.



**Northern Bobwhite**

The collection was originally created by a former student, Everett "Buzz" C. Madson. In his introductory zoology class taught by Dr. Paul Johnsgard, the lectures, especially those on parasite life histories, greatly impressed Madson and influenced his decision to go into medicine as a career. He made the gift of the collection to the museum in the name of Dr. Johnsgard.

The collection contains more than 160 mounted individual game birds of 103 species from around the world. The research branch of the University of Nebraska State Museum is more than 140 years old and retains and protects millions of specimens for research and educational purposes, just as the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and the Field Museum in Chicago, but on a smaller scale.

Patricia W. Freeman, professor emeritus, and John Carrol, director of the School of Natural Resources, worked with Madson to bring the collection to Hardin Hall where large exhibits are displayed in public spaces, while smaller exhibits are located in offices. Since all of the exhibits are not easily accessible to the public, the collection has been placed online including descriptions by Dr. Johnsgard. The collection can be searched by regional location, taxonomy, and more.

## Brohman Receives Award from Ducks Unlimited

Nebraska Ducks Unlimited (DU) recently presented the Nebraska Wetland Partnership Awards at its state convention in Lincoln. Since 2016, DU has bestowed this award to individuals from other organizations who were crucial to helping DU achieve its wetland conservation missions in Nebraska.



**John Denton presenting  
award to Mark Brohman**

Mark Brohman, former executive director of the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) and the current executive director of the Wachiska Audubon Society, received the Partnership Award for his many years of service with the NET and his work to conserve thousands of acres of habitat on behalf of DU, in addition to numerous projects that benefit Nebraska's environment.

"Mark should be proud of his numerous accomplishments with the NET, and I am certain he will continue to play a crucial role in Nebraska conservation in his new position," said DU Conservation Program Manager John Denton.

David Eigenberg, general manager of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District (UBBNRD), also received the Partnership Award for the efforts he and his board of directors made to protect two very important wetland areas.

Denton said, "We cannot accomplish any conservation work without partnerships, and these recipients were critical to helping DU accomplish its mission in Nebraska."

Ducks Unlimited Inc. is the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving North America's continually disappearing waterfowl habitats. Established in 1937, Ducks Unlimited has conserved more than 15 million acres thanks to contributions from more than a million supporters across the continent. Guided by science and dedicated to program efficiency, DU works toward the vision of wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow, and forever. For more information on DU's work, visit [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org).

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**"Came the Spring with all its splendor, all its birds and all its blossoms, all its flowers and leaves and grasses."**

-- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"If you are equipped, nature will hold you and teach you what you need to know."

-- Unknown

## Second Saturday Seeds to Continue in 2022

*by Beth Coufal, Conservation Committee*

Second Saturday seeds will be returning for 2022! Join us for a visit to the prairie. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. from June through October to see what is growing, blooming, and living on the prairie. If we find any ripe seeds, we will collect some for sale to Prairie Legacy. This seed will then be used to create more prairie. Everyone is welcome to take some seed home for their own pollinator gardens.

- June 11 - meet at Berg West, south of Lorton. This is a lovely wet prairie full of Canada anemone and penstemon. We usually see bobolinks, also.
- July 9 - road trip to our newest prairie, Fertig Prairie. This Platte River Valley meadow is full of gayfeather, sneezeweed, and lobelia.
- August 13, September 10, and October 8 - all at Dieken. This drier prairie is closer to Lincoln, just south of Unadilla. This will be our best chance to collect seeds including purple and white prairie clover, rudbeckia, and three species of Liatris.

Dress for rough walking and the weather. Bring gloves, clippers, and a bucket for seed collecting. If it is raining, we will cancel. Check our website for directions to the prairies. If you would like to carpool, call the Wachiska office at least five days before the event and leave your name and phone number. If you have any questions about the event, call me at 402-417-3928. Hope to see you this summer!

## May Field Trip to Wagon Train SRA

*by Todd Paddock*

Wagon Train State Recreation Area is a very good place to find warblers, waterfowl, and many other birds during May. Let's take a walk there on **Sunday, May 15, at 9:00 a.m.** We'll meet at the parking lot on the southwest shore of the lake. From the intersection of South 96<sup>th</sup> Street and Hickman Road (also known as Nebraska 55P Recreation Road), follow Hickman Road east until it ends in a parking lot on the lake shore. Bring binoculars if you have them, a face mask for COVID-19 protection, and dress for the weather. There is no fee, and the public is welcome as long as you are fully vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19 (those under 5 years old are exempt from this requirement). Call Todd at 507-458-9416 if you have any questions.

*Editor's Note:* Birdathon Weekend is May 14-15, so go birding and submit species seen to the Wachiska office by May 20 to have them included in our final tally.

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"Green is the prime color of the world, and that from which its loveliness arises."

-- Pedro Calderon de la Barca

## Louis Fuertes

by Richard Peterson

John James Audubon set a high standard for bird illustration. His works encouraged many an artist. At the beginning of the 20th century, one of those who followed in his footsteps was being asked to illustrate virtually every important bird book published in America.



Louis Fuertes

Louis Agassiz Fuertes was born in 1874 in Ithaca, New York, the son of Estevan and Mary Stone Perry Fuertes. Louis became fascinated with birds at an early age. He enrolled in Cornell University in 1893, but found his studies (he tried architecture) were not his calling. Around the age of 20, he met Elliot Coues, recognized at the time as the leading ornithologist in America. Coues had seen his work, recognized his talent and the quality of his growing portfolio. Fuertes would graduate from Cornell in 1897. In 1899, at age 25 (with Coues's recommendation), Fuertes joined the Harriman Alaska Expedition which explored the Alaska coastline. "You know that I was born with the itching foot," he wrote to a friend, "and the sight of a map...is enough to stir me all up inside."

Like Audubon before him, Fuertes created his alive-like paintings from dead specimens. But while in the field, he sketched constantly and took copious notes. The published volumes of the Alaska trip, with his exquisite color drawings, were considered some of the most accurate and natural depictions of birds ever produced.

Fuertes then collaborated with Frank Chapman at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City on many assignments including field research, background dioramas, and then on book and magazine illustrations. He was an early artist contributor to the Audubon Junior Leaflets.

The list of his published works is extensive, including:

- *Birdcraft* by M. Osgood Wright in 1895
- *Handbook of Birds of Western North America* by Frank Chapman in 1902
- *Key to North American Birds* by Elliot Coues in 1903
- *Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America* by Frank Chapman in 1904
- *Wild Animals of North America* by Edward Nelson in 1918

The list goes on and on. Fuertes was truly a wildlife artist extraordinaire. Fuertes began lecturing in ornithology at Cornell in 1923. In 1926 -1927, he participated in the Chicago Field Museum's Abyssinian (Ethiopia) Expedition. When he returned, he and his wife, Mary, drove to visit Chapman at Tannersville, New York. While they were returning home, their car was hit by a train near Unadilla, New York. Louis Fuertes was 53 when he died. His wife survived the crash but was severely injured. The paintings he had with him also survived. He had produced some of his most stunning bird and mammal watercolors.

## Lights Out Campaign

by Mark Brohman

Spring migration is coming to a conclusion with many species having already passed through the Midwest, but there are still a few to come. Many bird species migrate at night because it is cooler and fewer predators are out, but other hazards await them after dark. Manmade structures such as tall buildings; towers for tv, radio, and cellular phones; and the guy wires for those towers cover the landscape. Artificial lights on those buildings and towers create a deadly combination for birds.

The Lights Out campaign is a national effort to reduce bird collisions due to reflective surfaces and disorientation due to artificial lights. Two simple measures homeowners can take are shielding outdoor lights to prevent the light from being emitted upward and turning lights off before midnight during migration seasons, April-May and August-September. Lights Out is working with building owners, managers, and residents to turn off unnecessary lights during periods when they are most likely to affect migrating or nocturnal birds.

Some of the solutions National Audubon is promoting to make buildings safer for birds include turning off exterior decorative lighting, extinguishing spot and floodlights, substituting strobe lighting where possible, reducing lobby and atrium lighting, turning off interior lighting especially on upper floors, using window coverings, down-shielding exterior lighting to eliminate all light directed upward and horizontal glare, installing motion sensors and automatic controls. When converting to new lighting, carefully assess quality and quantity of light needed, avoiding over-lighting with newer, brighter technology.

During daylight hours, birds often collide with reflective surfaces when they stop to feed or rest, when avoiding a predator, or flying from tree to tree. Shiny glass exteriors, internal plants near windows, glass corners, and greenery close to buildings can all be deadly as birds are unable to distinguish reflection from open flyway. A 2014 study by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Smithsonian Institution estimated between 365 and 988 million birds are killed annually by building collisions in the U.S.

To reduce reflective surface collisions, you can create patterns on reflective glass surfaces (quantity and spacing matter—multiple markings 2-4 inches apart are recommended), install external screens on windows, close blinds or curtains, move plants away from windows, and place bird feeders directly on windows. Collisions can happen at any time of the day and year but tend to increase during migration and when young birds start flying. The most crucial times for these measures are during spring and fall migration and during the breeding season.

The Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) in Toronto was the first to raise awareness of the problem lights pose for birds in an urban center, starting in 1993. In 1999, Audubon and partners established the first Lights Out program in Chicago. Since then, groups in many other cities have organized programs to make a difference for birds.

# Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

Doing something about a problem—even something small—makes me feel better, so before I describe a new report on our climate problem, I'm going to suggest something for you to do. Check page 7 under "Public Officials" to find Senator Deb Fischer's contact information. Let her know you are pleased to learn that she supports solar and wind power development in Nebraska. Thank her for her support!

National Audubon hit the nail on the head in its one-line summary of the most recent report from the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change): "We are running out of time." Or as the IPCC co-chair put it: "It's now or never" for action on climate if we hope to avoid severe and likely irreversible consequences to life on our planet."

National Audubon's Vice President of Climate, Sarah Rose, wrote "We know what we have to do to avoid the worst effects of a changing climate, we only need the will to act. ...This is an issue that transcends politics, backgrounds, and geography. It is in our collective best interest to meet the challenge before us by investing in renewable energy, natural climate solutions to carbon storage, and other measures that maintain and restore our vital resources."

This report <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/> dealt more with potential solutions than the IPCC's earlier reports in August and February and is supported by thousands of scientific studies. Mitigation is its main subject—"the process or result of making something less severe, dangerous, painful, harsh, or damaging."

Although oil interests were involved in writing the report, not all of the industry's myths were supported—e.g., the claim that the less developed countries need fossil fuels to address poverty and economic development. A contributing author to the chapter on "Demand, Services, and Social Aspects of Mitigation," Professor Julia Steinberger, said "What we were able to demonstrate was actually...that there is no sustainable development, full stop, possible without climate mitigation. Unless you mitigate climate, the impacts are going to catch you every step of the way and just make people's lives increasingly hard and miserable especially in the global south." Refer to <https://truthout.org/articles/ipcc-reports-analysis-of-fossil-fuel-industry-excluded-from-policymakers-brief/>.

*The Guardian's* Fiona Harvey reported that this report found:

- Coal must be effectively phased out if the world is to stay within 1.5C, and currently planned new fossil fuel infrastructure would cause the world to exceed 1.5C.
- Methane emissions must be reduced by a third.
- Growing forests and preserving soils will be necessary, but tree-planting cannot do enough to compensate for continued emissions of fossil fuels.

- Investment in the shift to a low-carbon world is about six times lower than it needs to be.
- All sectors of the global economy, from energy and transport to buildings and food, must change dramatically and rapidly, and new technologies will be needed.

All 195 countries agreed to these conclusions, but only after Saudi Arabia pushed for more attention to carbon capture and storage and the dilution of language calling for the shutting down of fossil fuel production, Harvey wrote. She also noted that the IPCC's August report warned that human-caused changes to climate were becoming irreversible. Check out this site: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/apr/04/ipcc-report-now-or-never-if-world-stave-off-climate-disaster>.

## Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center's May Programs

### First Friday with the B.A.D. Birdhouse Project

Friday, May 6, 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Nebraska History Museum

This special exhibition is an auction and exhibit to celebrate the winners of the Big B.A.D. Birdhouse Project. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and an amazing exhibit of birdhouses.

### Third Tuesday Bird Outing

Tuesday, May 17, 8:00-10:00 a.m.

Join a knowledgeable bird guide on an outing around the accessible trails. Meet fellow birders and learn the birds of the prairie. Free admission!

We ask for online registration to know who and how many are coming so we can email any updated COVID-19 or weather cancellation information. Binoculars will be available. Watch our website for information on mask requirements. We look forward to birding with you again this year.

### Let's Go Birding Together: SUNSET STROLL

Thursday, May 19, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Join us for this special Let's Go Birding Together event! It's a chance to get back together, enjoy nature, birds, and a lovely prairie sunset with friends and community. Our friends at OutNebraska are co-hosting. This event is a safe and welcoming space for all. Free admission.

### Prairie-to-Prairie 2022: Run, Bike, Run

Sunday, May 22, 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

This Run-Bike-Run is a non-competitive fundraiser for the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch. You may participate as an individual or as a team of two. At the conclusion of the race, there will be a celebration onsite at Spring Creek Prairie with food vendors and drinks available for purchase.

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](mailto:scp@audubon.org).

## Public Officials

### **President Joe Biden**

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

### **Senator Ben Sasse**

1128 Lincoln Mall Ste 305, Lincoln NE 68508  
Lincoln phone: 402-476-1400 Fax: 402-476-0605  
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-4224 Fax: 202-224-5213  
E-mail at website: <http://sasse.senate.gov>

### **Senator Deb Fischer**

440 N 8<sup>th</sup> St Ste 120, Lincoln NE 68508  
Lincoln phone: 402-441-4600 Fax: 402-476-8753  
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-6551 Fax: 202-228-0012  
E-mail at website: <http://fischer.senate.gov>

### **1st District Position Vacant at this Time**

#### **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 Pete Ricketts**

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

#### **State Senator \_\_\_\_\_**

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

#### **State Capitol Switchboard**

402-471-2311

#### **Lancaster County Commissioners**

County-City Bldg, 555 S 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: [council@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:council@lincoln.ne.gov)

#### **Lincoln Journal Star**

Letters to the editor, 926 P 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  
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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## Farms with Natural Habitat Gain More Benefits from Birds

A study finds that weaving wild patches into farmland can attract more beneficial species, reducing crop damage and risks to food safety.

Birds can be a mixed blessing for farmers. Sometimes birds increase yields by gobbling crop-eating insects and rodents. But they may also devour crops, ingest beneficial bugs, or harbor pathogens that pose a risk to human health when they show up in food. Birds come as a package deal, with all of the different ways that each species interacts with the farm.

For farmers, the study offers an endorsement for creating or maintaining natural areas—or, if that’s not an option, installing nest boxes to attract barn swallows and other insect-eating birds.

Learn more on this topic on National Audubon’s website at [audubon.org/news/farms-natural-habitat-gain-more-benefits-birds](http://audubon.org/news/farms-natural-habitat-gain-more-benefits-birds).

## Wachiska Audubon Society 4547 Calvert St Ste 10 Lincoln NE 68506-5643

402-486-4846

office@WachiskaAudubon.org

www.WachiskaAudubon.org

If you missed a monthly program or want to view one again, Wachiska Audubon’s monthly Zoom programs are available on YouTube via the homepage at [www.WachiskaAudubon.org](http://www.WachiskaAudubon.org).

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Office Administrator..... Arlys Reitan

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\*vacant

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**\*Denotes voting Board member**

For contact information of officers and committee chairs, call the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846.

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***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**.

