



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

# The Babbling Brook

Our 43rd Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2016

JANUARY 2016

Volume 25 - Issue 1

General Meeting — Thursday, January 14, 7:00 p.m., Union College Dick Auditorium, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln

## Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch

with Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Special Project Administrator  
Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department

First conceptualized as part of the Lincoln-Lancaster County 2040 Comprehensive Plan, the Prairie Corridor is a tallgrass prairie passage and trail that will build on our nationally recognized trail and greenway system and link two of Lincoln and Lancaster County's premier environmental resource and education centers. It will follow the Haines Branch of Salt Creek from Pioneers Park Nature Center to the Conestoga Lake State Recreation Area, extend south through the Village of Denton, and on to Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center.



Nicole Fleck-Tooze

been reestablished. Additional enhancements have improved the habitat for grassland-dependent birds and diversity of native grasses and forbs. Progress on conservation, habitat, trail connections, and education and outreach has continued during the past year. The comprehensive website at [prairiecorridor.org](http://prairiecorridor.org) has more information and a full list of project partners which includes Wachiska.

As many Wachiskans realize, less than one percent of tallgrass prairie once found in the U.S. remains today, resulting in native pollinators declining at an alarming rate. This fact is beginning to receive national attention. By preserving and reestablishing prairie and other natural areas, the Corridor will provide important habitat for a variety of wildlife—preserving Nebraska's heritage and ensuring that future generations will be able to experience it.

The Prairie Corridor will support economic development by celebrating the natural heritage of the "Prairie Capital" with a unique tallgrass prairie experience easily accessible from I-80. The trail will link to the area's nationally recognized trail system and provide a 20-mile roundtrip trail ride that will encourage visitors to linger longer in Lincoln.

Helping us understand and visualize this future dream will be **Nicole Fleck-Tooze**. Nicole is a long-time Wachiska member who has many years of experience in city government. She began her career in Lincoln's Planning Department and moved to Public Works and Utilities after several years where she managed the Watershed Management Division. After nine years in Public Works, Nicole returned to Planning as the long-range planning manager. Her current post is within the Parks and Recreation Department where she works with special projects.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, January 14**, at **7:00 p.m.** for this free public presentation in the Union College Dick Auditorium, 3800 South 48th Street, in Lincoln. Look for Audubon signs on the doors. There is a ramp at the east entrance and an elevator inside. Free parking is available on both sides of 48th Street and in the College View SDA Church parking lots on Prescott Avenue. Refreshments will be served after the program.

### Calendar

#### January 2016

- 4 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 6:00 p.m.
- 5 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 14 General Meeting, "Haines Prairie Corridor,"  
by Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Union College, 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Field Trip to Ida Grove, IA, to see owls (page 2)
- 25 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 28 Legislation Committee, DaVinci's, 11th & G, 6:00 p.m.



## Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

### Owling Iowa with Don Poggensee

Every winter a seemingly ordinary park in Northwest Iowa hosts extraordinary visitors. Northern saw-whet owls move south and inhabit the conifers of Moorehead Park in Ida Grove where owl guru Don Poggensee draws upon his 26 years of experience to search out the wee owls and document their stay. Last winter Don found six saw-whets for our group to view, but his searches so far this season have turned up a smaller number. We're still optimistic we'll get a chance to see at least one owl even with our reduced odds. In the past, we've also seen long-eared owls in the area; however, some years that species can be difficult to locate. On our return trip we'll stop by the Owego Wetlands to check for short-eared owls at dusk. Two owls were reported at that location in early December, so maybe we'll get lucky and see them this year.

We'll meet at **9:30 a.m.** on **Sunday, January 17**, on the south side of the State Capitol in Lincoln at 15th & H streets across from the governor's mansion. Participants can either carpool or caravan the 150 miles to Ida Grove. Our arrival at Moorehead Park should be around 12:15-12:30 p.m. for anyone wanting to meet up with the group at our destination. Dress for winter weather and plan to spend time outside. Bring binoculars and scope if you have them and also a sack lunch, snacks, and any beverages you may want. We plan to be back in Lincoln by early evening. There is no fee and the public is welcome. If you have questions, call John at 402-475-7275.

### New National Audubon Members the Past Few Months

It's been awhile since new members were last recognized due to updating of reporting procedures at the national level. Please welcome any of the following folks whom you may know or meet soon. We hope everyone will join us in a monthly general meeting program, field trip, or another Wachiska event or activity. We appreciate your interest and support in saving birds and their habitats.

Paul Addleman  
Ron Anderson  
Beverly Austin  
Tom Ballard  
Howard Brasch  
Allen Campbell  
Jacque Carter  
Achim Click  
Glynnis Collins & Rich Brozovic  
Diane Conley  
William Davis  
Lee Douglas Interiors Inc  
Duane Eversoll  
Steven Gade  
Kate Gaul  
Ellie Griffith  
Sara Hartzell

Patricia Hays  
Frank Hilsabeck  
John & Mary Hintz  
Ed Hubbs  
Marjorie Johnson  
Con Keating  
Arlene Kellogg  
Rich Kluver  
Jeff Kohn  
Charles Kreshel  
Nadine Krivohlavek  
Norman Landgren  
Daryll Lightner  
Max Linder  
Sherry Linnerson  
Stan Litty  
Jim Luers  
Robin MacKnight

Marilyn Maude  
Jamie McLennan  
Elton Mendenhall  
Robert Nefsky  
Betty Novotny  
R L Pardy  
Keith Paulsen  
Dustin Phillips  
Neal Prince  
Frank Rall  
Rich Rice  
Les Roberts  
Barbara Rothenay  
Amy Sandquist  
D. Smiley  
Maryann Steinbeck  
Eunice Stuckey  
Margaret Stuckey

Ray Taddeucci  
Steven & Jan Thelen  
Ed Tricker  
Michael Volz  
Constance Welsch  
John Wiederspan  
Bryan Willnerd  
Terry Wittler  
Mike & Christina Wittrock  
Ellen Zvolanek  
Transferred into Wachiska  
Carol Dunshee  
Betsy Fusek  
Diane Ryder  
Jason St Sauver  
J W Smith  
Vicky & Alan Weisz Tomkins

## Whooping Cranes Enjoy the Good Life

by John Carlini & Shari Schwartz

Six majestic whooping cranes recently spent 19 days at Father Hupp Wildlife Management Area (WMA) near Bruning, Nebraska. The group consisted of an adult pair with their juvenile (or colt), and three additional individuals with adult-looking plumage. Joel Jorgensen with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission reported these cranes spent the majority of their time on the 160-acre wetland during their stay from November 13 to December 1, which tied the fourth longest known fall migration stopover since 1941. The resources these endangered birds utilized were available because of a 2013 restoration project supported by a number of individuals along with the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, Ducks Unlimited, the Nebraska Environmental Trust, and a grant from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

The WMA was temporarily closed to protect the whoopers from disturbance by hunters and paparazzi, but the parking lots on the perimeter allowed many observers from far and wide to see the cranes. Our schedules didn't allow us to visit until their last day in Nebraska, and we were fortunate to see their departure as they continued their migration south. The whoopers' behavior surprised us when their flight path took them fairly close to our car. They didn't veer off like the sandhill crane skeins that pour into the Platte River in March. We speculated the whoopers had a higher tolerance for people because they aren't hunted like sandhill cranes are in surrounding states. Our friend swears they liked us because our car was white!



## From the Board ...

by Bruce Kennedy, Chair  
Legislation Committee

### Outlook for the Coming Legislative Session

As chairman of the legislation committee, I would like to say a big thank you to Wachiska's Board for supporting our committee. I would also like to thank the members of the committee for their loyal participation at our monthly meetings. We have an active group and are always looking for new members. We meet once a month at 6:00 p.m. at DaVinci's restaurant at 11th and G streets in Lincoln in one of their meeting rooms, talk over environmental matters in general, have supper, and go through our agenda. I try to keep the meetings to an hour or, at most, an hour and a half.



**Bruce Kennedy**

As we go into the 2016 state legislative session, I feel good about our organizational structure and our ability to be represented on a first-class basis. This is because of the efforts of Marian Langan who has put together a coalition consisting of Ducks Unlimited, Audubon Nebraska, Wachiska Audubon, and Audubon Society of Omaha to hire the lobbying firm of Zulkoski Weber to represent us on water issues, conservation easements, and protecting the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

Our most important piece of legislation coming up, in my opinion, stems from the Memorandum of Understanding among the five Niobrara NRDs, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and NPPD concerning transfer of water rights on Spencer Dam on the Niobrara. In order to make this happen, a law is needed to allow for change in water use from hydropower to multiple use. This should be a top priority for all conservationists. The MOU is quite complicated, and I have not gone into detail here. Anyone interested in learning more about this should contact me at [brucemargekenn@gmail.com](mailto:brucemargekenn@gmail.com) or call 402-796-2114.

I have greatly enjoyed serving as chair of this committee for the past several years and look forward to continuing active participation on the various matters of public policy that are addressed by this group.

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Cleaning products, paints, particleboard, plastics, and other materials in your home release chemicals into the air that may cause allergies, headaches, asthma, or other ailments. Fortunately, houseplants such as spider plant, snake plant, and bamboo palm, as well as their associated soil microorganisms, help to clean indoor air pollution by breaking down certain harmful gases. For better air quality, place at least one of these hardworking houseplants in every 100 square feet or so of your home. Each should be in a pot that is at least six to eight inches in diameter.

## Wachiska's New President for 2016

by Richard Peterson

Jessi Umberger is our chapter's newly-elected president for 2016. When asked if I would write a short bio of our president, I agreed. I didn't know much about Jessi. As vice president for the last two years, I saw her at Board meetings and general meetings, and I'd run into her a couple times at the Wild Bird Habitat Store. It wasn't until we arranged to meet at the Meadowlark on South Street that we sat down to talk.

Born in Lincoln, Jessi is the youngest of three girls—sister Alison lives in Virginia and Kati in Lincoln. Jessi attended Waverly High School and graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2007 with a degree in fisheries and wildlife biology. Shortly after graduating, she responded to an Audubon mailing and joined Wachiska in 2009. She's been on the population and environment committee ever since. So, why Audubon, I asked her. She likes Wachiska because it appeals to a wide range of people—not only bird watchers but to people who are passionate about preserving our natural resources, including our native prairies. Besides working at the Wild Bird Habitat Store, she also works for the Arbor Day Foundation. She supports the Capital Humane Society. She and her sisters just finished their biennial bike ride for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation in Nashville, Tennessee.

Jessi and her boyfriend, Jeremy, live on six acres near Otoe. They have four dogs, two cats, 14 chickens, and a horse. Both enjoy gardening and this year they grew tomatoes, corn, lettuce, peppers, and tried plantings of watermelon, pumpkin, and cantaloupe. On their property they have five types of bird feeders, two bluebird houses, and a bee house for native bees. Plans are to plant part of their landscape with native species to attract pollinators. There is a lake nearby where a heron has taken up residence, and a bald eagle is frequently seen cruising the area. Both Jessi and Jeremy enjoy spending time outdoors taking walks with their dogs or fishing in local ponds.



**Tallulah Bell & Jessie**

I was curious about what Jessi does when she is not so involved. Travel is high on her list; in fact, as part of her college education, she spent a semester in Ireland at the National University in Galway. She's taken trips with her sisters to Spain, Italy, and Germany as well as the British Isles and traveled as far away as Australia. Jessi really enjoys the diversity of cultures. Some day you might see her in an RV resuming her travels around the U.S.

As for music, she enjoys a wide range of genres but is partial to the guitar. She's currently reading a biography of Jimi Hendrix. Jessi enjoys taking in everything that life has to offer.

## Vice President Elected for Next Year

by Richard Peterson



**Gary Fehr**

Gary Fehr has been elected as Wachiska's vice president for the coming year. I caught up with him at Panera's next door to the Arbor Day Foundation in downtown Lincoln recently and learned more about him.

Upon graduating from high school in Grand Island, Gary attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he

obtained his B.S. in computer science in 1985. After working a few years, including on company software assignments in India and Poland, he returned to school and received his M.S. in computer science from Stanford University in 1994.

Gary and his spouse, Shannon Moncure, live in Lincoln. Shannon is a Ph.D. candidate in natural resources at UN-L. They do a bit of bird feeding in their backyard and are currently introducing native plants into their landscape. They have traveled together extensively in Europe.

Gary works at the Arbor Day Foundation as a software engineer. In addition, he and Shannon operate Lincoln Neighborhood Urban Farms west of Lincoln where they specialize in vegetables they sell at local farmers' markets. They are planning to expand their farming operations. Buying and producing locally-sourced food is important to them. Although he enjoys a wide variety of cuisines, when eating out Gary can probably be found at bread&cup in the Haymarket.

Gary joined Audubon in 2008. He likes Wachiska's commitment to conserving our native prairies and their core belief in being stewards of the Earth. He has been Wachiska's treasurer for the last five years, serves on the finance committee, and recently joined the new donor development committee. Gary also serves on the board of the Nebraska Food Cooperative, is a member of the Lincoln Food Shed Working Group, the Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society, and the Nebraska Farmer's Union.

In his spare time, if there is any, he enjoys woodworking—from making furniture, cabinets, and remodeling their home to building birds houses from salvaged wood. Gary jogs when he can and is currently reading Aldo Leopold's *Sand County Almanac*. As for music, he leans toward piano jazz by Dave Brubeck and the guitar innovations of Pat Metheny. For movies, he enjoys foreign films and social justice documentaries.

Much of what Gary is about is sustainability—whether it's about the items we buy and consume every day or the source of what we put into our mouths.

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Frost is less likely on a cloudy night with a gentle breeze.

## Meet Wachiska's New Recording Secretary

by Richard Peterson

Rachel Simpson joins the 2016 Wachiska board of directors as the new recording secretary. We arranged to meet during her lunch break for a sit-down at Mojave off North 48<sup>th</sup> Street.

Born in Washington, D.C., Rachel attended high school in Bethesda, Maryland. After receiving a B.A. in biology from Middlebury College in Vermont, she went on to the University of Michigan and received her doctorate in biology, specializing in plant ecology. Woven in and around her academic training she worked in New Zealand and traveled to Australia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Nepal.

She has worked for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission since 2007, serving as data manager and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analyst for the Nebraska Natural Heritage Program. She manages information on rare and declining plant and animal species, as well as ecological communities and provides GIS technical support for the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project. In 2005, she moved to Nebraska and shortly thereafter worked with the Bessey Herbarium at the University of Nebraska State Museum. She has also worked for the Nebraska Bird Partnership to develop a series of maps for the Birding Trails project.

Rachel likes Wachiska because it's a grassroots organization committed to conservation. She appreciates that members take on a range of challenges from conserving prairies to climate change. Joining Wachiska in 2005, Rachel is a member of Wachiska's legislation committee. She also serves of the board of the Nebraska Native Plant Society.



**Rachel Simpson**

Along with her husband, Donald Umstadter, and two indoor cats, she lives on an acreage near Pioneers Park. Donald is a professor of physics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. They have seeded a part of their property to native prairie. They usually spend their vacations visiting relatives in the Maryland area or on the West Coast. In 2015, Rachel enjoyed visiting Arches National Park and Canyonlands National Park in Utah. She's backpacked a portion of the John Muir Trail in California, kayaked on the Niobrara River, and experienced the sandhill crane migration along the Platte. Rachel enjoys hiking when she can find time.

"I am continually inspired by the conservation community in Nebraska. The dedication of Wachiska Audubon members, who contribute so much of their free time to taking on conservation challenges, gives me hope. I look forward to continuing to learn from this outstanding group of people."

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*Winter is on my head, but eternal spring is in my heart.*

—Victor Hugo, French writer (1802-1885)

# Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

Is climate change real? If the world is warming, how do we know the cause? The best chance of an informed answer would seem to be to ask the people who make studying climate their life's work. Those most active will be contributing to specialized journals in their field. By reviewing each of these articles, it's possible to see what percentage of climate scientists think we are seeing anthropogenic global warming (AGW).

The first survey of the peer-reviewed literature was published in 2004 by Dr. Naomi Orestes. It looked at 928 publications from 1993 to 2003 and reported that none rejected the position that climate change is real and caused by human activity. The second survey by a team of scientists associated with the website "Skeptical Science" is the one most often quoted. It surveyed 12,464 publications between 1991 and 2011 and found over 97 percent agreed: it's real and it's us. But now that conclusion has been challenged as outdated.

Dr. James Lawrence Powell conducted a new survey of articles published in 2013 and 2014 and found that five of the 24,210 surveys rejected AGW; four of the 69,406 authors rejected AGW. The current consensus, he says, is 99.9 percent.

So why is there still so much confusion in the public mind about the science of climate change? One reason is that the companies whose profits depend on selling greenhouse gas-emitting products put a great deal of organization and funding into deliberately spreading confusion and doubt. This was well documented in a fact-packed 25-page report by Greenpeace called "Dealing in Doubt: The Climate Denial Industry and Climate Science, A Brief History of Attacks on Climate Science, Climate Scientists and the IPCC." (2010). Check out this site: <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/publications/reports/dealing-in-doubt>. Exxon contributed \$23 million to the climate denial campaign from 1998 to 2010, Greenpeace said. But that's not the worst of it.

In September, Inside Climate News, a Pulitzer prize-winning nonprofit, published "Exxon: the Road Not Taken, Exxon's Own Research Confirmed Fossil Fuels' Role in Global Warming Decades Ago." See <http://insideclimatenews.org/news/15092015/Exxons-own-research-confirmed-fossil-fuels-role-in-global-warming>. The report quoted internal memos, budgets, and interviews showing that in the 1970s and '80s Exxon employed top scientists to assess climate changes. In July 1977, James F. Black, a top expert in Exxon's Research and Engineering division, told Exxon's management committee, "In the first place, there is general scientific agreement that the most likely manner in which mankind is influencing the global climate is through carbon dioxide released from the burning of fossil fuels." In 1978, Black gave an updated version of the same presentation to a larger group within Exxon, discussing likely effects, including the possibility that some places would be turned to desert and some countries "would have their agricultural output reduced or destroyed."

Exxon then launched an ambitious research effort on climate, including CO2 sampling and climate modeling. In 1979, at a time when there was question about the ocean absorbing much of the warming, Exxon outfitted a supertanker with instruments of special design to sample CO2 in the water. Over \$1 million was spent over three years on the project. In 1982, Exxon produced a "primer" drawing from the research circulated to Exxon management. It was marked "Not to be distributed externally." It said that unless there were major reductions in fossil fuel combustion, "there are some potentially catastrophic events that must be considered," citing independent experts. "Once the effects are measurable, they might not be reversible." (Inside Climate News cited above.)

Exxon's cutting-edge research was scaled back at the end of the 1980s; at the same time, Exxon began investing heavily in the doubt and confusion generation business. In 1989, Exxon and fossil fuel producers created the Global Climate Coalition which then worked to stop U.S. and international action to control greenhouse gas emissions. More documentation of these efforts was collected by the Union of Concerned Scientists. See <http://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/attach/2015/07/The-Climate-Deception-Dossiers.pdf>.

It's hard not to ponder: What if we'd begun changing the things humans do to cause global warming—burning fossil fuels, deforestation, waste of energy and food, etc. in 1978 or even 1988, before the CO2 doubled to today's levels?

## McNabb Receives Dutcher Award

by Marian Langan, Executive Director, Audubon Nebraska

In honor of her leadership for Audubon's climate work, Marilyn McNabb was awarded the William Dutcher Award for the Central Flyway at National Audubon's convention held in Leesburg, Virginia, last July. The award is given for outstanding service to the Audubon cause at the regional level.



**Marilyn McNabb and Marian Langan**

National Audubon Society climate staff stated that Marilyn deserves recognition because of her leadership, passion, and commitment to Audubon. Marilyn has led Wachiska efforts through coordinating legislative visits, writing monthly articles for the newsletter, and keeping communication going throughout multiple groups and efforts.

Past Wachiska Dutcher Award winners include Tim Knott, Arlys and Ken Reitan, and the late Mort Stelling.

Marilyn was recognized for this honor and given a plaque at last month's holiday potluck party. Congratulations, Marilyn!

## Paris Climate Conference

by David Yarnold, President, Audubon

When 195 world leaders approved the global agreement to meet a science-based target for reducing greenhouse gases, I thought: This is what the starting line looks like. In a big, messy process like COP21, getting started toward a common goal is the first hurdle and often the toughest. Nobody ever finished a marathon by starting at Mile 26, and my view is that the reporting out of Paris didn't give enough credit to the world leaders for just getting started. After all, this may well be the most significant environmental agreement in history.

Investors and funders will have new confidence in their investments because the role of markets will be critical to weening the world off fossil fuels. Audubon's members will have a new context for their efforts to protect the places birds need even while we're all working to address the underlying causes of climate change.

Across America, Audubon's members and leaders helped create demand for this agreement. We've worked on renewable energy standards from New York to Ohio to California; we brought the impact on birds into the public conversation; chapter members from Bradenton, Florida, to Seattle have used our science to raise awareness about sea level rise. Nationally, we took the lead with our Green Group colleagues in saying to the current administration that "all of the above" wasn't an energy policy that would bend the emissions curve downward. And, of course, we're doing this work with like-minded partner organizations across the hemisphere, from the Garden Club of America to Calidris in Colombia.

In the lead up to the Paris talks, Audubon and BirdLife International published a report, *The Messengers*, which summarized studies from across BirdLife's 119 member countries. *The Messengers* showed that more than one-fifth of all bird species across the globe are threatened by climate change. We saw more than 220,000 visits online, and hard copies of the report made their way into the hands of negotiators—including France's President Hollande. Our [#BirdsTellUs](#) social media campaign was used nearly 10,000 times on Twitter.

And Audubon partnered with Aveda to create a petition—*One Voice, One World*—that beat all of our goals with more than 27,000 signatures representing 76 countries. Aveda shared the petition with heads of state just days before the crucial vote. While the Paris agreement is the floor and not the ceiling of what's needed or what's possible, it refills our reservoirs of hope as we continue to build our local, state, national, and hemispheric efforts over the next five years.

Thanks to each of you. You're what hope looks like to a bird.

PS: To learn more, visit [Audubon.org/climate](http://Audubon.org/climate) or contact Audubon's climate initiative at [climateaction@audubon.org](mailto:climateaction@audubon.org).

## The ABC of Bird-Lore

submitted by Richard Peterson

"For Young Observers" was a regular section in *Bird-Lore*. The following was published in 1901, Volume II, No. 2. It was written by Elizabeth Hoppin Lewis.

**A** is for **Auk**, now extinct, we are told.  
**B** is for **Blue-jay**, so handsome and bold.  
**C** is for **Cat-bird**, who mocks everything.  
**D** is for **Dick-cissel**, and how he can sing.  
**E** is for **Eagle**, who sees far away.  
**F** is for **Fly-catcher**, silent and gray.  
**G** is for **Goldfinch**, a gallant young man.  
**H** is for **Hawk**, who will hunt if he can.  
**I** is for **Indigo** bird, you must know.  
**J** is for **Junco**, who comes with the snow.  
**K** is for **Kingfisher**, hatched in a hole.  
**L** is for **Lark**, and he sings a long role.  
**M** is for **March-wren**, who warbles all day.  
**N** is for **Nuthatch**, "Quank, quank," hear him say?  
**O** is for **Oriole**, nest like a hood.  
**P** is for **Pewee**, the voice of the wood.  
**Q** is for the bird that we eat, called a **Quail**.  
**R** is for **Redstart**, **Robin** and **Rail**.  
**S** is for **Sparrow**, too many choices.  
**T** is for **Thrush**, with a glorious voice.  
**U** is the long Latin name for the **Loon**.  
**V** is for **Vireo**, voice of high noon.  
**W**'s for **Warblers**, the gay butterflies.  
**X** is a **Gull**; if you know him you are wise.  
**Y** is a **Yellow-throat**, with a black mask.  
**Z**'s a poor **Mourner**, who makes like a task.

So before bed, instead of letting your child or grandchild play with their electronic device, try sharing the above and sparking an interest in nature.

## Speak Up for Birds Online with #BirdsTellUs

Join our [#BirdsTellUs](#) social media campaign by sharing messages with the hashtag on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram—and ask your friends, family, and chapter



members to do the same. The campaign is making birds a part of the global conversation about climate change, as world leaders meet in Paris for the COP21 climate talks in December 2015. Birds

have long been the first indicators of stressed and unhealthy environments, and climate change is no exception. You can find more details on [Audubon Works](#). Join the discussion and share resources with others in the Audubon network through [Audubon Works](#). (Current registration code is *worksAvocet*).

## Public Officials

### **President Barack Obama**

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

### **Senator Ben Sasse**

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

### **Senator Deb Fischer**

440 N 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>

### **Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (1<sup>st</sup> District)**

301 S 13<sup>th</sup> St Ste 100, Lincoln NE 68508-2537  
Lincoln phone: 402-438-1598  
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4806 Fax: 202-225-5686  
E-mail at website: <http://fortenberry.house.gov>

### **Congressman Brad Ashford (2<sup>nd</sup> District)**

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

### **Congressman Adrian Smith (3<sup>rd</sup> District)**

416 Valley View Dr Ste 600, Scottsbluff NE 69361  
Scottsbluff phone: 308-632-3333 Fax: 308-635-3049  
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-6435 Fax: 202-225-0207  
E-mail at website: <http://adriansmith.house.gov>

### **Capitol Hill Switchboard**

888-436-8427 or 202-224-3121

### **Governor Pete Ricketts**

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

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

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

### **State Capitol Switchboard**

402-471-2311

### **Lancaster County Commissioners**

County-City Bldg, 555 S 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 Chris Beutler**

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10<sup>th</sup> St Rm 208, 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)

## **Membership**

Wachiska offers two choices of membership—many people choose both. Local membership, called Friends of Wachiska, includes receiving *The Babbling Brook*, our chapter's monthly newsletter. It also includes voting privileges and attendance at monthly meetings, programs, and field trips. All local membership dues remain with Wachiska to support chapter activities such as prairie preservation and education.

Membership in the National Audubon Society also includes membership in our local chapter, Wachiska. You will receive *Audubon* magazine from National Audubon along with *The Babbling Brook*.

### **Friends of Wachiska (local membership)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Recruited by \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 Individual/Friend                      \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Sustainer  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Families                                      \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Patron

Make checks payable to **Wachiska Audubon Society**. All funds remain with our local chapter. Mail to:

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

As a conservation organization, our goal is to use our natural resources wisely. Materials and postage are considerable, and we do not want to waste them. When your address changes or if you are receiving *The Babbling Brook* and would rather not get it, please notify us at [office@wachiskaaudubon.org](mailto:office@wachiskaaudubon.org) or 402-486-4846.

### **AND / OR**

### **National Membership in National Audubon Society**

Dues from new (introductory) memberships and for first-time gifts will be returned to Wachiska if this coupon is used:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Recruited by \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose introductory membership fee of \$20.

Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society** and mail to:

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

**C6ZP040Z**

## Members Recycle Cans for Wachiska

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

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

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

Recycling aluminum cans saves 95 percent of the energy used to make aluminum cans from virgin materials. Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for over two hours.



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Send address changes to *The Babbling Brook*  
Wachiska Audubon Society, 4547 Calvert St Ste 10  
Lincoln NE 68506-5643



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



## Wachiska Audubon Society

4547 Calvert St Ste 10

Lincoln NE 68506-5643

402-486-4846

office@wachiskaaudubon.org

www.wachiskaaudubon.org

## WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2016

### OFFICERS

President .....	*Jessi Umberger (Otoe) .....	402-580-3057
Vice President .....	*Gary Fehr .....	402-570-4382
Recording Secretary .....	*Rachel Simpson .....	402-742-7991
Treasurer .....	*Gary Fehr .....	402-570-4382
Immediate Past President .....	*Elizabeth Nelson .....	402-770-3485

### STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large .....	*Richard Peterson .....	402-489-2996
Director at Large .....	*Roxanne Smith .....	402-477-1319
Director at Large .....	*vacant .....	
Conservation .....	*Stu Luttich (Geneva) .....	402-759-3597
Education .....	*Sue Kohles (Palmyra) .....	402-780-5558
Field Trips .....	John Carlini .....	402-475-7275
	*Ken Reitan .....	402-423-3540
Hospitality .....	Cheryl Moncure .....	402-488-0036
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	*Sam Truax .....	402-325-9012
Membership .....	Joyce Vannier .....	402-570-8469
	*Lana Novak .....	402-475-8693
Monthly Programs/General Meetings .....	Arlys Reitan .....	WAS office 402-486-4846
Newsletter Editor .....	Arlys Reitan .....	WAS office 402-486-4846
Population/Environment .....	*Colleen Babcock .....	308-850-0445
Publicity/Public Relations .....	Jeanne Kern .....	402-423-0428

\*Denotes Board member

### OTHER ASSOCIATES

Bird Questions .....	Kevin Poague .....	402-797-2301
Facebook coordinator .....	Benjamin Vogt .....	402-499-5851
NAS Regional Board Member .....	Michele Crist (Boise, ID) .....	208-863-1918
Newsletter Layout .....	Linda Sullivan .....	402-580-8515
Raptor Recovery .....	Betsy Finch (Elmwood) .....	402-994-2009
Executive Director Audubon Nebraska .....	Marian Langan .....	402-797-2301
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Director .....	Glynnis Collins .....	402-797-2301
Webmaster .....	Dan Staehr .....	402-440-5869

## NEBirds Website

Check out the email discussion at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NEBirds> to learn of the latest sightings and interesting tales of Nebraska's most avid birders and those interested in Nebraska birds and their ecology. Posts change daily—and even more often when excitement arises. Offerings of recent sightings, questions, and new photos are all welcome.

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

## A Gift to the Future

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