



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 50th Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2023

DECEMBER 2023

Volume 32 - Issue 12

Wachiska's 50th Anniversary Celebration — Sunday, December 3
University of Nebraska's Innovation Campus, 2021 Transformation Drive

Wachiska Turns 50

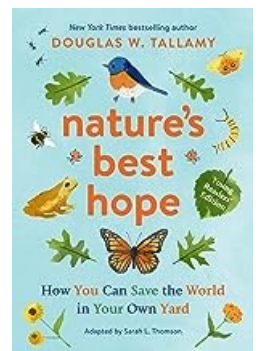
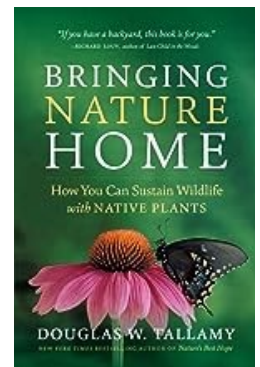
by Mark Brohman and Arlys Reitan

This month will be a different format from what Wachiska has followed for half a century. There will be NO general meeting on the regular second Thursday night; instead, we will be celebrating our first 50 years on Sunday afternoon, December 3, at a new location. However, reservations are needed, and that deadline will have passed by the time this newsletter arrives. SO—this will be a reminder for those who registered to join us.

The luncheon and Tallamy talk will be on the second floor of the Nebraska Innovation Studio building at 2021 Transformation Drive. That is on North 21st Street and Transformation Drive on the University of Nebraska's Innovation Campus. This is just east of the Bob Devaney Center and across from the university's greenhouse and The Scarlet Hotel. Innovation Campus is on the old state fairgrounds on the north side of Salt Creek Roadway. Along North 21st Street on the west side of the street, there are three large buildings. The middle building is the Nebraska Innovation Studio. Free parking is available in the large parking lot north of the three buildings. All other parking areas and street parking require a fee. Someone will direct visitors to the parking lot and the meeting room.

The Innovation Studio building is the old FFA building that had the exhibits and the auction arena during the state fair era. Refer to the first paragraph of the executive director's message on page 2 for current information on the December 3 event.

Doug Tallamy, an American entomologist, ecologist, and conservationist, is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. He advocates for home gardens and landscaping that bridge the gaps between parks and preserves in providing habitat for native species. Dr. Tallamy has written numerous books on native landscapes including *Bringing Nature Home*, *Nature's Best Hope*, *The Nature of Oaks*, and has co-authored *The Living Landscape*. Lincoln's own Francie & Finch Bookshop will donate 10 percent of the sales of Tallamy's books and CDs to Wachiska. Order your books from Francie & Finch today and be ready for Tallamy's talk on December 3. To become familiar with his work, go to www.homegrownnationalpark.org and/or listen to the podcast at <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-poor-prolesalmanac/id1523042499?i=1000621330604>.



Framed photos by local, widely well-known, and respected photographers Joel Sartore and Michael Forsberg will be raffled off during the luncheon. In addition to Francie & Finch, Sartore, and Forsberg, event sponsors include Wild Bird Habitat Store, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Lower Platte South NRD, Pepperl family, Marilyn McNabb, The Scarlet Hotel, Stock Seed Farms, Midwest Natives Nursery, Aldersgate Gardens & Playground, the Unitarian Church's Green Sanctuary Committee, LES Pollinator Program, Cradduck Productions, Eagle Printing & Sign, and Green at Heart - Westminster Presbyterian Church. Many thanks to all for their support and belief in Wachiska's mission!

Calendar

December

- 3** 50th anniversary gala, Innovation Campus, 1:00 & 3:00 p.m.
- 11 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 12** **Newsletter submission deadline moved up due to holidays, 5:00 p.m.**
- 14 NO GENERAL MEETING DUE TO 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EARLIER
- 16 Christmas Bird Count – contact Jason St. Sauver (page 4)
- 19 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Bird Count December 16

Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman

Our 50th anniversary celebration is finally here. Innovation Campus (the old state fairgrounds) is where we will gather on December 3. I hope you signed up to get tickets for lunch and the Doug Tallamy talk. It is too late to purchase lunch tickets (final numbers had to be turned into the caterer), but there may still be a few tickets to Doug's talk. There is no charge for the talk, and if you haven't got a ticket, get in touch with me as soon as possible, and I'll see if we have additional talk tickets available. It will be great to see Wachiska members and friends.



We completed our final Nature Night of the year at Holmes Elementary School, and we look forward to participating in more next spring. Wachiska members helped with two seed collections in November, and we might slip in one more before the snow flies. We appreciate Jarel Vinduska's generous gift to collect seeds on his prairies.

A fabulous film entitled *Nine-Mile Prairie: Hope in the Tallgrass* was shown recently. The producer is our own Wachiska Board member, Ethan Freese. Another wonderful film, *Salt Valley Greenways: Nature's Network*, produced by Carlee Moates, was also shown that night. Both films can be found online.

Last month I attended National Audubon's Leadership Conference in Estes Park, Colorado. The scenery was gorgeous, and it was wonderful to meet Audubon members from Canada to Chile. We learned about great work Audubon is doing in Belize, Panama, Chile, Columbia, and other Central and South American countries to protect the wintering grounds of so many of our birds. On one of the field trips, I observed an American dipper that would jump into the icy stream, swim a little with its wings, walk on the streambed, and then pop up on the bank before repeating. However, I saw the greatest variety of birds while visiting long-time biologist for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Mike Fritz, and his wife on the outskirts of Estes Park. They have retired to a beautiful home with a bounty of birds at their feeders. Of course, I had to stop by the Stanley Hotel and watch elk walking around town while I was in Estes Park. The weather was perfect for the conference even though they had 13 inches of snow the previous week. Most of the snow had melted, and all the roads were clear and dry.

I want to thank all our supporters for your generous time and donations this past year. Because of you, we can continue to provide education, prairie protection, and conservation across Southeast Nebraska. Wachiska is a well-respected conservation organization, and it is because of all of you.

The American Badger

by Richard Peterson



The American badger (*Taxidea taxus*) is a member of the Mustelidae, a family of carnivores that includes the skunk, mink, marten, weasel, otter, ferret, and wolverine. All have musk glands that emit noxious odors in self-defense. Of the four subspecies, *Taxidea taxus taxus* is found in the central U.S. and central Canada.

Males, which are slightly larger than females, can grow up to 30 inches long and weigh up to 20 pounds. The body is covered with a grizzled, brown, black, and white coat of coarse fur. The triangular-shaped face has a distinctive black-and-white pattern with brown or brown-black "badges" marking the cheeks. A white stripe extends from the nose over the top of the head.

Badgers are commonly found in both tallgrass and shortgrass prairies and in grass-dominated meadows and fields. They are also found in open areas like parklands, farms, and treeless areas with friable soil.

For a home, these mammals typically enlarge an empty gopher or other animal burrow which can be 4-10 feet deep and 4-6 feet wide. Here they have a place to sleep, hide, have protection from the weather, and raise their young. The displaced soil from all their digging and construction activity gives a mound shape to the area around the entrance to the den.

Badgers mate in late summer. They experience delayed implantation, meaning pregnancies can be delayed until December or later. Young are born in late March - April with an average litter of three. Adults can live up to about ten years.

American badgers are fossorial carnivores adapted to digging to pursue their prey. They dig and devour, using their wedge-shaped head, stocky and low-slung bodies, short, powerful legs, and huge foreclaws. They break the soil, moving it behind them and out of the way as they dig deeper. Badgers' prey includes ground hogs, pocket gophers, ground squirrels, marmots, prairie dogs, deer mice, and others. Coyotes are not normally tolerant of badgers, but they have been seen observing a badger active in an underground search. The coyote then paces around overhead, watching and waiting for the prey to exit their escape route. Ground nesting birds, lizards, amphibians, and others can also make a badger meal. They are generally nocturnal, but in remote areas far from humans they can be seen foraging during daylight. In South Dakota, they are the most important predator of rattlesnakes.

American badgers have few natural enemies but are vulnerable to predation by golden eagles, bobcats, and coyotes. Bears and gray wolves have been known to kill a badger. An abandoned badger burrow may be occupied by mammals such as fox and skunks. Badgers are trapped for their pelts, and their bristly fur is used for high-end shaving brushes.

Wachiska's Prairie Habitat Improvement Program

supported by NET and matching partner grants
by Elizabeth Nelson, Stu Luttich, Theresa Pella

Over the last several years, Wachiska's conservation committee has developed a Prairie Habitat Improvement Program (PHIP) for the chapter's 32 prairies in Southeastern Nebraska—nine of which Wachiska owns and 23 of which Wachiska serves as the conservation easement holder. Maintaining the prairies we own is simplified in that they generate income from grazing and haying, and that income can be used towards their management. The management is fully controlled by Wachiska. However, assuring that the prairies covered by conservation easements are properly maintained has proved to be more difficult, as Wachiska must rely on the cooperation of the prairie landowners. Prairies, counter to popular belief, do not maintain themselves. Most importantly, eradicating invasive species and improving habitat diversity require ongoing efforts and are the primary objectives of Wachiska's PHIP.

A successful grant application to the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) resulted in a three-year grant starting in the spring of 2022. The grant is supported by matching grants from Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Natural Resources Districts of Nemaha, Lower Platte North, and Lower Platte South as well as substantial matching funds and in-kind work from Wachiska and, of course, the important prairie preservation work done by many of the conservation easement landowners. Year 1 of the NET grant ended June 2023. This is a summary of our progress.

On the prairies Wachiska owns, critical improvements are in progress on Klapka (Pawnee County) and Wildcat Creek (Gage County) prairies. Grazing is part of the Klapka Prairie management plan. To support that approach, water lines and stock tanks were added several years ago. We are in the process of installing new fencing on the property to improve grazing paddocks. Construction is underway and will continue next year. At Wildcat we are restoring the cultivated cropland portion of the property into high-diversity tallgrass prairie. During late autumn this year and no later than spring 2024, the area will be seeded with high-diversity native forbs and grasses, followed by the planting of 780 spring ephemeral plant plugs. Hard expenses, such as plant plugs, fencing materials, etc. are partially paid for by grant funds. While the conservation committee plans the overall prairie preservation approaches, Northern Prairies Land Trust (NPLT) is our primary in-the-field partner, providing or supervising the majority of the work done on Wachiska-owned prairies. NPLT is funded in great part by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to assist in meeting the goals and objectives in Nebraska's Natural Legacy Project. This includes managing biologically unique landscapes such as Lamb (Johnson County), Berg (Nemaha County), and Wildcat Creek. NPLT receives no direct

payments from Wachiska but donates their labor and expertise to us through annual agreements.

On the prairies covered by conservation easements, our working partners are first and foremost the landowners of these properties who are the frontline stewards in caring for these prairies. Wachiska also partners with Prairie Legacy, Inc., and Lucky Dog Property Solutions to offer landowners additional support. Wachiska has partnered with Prairie Legacy for many years. They have provided excellent environmental consulting advice, botanical and biological survey expertise, restoration, and management services, and offer a wide range of plants and seed focusing on high quality, native, local ecotype material which is best suited for our local prairies. We began working with Lucky Dog in 2023. Their staff are trained and licensed to do the chemical applications needed for invasive species control. This is primarily done by hand, walking or by ATV to apply chemicals to the invasive species while staying away from desirable native plants.

Prairie Legacy has outlined prairie habitat improvement plans for all 23 prairies for which Wachiska holds the Conservation Easement Agreement (CEA) protecting the land. All of the CEA prairies have invasive species infestations, some to a greater degree than others. Work has begun on ten of the prairies. This included hand spraying to selectively control invasive species, mechanical removal of invasive trees and shrubs, and early haying to reduce seeding and spread of invasive brome grass. Work begun this past year continues at the Petrzilka, Pesek, Fricke Cemetery, and Jurgena prairies. During 2023, work intensified at Wulf Prairie with work on removing downy brome, sweet yellow clover, and leafy spurge. In addition, at Jurgena Prairie garlic mustard was mechanically removed, with the removal of multiple areas of sweet yellow clover as well as spot spraying the leafy spurge. The updated inventory of invasive species and pests was developed for a three-year treatment plan for Kasl Prairie late 2023 and will be implemented next year. Prairie Legacy will visit each prairie after work is completed to assess effectiveness and fine-tune plans for future activities. This work is supported by NET and partner funding.

The outreach we have been doing with the owners of prairies protected by conservation easements has highlighted some challenges. As the land changes hands through sales or generational transfers, new owners are not always as aware of or willing to do the work required to preserve the prairies; in some cases, there is significant resistance to Wachiska's involvement as easement monitor. Since Wachiska receives no revenue from these prairies, a new approach will be needed when the NET grant expires in the summer of 2025. A conservation subcommittee is being formed to develop recommendations for the best fit of native prairie habitats owned by others within Wachiska's mission.

(continued on page 4, column 1)

(continued from page 3, column 2)

Wachiska's PHIP

Legal issues do arise. For example, at Fertig Prairie an adjacent landowner changed the drainage pattern off his cultivated land which resulted in flooding, damaging part of the prairie. Taken to court, the landowner agreed to sell, and Wachiska agreed to buy, an adjoining tract of unbroken prairie at less than fair market value, which served as an innovative compensation approach for the flood damage to the prairie.

Don Pepperl, who has been donating legal services to Wachiska for over 25 years, has determined it's time to retire. We are forever indebted to Don for the countless hours he has donated to Wachiska on legal issues for both owned and easement prairies, in the field, and in the office since the 1970s. With Don's support, Wachiska has begun an association with a new attorney for which we expect to pay for services. While the chapter does have funds set aside for legal services, the NET grant will help offset some legal expenses through June 2025. Additionally, the grant covered the cost for construction and installation of new signs for some prairies including Klapka, Gewacke, Beethe, Kasl, Schuster, Halvorsen, and Dieken. More new signs to replace deteriorated ones are in the works.

Wachiska greatly appreciates the support of the NET and our other financial partners, enabling us to pursue our PHIP. These have allowed Wachiska to maintain and grow the investments made over the years from the many members, friends, and donors who have provided monetary support to preserve native prairies in Southeast Nebraska.

Volunteers Needed for Crane Season at Rowe

by Melissa Amarawardana, Rowe Sanctuary

Volunteers are an integral part of the operation at Rowe Sanctuary and are an important link into the greater community. Volunteers help us maintain and preserve our 3,000 acres of critical habitat on the Platte River by assisting with habitat projects, education programs, office administration, and building maintenance. During crane season when we will be offering a variety of tour experiences March 9 - April 6, we expect to have 30,000 - 40,000 visitors from all over the world.

There are many fun and satisfying ways to become involved with the community here. No matter what your schedule or your interests, there is something here for you! We will tailor your volunteer experience to fit your individual skills and preferences.

This year we will have both online and one on-site training required to ensure that everyone is aware of the construction project here and how we minimize disturbance to the cranes and other wildlife.

Read more about lodging, meals, etc., and find the link to the volunteer application **due by December 15** at <https://rowe.audubon.org/volunteering-0>.

Lincoln's Christmas Bird Count December 16

It is that time of year again for the Lincoln Area Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Jason "the Birdnerd" St. Sauver is coordinating the annual tradition to be held on Saturday, December 16. Anyone can participate, and coordinators are always looking for more volunteer birders to take part. You can count at your bird feeders, in the field, with your kids and family, or even at an accessible bird station. Interested in helping out? Email Jason at scp@audubon.org or call 402-797-2301 by December 8 and celebrate 124 years of the CBC with Audubon.

Audubon Calendar Project

by Arlys Reitan

One of my pet projects each year is providing the opportunity for members, friends, and neighbors to purchase the beautiful Audubon calendars. This is a small fundraiser that is enjoyable because it's the only time during the year when I renew acquaintances and share updates with several of these folks. Records show that this was the 13th year we have done this project. For the 2024 calendar year, 24 calendars were purchased by 11 people. After cost of goods, postage, handling, and tax, Wachiska's profit was \$224.23 plus an additional \$9 in donations for a total of \$233.23. As always, we appreciate being able to serve Wachiskans in this way during the holidays.

Fall 2023 Birdseed Sale Report

by Cathy Shaner, Birdseed Sale coordinator

Thanks to Dean Cole, Larry Remmers, Dave Barnhouse, Mark Brohman, and Dwayne Wilson for assisting me to unload, sort, and load seed into customers' vehicles during the Fall Birdseed Sale. Thank you to Jeff Meyer for coordinating the volunteers for this event. Last, but not least, our heartfelt appreciation to Elizabeth and Daniel Nelson for providing their garages for the easy transfer of 20- and 50-pound bags of birdseed. I want to give a shout out to Nancy Hamer, Linda Sullivan, and Roxanne Smith for assistance with the website and emails. Thanks to all! Before expenses, a total of \$5,143 of seed was sold which included 109 bags and six cases of suet. After expenses for seed, sales tax, shipping, and fees, we netted \$1,975. In addition, a total of \$336 was received in donations. Every bit helps the cause—and the birds are especially grateful!!

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Upcoming Programs

BRRRs & Bugs —Saturday, December 9 – 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Winter Walkabout—Saturday, January 6 – 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

More information on these and other programs can be found on our website at <https://springcreek.audubon.org/events>.

Wachiska Audubon Society Highlights for 2023

by the Wachiska Board

During the November 9th annual meeting, the Board made a short presentation about how Wachiska has been working to further the mission *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.*

Looking at the four focus areas in the 2020 Strategic Plan:

1) Building Relationships

Most priorities/actions in the Plan have been achieved with this year's focus on
planning for the 50th anniversary (December 3rd)
continuing to work with the Otoe-Missouria Tribe
implementing an online membership database

2) Advocating for the Environment

Monthly Audubon Council Zoom calls with Audubon Great Plains, Audubon Kansas, and Audubon Society of Omaha to stay connected and work cooperatively on similar issues
Education/Outreach efforts included Bird EnCOUNTER, Earth Day, Return of the Thunderbirds, Nature Nights, Prairie Discovery, Pioneers Park 60th anniversary, Tour the Wild Side, Arbor Day, Spring Creek Prairie's Hoot 'n' Howl, bringing raptors to after-school programs – connected with over 1,000 individuals, including elementary students
Comment letters to support proposed energy efficiency measures in legislation encouraging the City of Lincoln to consider climate change as it looks for a second water source, joining hundreds of other local chapters in supporting the proposed Bureau of Land Management's Public Lands Rule to promote conservation and prioritize the health and resilience of ecosystems across public lands
Executive Director gave presentations about Wachiska's work throughout the community as requested

3) Caring for Tallgrass Prairies

Work with Northern Prairies Land Trust to manage the prairies Wachiska owns
Includes restoring cropland to native plant habitat
Lead efforts with Prairie Legacy, LLC to work with landowners to improve their native prairies
Committee is discussing the future role of easements within the organization's mission
Prioritize replacement of deteriorated wood prairie signs with metal ones
Began steps to confirm prairie boundaries

4) Strengthening Internal Operations

Decision made to retain Wachiska Audubon Society as the Chapter's name
Developing tagline to help readers understand the origin of the word *Wachiska* - "stream" or "creek" in the languages of Indigenous people of eastern Nebraska, the Omaha and Ponca
Developing an accompanying LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT statement:
The environmental stewardship efforts of the Wachiska Audubon Society take place on the past, present, and future homelands of the Pawnee, Ponca, Otoe-Missouria, and Omaha Peoples, as well as those of the relocated Ho-Chunk, Sac and Fox, and Ioway. We humbly join our efforts with theirs in honoring and stewarding this land of prairies, rivers, and streams.
Completing the general operations and financial operations policies

Throughout the year, funding for the above comes through memberships, Birdathon, Give to Lincoln Day, grants and donations from generous members, friends, and donors. Funding for prairie work also comes from a Nebraska Environmental Trust grant (2nd of a 3-year grant), federal programs, haying, grazing, and native prairie plant sales.

The full presentation can be found on Wachiska's website. If you have questions or comments, visit with any Board member.

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

There's more awareness now that our problem isn't just that "the weather is always changing," as some used to say. This year's heat, wildfires, wind, intense smoke, floods, and drought did get more people's attention. Costs of rebuilding and insurance are stressing public and private budgets.

Awareness is good, other trends not so much. *The Washington Post* reported 11/9/23 that the last 12 months have been the warmest calendar year on record, meaning that "the planet is closer than ever to a global warming benchmark that scientists have predicted could irreversibly damage, if not destroy, entire ecosystems." We were warned of the dangers of global warming in 1990 with the first publication of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. More than 40 percent of current carbon pollution levels have been emitted *since* that 1990 publication.

According to an article titled "Phasing Down or Phasing Up?" (productiongap.org), a report released in November by the United Nations and other experts, CO₂ emissions reached a record high in 2022. The report is based on 19 of the 20 largest fossil fuel-producing nations. It found that "Governments, in aggregate, still plan to produce more than double the amount of fossil fuels in 2030 than would be consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees C," the Paris Agreement goal. Only Norway and the United Kingdom are planning for significant declines in output for oil and gas.

The Hill reported 10/26/23 "Exxon, Chevron make big oil acquisitions in the face of uncertain future for fossil fuels." Exxon is buying Pioneer Natural Resources for \$60 million, and Chevron is buying Hess for \$53 million. They're still phasing up.

In its annual "World Energy Outlook" report issued in October, the International Energy Agency called for no new investment in new coal, oil, or natural gas. The report says, "As things stand, demand for fossil fuels is set to remain far too high to keep within reach of the Paris Agreement goal of limiting the rise in average global temperatures to 1.5 degrees C. This risks are not only worsening climate impacts after a year of record-breaking heat, but also undermining the security of the energy system which was built for a cooler world with less extreme weather events. Bending the emissions curve into a path consistent with a 1.5 degrees C remains possible but very difficult."

I'm not writing this to make you feel bad; I'm writing it with the hope that it will spark readers to review their savings and sell investments in oil, gas, and coal companies. This process is likely much easier if you have an investment advisor, but possible even if you're doing it yourself. Lincoln has at least one investment counselor who specializes in socially

responsible investing. One of several websites that can help is fossilfreefunds.org. You can find out about the funds you hold. It provides a list of funds that will not invest in fossil fuels.

October's *The Atlantic* ran a thoughtful article titled "If You're Worried About the Climate, Move Your Money" (<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2023/10/climate-change-divestment-fossil-fuels/675635/>). It concludes, "As many people as possible need to act like we are in a world worth saving. Becoming part of the divestment movement. . . is a quick and underappreciated way to do that."

In the Past Half Century

by Arlys Reitan

Not all of the education provided by Wachiska is performed in the field, in a classroom, or in a media interview. Oftentimes phone calls, emails, and even snail mail inquiries are resolved with considerable time and effort expended in research before passing information on. This was the case in the following exchange I encountered this fall. Here is the dialogue which began in August:

Dawn Stetzel — I am visiting Nebraska City and wanted to tell someone that there are swifts going into a vacant building chimney in the downtown area (exact location is protected info). I wanted to tell someone in case they were doing counts or wanted to record this information. I hope the building owner knows that swifts are using the chimney and don't tear it down.

AR — Thank you for your note and information, Dawn. Attached is our September newsletter which includes an article and photo of the chimney swift towers resulting from a project by Bluebirds Across Nebraska. We have passed it along to those who are working on the project in this part of Nebraska. We appreciate your concerns and observations.

Dawn (in November) — Thank you SO much, Arlys, for this detailed email. I have not responded in a timely manner but have been thinking about your email and its mention of the swift towers which I had never heard about. A couple of weeks ago I was visiting my mom in Iowa, and we were on a long drive and ran across a swift tower in Pleasantville in a park dedicated to Iowa Bird Lady Gladys Black. I am attaching a few photos of it. Thank you again. Dawn

(NOTE: In the 28 years we've had the office, there have been inquiries, comments (both pro and con) on topics ranging from an award given by Wachiska to another organization, to "where have all my birds gone to," and "what is this little brown bird" (with no other info included). A middle-aged man stopping in Lincoln for a few weeks called, and in the conversation I was able to help him find a bus route to get to a store to buy a winter coat. A Wachiska member called for help in finding someone to scoop out his driveway so his wife could make an important meeting. A woman lost her family member and was here to handle funeral details when she called about a bird. That encounter resulted in her designating Wachiska as the beneficiary of several memorial gifts. And so many more stories . . .)

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 Deb Fischer

1248 O St Ste 1111, Lincoln NE 68508
Lincoln phone: 402-441-4600 Fax: 402-476-8753
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-6551 Fax: 202-228-0012
E-mail at website: <http://fischer.senate.gov>

Senator Pete Ricketts

139 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-4224 Fax: 202-224-5213
E-mail at website: <http://ricketts.senate.gov>

Congressman Mike Flood

301 S 13th St Ste 100, Lincoln NE 68508 (1st District)
Lincoln phone: 402-438-1598
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4806 Fax: 202-225-5686
E-mail at website: <http://flood.house.gov>

Congressman Don Bacon (2nd 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 (3rd District)

416 Valley View Dr Ste 600, Scottsbluff NE 69361
Scottsbluff phone: 308-633-6333 Fax: 308-633-6333
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-6435 Fax: 202-225-0207
E-mail at website: <http://adriansmith.house.gov>

Capitol Hill Switchboard

888-436-8427 or 202-224-3121

Governor Jim Pillen

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

State Senator _____

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

State Capitol Switchboard

402-471-2311

Lancaster County Commissioners

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10th St Rm 110, Lincoln NE 68508
Phone: 402-441-7447 Fax: 402-441-6301
E-mail: commish@lancaster.ne.gov

Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10th St Rm 301, Lincoln NE 68508-2828
Phone: 402-441-7511 Fax: 402-441-7120
E-mail: mayor@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln City Council

402-441-7515
E-mail: councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov

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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Lincoln NE 68506-5643



The Babbling Brook is printed on recycled and recyclable paper.

More on Chimney Swifts . . .

A flock of chimney swifts is called a "box of swifts."

When swifts gather twigs for nests, they break them off with their feet during flight. They are very fast fliers spending most of their lives in midair!

Four types of swift birds nest in North America. Black swifts, Vaux's swifts, and white-throated swifts are found in the western half of the U.S. while chimney swifts are found throughout the eastern and midwestern states and in southern Canada.

Thanks to Dave Titterington at Wild Bird Habitat Store for the preceding facts from their newsletter.

WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2023

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

OFFICERS

President *Theresa Pella
Vice President..... *Andrea Faas
Secretary *April Stevenson
Treasurer *Dylan Aufdenkamp

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 Luttich
Director at Large *Mercy Manzanares
Director at Large *Kris Powers
Conservation..... *Ross Scott
Education/Outreach *Tim Knott

*Denotes voting Board member

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

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
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 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 bit 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**.

