



Wachiska
Audubon Society

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

The Babbling Brook

Our 51st Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2024

JULY 2024

Volume 33 - Issue 7

Wachiska PICNIC, Program, and General Meeting — Thursday, July 11, 5:30 p.m. for potluck picnic followed at 7:00 p.m. with monthly program, Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also via YouTube link: <https://youtube.com/live/eFjuXGaWvc4?feature=share>

What's Wrong with my Evergreen Tree?

by Sarah Browning, Nebraska Extension Educator

All our trees, both shade trees and evergreens, have had a couple difficult years trying to survive under extreme drought conditions; unfortunately, some trees haven't fared well. Why do evergreens and shade trees struggle so much? In this presentation, we'll look at a variety of common problems seen in evergreens and look at management solutions. Bring your questions about trees of all kinds in your landscape for discussion. Pictures are welcome!



certified arborist in 2010 and is a member of the Nebraska Arborist Association. She is also a panelist on *Backyard Farmer* and writes a weekly gardening column for the *Lincoln Journal Star*. Sarah works out of the Lancaster Extension office on Cherrycreek Road in Lincoln.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, July 11, at 7:00 p.m.** at the Unitarian Church for this free, public, in-person talk which will also be live-streamed at

<https://youtube.com/live/eFjuXGaWvc4?feature=share>

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

NOTE: At 5:30 p.m. a summer indoor potluck picnic will take place in the church's dining area. Bring your favorite dish or two to share a bounty of great home-cooked favorites, along with a plate, cup, and silverware and be ready to begin promptly at 5:30. Cold drinks will be provided. We will need to serve, eat, and clean up before 7:00 when the program begins. With live-streaming, we need to begin exactly on time. Several volunteers are needed. Please let Arlys know if you can help with a small task for the potluck picnic.

Calendar

July

- 1 Education Committee via Zoom, 6:00 p.m.
- 8 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 11 **Annual potluck picnic (indoor) at Unitarian Church, 5:30 p.m.**
- 11 General Meeting, "What's Wrong with my Evergreen Tree?" by Sarah Browning, 7:00 p.m. in person at Unitarian Church and also live-streamed; no registration needed (see above)
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 16 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman

We had a great turnout for the 4th annual Tour the Wild Side on June 22nd. Thank you so much to the seven landowners for sharing their yards and their passions with us. A big thank you to all the members and the public for coming out for the tour and learning about the native plants you can plant in your yards.



Congratulations to Dave Sands on his recent retirement from the Nebraska Land Trust at the end of last month. Dave has built that nonprofit organization into one of the leading conservation groups in the state with over 47,000 acres in 23 counties under conservation easements. Dave was the first executive director of Audubon Nebraska and has worked tirelessly for conservation for many years. Jacob Alishouse, Dave's long-time assistant, has taken over the reigns and will do a great job.

We recently found out that a long-time conservationist and Wachiska member, Dick Gray, passed away on June 8. I worked with Dick at the Nebraska Department of Roads early in my career. Dick was responsible for getting roadside planting to contain more native grasses and forbs. So, if you see a ditch with some blooming plants, you can thank Dick.

Tim Knott and I have set up outdoor education sessions with members from the Lincoln Asian Center. We will host three days with different groups on July 10-12 at Prairie Pines. We learned that the Center caters to seven distinct Asian groups. The Raptor Conservation Alliance is planning to bring some of their birds to the event, and we are hoping to engage other conservation groups and have multiple displays. We will also be reaching out to some underrepresented groups in Lincoln this summer with conservation education opportunities.

A big thank you to everyone who made donations to the Give To Lincoln Day. Wachiska received over \$26,000 from 94 donors. Those funds are vital to our success.

Memorials Recently Received

The family of Suzanne ("Suzy") Taylor included Wachiska Audubon in designating memorial donations when she passed away May 17, 2024. We wish to recognize and thank the following people:

Art & Sue Blackman
James Griesen
Judith Hafner
Barbara & Con Keating

Mary Nefsky
Laura Newsom
Mr. & Mrs. James Owen
Charlene Reimers

Give To Lincoln Day a Rousing Success

by Mark Brohman

Wachiska raised **\$26,491.43 from 94 donors** during this year's 13th annual Give To Lincoln Day (G2LD). Donations were made throughout the month, with May 30th designated G2LD. A total of \$8,565,662 was raised for 463 participating organizations. Wachiska raised the 78th highest amount. G2LD began in 2012 and to date has raised over \$65.5M to support Lancaster County nonprofits.

This year there was a record \$650,000 in challenge matching funds, and we won't learn how much of that match Wachiska will receive until June 27, during a celebration. We anticipate it to be around an additional \$1,500.

Wachiska wants to thank all of our donors for their generous contributions.

New Law Supports Conservation of Migratory Birds

from online site, BringBirdsBack

We have lost 28 percent of our migratory birds in North America since 1970. A new federal law, passed with bipartisan support, will help reverse this trend by providing funding for conservation. The Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act of 2023 (H.R.4389) revises and reauthorizes the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act through FY2028. The bill increases the cap on the federal share of project costs. Funding supports research and restoration throughout the Western Hemisphere. Since 2002, grants from a previous version of this bill have supported over 700 projects in 43 countries, with 400 migratory bird species benefitting from the funding.

Cornell Lab Reports "Lost" Birds

Scientists combed through 40+ million images and sounds to pinpoint 144 bird species from around the world that have not been recorded in the past 10 years. Here are those birds from North and South America:

North America — Jamaican Pauraque, Zapata Rail, Eskimo Curlew, Guadalupe Storm-Petrel, Black-capped Petrel, Hook-billed Kite, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Imperial Woodpecker, Bachman's Warbler, Semper's Warbler, and St. Kitts Bullfinch

South America — Purple-winged Ground Dove, Cayenne Nightjar, Ashy-tailed Swift, Coppery Thorntail, Turquoise-throated Puffleg, Collared Inca, Santa Marta Sabrewing, Pernambuco Pygmy-Owl, Painted Parakeet, Glaucous Macaw, Rio de Janeiro Antwren, White-tailed Tityra, Kinglet Calyptura, Vilcabamba Brushfinch, Saffron-breasted Redstart, White-faced Redstart, Carrizal Seedeater, and Duida Grass-finch

Bird Species Seen on Birdathon 2024 Weekend

by Ken Reitan, compiler

With fewer reports submitted this year, Wachiska's total bird species reported remains about the same as in recent years. Weather conditions on Saturday and Sunday, May 11 - 12, were favorable (at least no hard rains or blustery winds) with temperature in the 70s both days.

Some locations covered were Jack Sinn WMA, Oak Glen WMA, Linoma Lakes, Pawnee Lake SRA, Platte River State Park, Chet Ager Nature Center, Pioneers Park, Whitehead Saline Wetlands, Lincoln exurbs, Holmes Lake, Wilderness Park, Capitol Beach Marsh, Branched Oak Lake, along with several backyards and unnamed areas.

Unusual sightings might include scissor-tailed flycatcher, peregrine falcon, Louisiana waterthrush, Yellow-headed blackbird, long-billed dowitcher, and American white pelican.

The final tally reveals that **134 species** were identified by sight/sound this year. Compare that to these previous totals: 2023 - 136, 2022 - 159; 2021 - 134; 2020 - 151; 2019 - 124; 2018 and 2017 - 148 both years.

Bird species identified during Birdathon 2024 were:

Pied-billed Grebe	Stilt Sandpiper	Red-eyed Vireo	Yellow-headed Blackbird
American White Pelican	Long-billed Dowitcher	Blue Jay	Baltimore Oriole
Canada Goose	Dunlin	American Crow	Orchard Oriole
Snow Goose	Wilson's Phalarope	Tufted Titmouse	House Finch
Wood Duck	Lesser Yellowlegs	Black-capped Chickadee	Pine Siskin
Blue-winged Teal	Hudsonian Godwit	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	American Goldfinch
Green-winged Teal	Marbled Godwit	Purple Martin	Brown-headed Cowbird
Gadwall	Ruddy Turnstone	Tree Swallow	Common Grackle
American Wigeon	Sanderling	Bank Swallow	Great-tailed Grackle
Ruddy Duck	Greater Yellowlegs	Barn Swallow	Louisiana Waterthrush
Northern Shoveler	Willet	Cliff Swallow	Kentucky Warbler
Mallard	Franklin's Gull	White-breasted Nuthatch	Tennessee Warbler
Redhead	Ring-billed Gull	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Orange-crowned Warbler
American Coot	Black Tern	House Wren	Common Yellowthroat
Black-bellied Plover	Double-crested Cormorant	Sedge Wren	American Redstart
Northern Bobwhite	Great Blue Heron	Marsh Wren	Yellow Warbler
Ring-necked Pheasant	Green Heron	European Starling	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Wild Turkey	Turkey Vulture	Cedar Waxwing	Scarlet Tanager
Rock Pigeon	Bald Eagle	Gray Catbird	Summer Tanager
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Osprey	Brown Thrasher	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	Peregrine Falcon	Eastern Bluebird	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Barred Owl	Red-tailed Hawk	Swainson's Thrush	Indigo Bunting
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Red-headed Woodpecker	American Robin	Dickcissel
Chimney Swift	Red-bellied Woodpecker	House Sparrow	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Downy Woodpecker	Chipping Sparrow	
Belted Kingfisher	Hairy Woodpecker	Clay-colored Sparrow	
Semipalmated Plover	Northern Flicker	Field Sparrow	
Killdeer	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Song Sparrow	
Sora	Least Flycatcher	Lincoln's Sparrow	
American Avocet	Eastern Phoebe	Savannah Sparrow	
Least Sandpiper	Great Crested Flycatcher	Grasshopper Sparrow	
White-rumped Sandpiper	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Harris's Sparrow	
Pectoral Sandpiper	Eastern Kingbird	White-crowned Sparrow	
Baird's Sandpiper	Western Kingbird	Eastern Towhee	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Yellow-throated Vireo	Eastern Meadowlark	
Spotted Sandpiper	Bell's Vireo	Western Meadowlark	
Solitary Sandpiper	Warbling Vireo	Red-winged Blackbird	



Photo: John Carlini

Scarlet Tanager

Prairie Turnip and Chokecherry

by Richard Peterson

For hundreds of years, the native prairie and surrounding areas have provided food for Native peoples and for the European settlers who immigrated onto and settled in the Great Plains.

Psoralea esculenta is often referred to as the prairie turnip. Other names are prairie potato, pomme blanche, breadfruit, Tomsula (Lakota language), and others. It is more nutritious than many root crops with about seven percent protein, over 50 percent carbohydrate, and is rich in trace minerals and vitamins, including vitamin C. This perennial plant is a tuberous root vegetable native to the prairies and dry woodlands of central North America. It was once a wild-gathered staple of Natives and was eaten by the early settlers as well. It grows best in full sun on well-drained rocky or sandy soils. In early summer the plant produces abundant blue or purple flowers. Harvest of the tubers takes place while the plant is flowering, usually from May to July; after that time the flowers and upper plant parts dry or break off making the plant difficult to locate.

Natives harvested the root with a sharpened digging stick. The tough dark skin was peeled away before use. Some were eaten fresh; most were dried for future use. Sliced and sun dried they were strung and hung on racks to dry. Large quantities of the dry product were stored in skin bags for winter use. Some were then pounded into flour. The flour, when boiled with serviceberries (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), made a sweet pudding. The flour is often used today in frybread recipes. The prairie turnip takes 2 - 4 years to grow from seed to a mature root that is suitable for harvesting. This may have limited the time to successfully domesticate the plant.

Prunus virginiana, referred to as the chokecherry, is also called bitter-berry and bird cherry. It is a suckering shrub or small tree growing 4 - 30 feet tall. The 1/2 inch diameter fruits range in color from bright red to black and are very astringent, both sour and bitter. They get darker and a bit sweeter as they ripen. The stone of the fruit can be poisonous to deer, elk, bison, pronghorn, etc. It is the larval host plant of 19 species of butterflies. The chokecherry is considered by some to be a pest as one of those Lepidoptera is the tent caterpillar, a threat to other fruit plants.

Chokecherries were often an ingredient in pemmican, a staple Native plains food. The bark of the root was used in medicine to treat colds, fever, and stomach ailments. Some tribes used a mortar to pound the whole fruit, pits and all, and then make an edible sunbaked cake. The inner bark was added by some in their ceremonial pipe smoking mixtures. In 2007, North Dakota named the chokecherry the state's official fruit, in part because its remains have been found in many of the archeological sites in the Dakotas.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in the Spotlight

by Shari Schwartz

Our local celebrity scissor-tailed flycatcher has once again returned this year to nest just a few miles south of Lincoln. Southern Nebraska is the northern edge of that species' breeding range and home to only a smattering, so birders have been traveling from far and wide for the opportunity to view this showstopper. Her long ribbon tail goes from spectacular to jaw-dropping when she spreads it out to hawk insects on the wing.



When she's on her nest, her signature tail sticks straight up out of a metal cup on power pole #45 at the intersection of SW 33rd Street and Pleasant Hill Road just north of Denton Road. This very same nest was used last year, which begs the question: why is this spot worth returning to in subsequent years? The surrounding neighborhood of acreages is largely converted to trees and/or mowed incessantly except for two patches immediately west and south of the scissor-tailed's nest pole. Last year, the resident by the nest pole told us she's a bee keeper and had requested a portion of her son's adjacent small field not be razed by the mower to allow habitat for her bees.



The abundance of insect life inhabiting that modest patch of grass spared from the mower is amazing. It's not native tallgrass, yet it still provides fecund habitat with some great native plants like milkweed. The scissor-tailed can be seen foraging there regularly along with other insectivores such as western kingbirds and Baltimore orioles that have been utilizing it.

More about scissor-tailed flycatchers

Scissor-tailed flycatchers are slender, stout-billed kingbirds with very long, stiff, deeply forked tails. Males have longer tail feathers than females and immatures. They are larger than an Eastern phoebe but smaller and more slender overall than an American robin but can seem larger due to the very long tail.

These are pale gray birds with blackish wings and black tails with white edges. Adults have salmon-pink flanks that extend to underwing patches that are very conspicuous in flight. Males are more intensely colored than females. Scissor-tailed flycatchers breed in open habitats in the southern Great Plains and south Texas, especially around scattered trees or utility lines. They tolerate human presence well and frequently breed in towns.

Farm Bill Offers Some Conservation Wins, Falls Short in Advancing Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry

National Audubon's website, May 24, 2024

The House Committee on Agriculture passed the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024 which now goes to the full House for a vote. Among other policies, the bill would provide resources to farmers, ranchers, foresters, and other private landowners to voluntarily implement conservation efforts on working lands.

"The bill passed out of committee today provides resources to farmers and ranchers to implement conservation efforts on working lands, and we thank the Committee for their commitment to these key issues. However, we are concerned that the bill falls short in some key areas, including removing critical guardrails in the Inflation Reduction Act that support farmers, ranchers, and land managers working to conserve their lands to help solve the climate crisis," said Felice Stadler, vice president of government affairs at the National Audubon Society. "These voluntary conservation programs and practices are overwhelmingly popular and demonstrate the growing interest in adopting agricultural practices that store and capture carbon on the land. Additionally, the renewable energy provisions included in this bill fail to take the steps necessary to ensure that growers and producers can easily access clean energy and energy efficiency resources that reduce emissions while lowering their overhead costs.

"As negotiations continue in both chambers and across the aisle, National Audubon and our 1.4 million members and supporters call on Congress to invest in the future of conservation and to pass a bipartisan bill that recognizes the importance of working lands and climate-smart agriculture and forestry practices that protect biodiversity—and our planet," said Stadler.

The Farm Bill is the largest source of federal funding for voluntary conservation on working lands. Audubon supports a Farm Bill that secures the historic \$20 billion in funding for climate-smart agriculture included in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and is not diverted from programs that incentivize voluntary conservation to benefit wildlife habitat.

Summer Bird Feeding Tips

from Cornell Lab's "All About Birds" online

Birds flock to feeders in mid-summer after they have fledged a brood from their nest and now have new mouths to feed. You can provide nectar for hummingbirds, oranges for orioles, sunflower seeds for grosbeaks, mealworms for bluebirds. Keep seed dry. Move feeders occasionally, put suet in the shade, and clean feeders regularly.

Eurasian Collared-Dove Expansion Study

Cornell Lab's FeederWatch eNews, May 15, 2024

Eurasian collared-doves arrived in Florida from the Bahamas where they were introduced in the 1970s. Since then, they have expanded their range across the continent, primarily in a northwesterly direction. In the past, researchers have attributed the direction of the expansion to instinct. New research using data from Project FeederWatch and recently published in *Ornithological Applications* found that the effects of habitat, climate, and environmental conditions probably had a larger impact on the direction of expansion than an innate preference for a northwesterly spread. The researchers, including Simon Bonner of Birds Canada, reported that the doves "prefer grasslands and thrive in areas with higher temperatures, more precipitation, and higher elevations, with little regard for direction." Find a link to the abstract for this research, as well as past research using FeederWatch data, on the Scientific Articles page of the Explore section of the FeederWatch website.



Eurasian Collared-Dove by FeederWatcher Susan Szeszol in River Grove, Illinois.

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Upcoming Programs

Tuesday, July 16 – Third Tuesday Bird Outing, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Join an experienced guide for an outing along the prairie trails. Free admission, registration preferred.

Thursday, August 1 – Climate & Culture Conversations: Birds & Words, 6:00 p.m. Pioneers Park Nature Center will host an evening on how the current climate crisis is affecting you, our birds, our communities, and culture. There will be a short panel discussion with local writers and bird experts, then guests can connect through conversation and writing. (This program is being held at the [Nature Center](#), not Spring Creek Prairie.)

More details on these and other events at <https://springcreek.audubon.org/events>; 402-797-2301

"Joy in looking and comprehending is nature's most beautiful gift."

-- Albert Einstein

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

National Audubon is pleased about two new federal rules. The first, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Rule No. 1920, the Grid Expansion Rule, addresses the growing demand for reliable electricity connecting new solar and wind farms to population centers.

Audubon supports the rapid expansion of transmission “while avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating impacts in bird habitat and local communities,” stated National Audubon’s Director of Climate Strategy. Audubon contributed science-based best practices to minimize collision and habitat-related risks to birds. Audubon’s excellent report, *Birds and Transmission: Building the Grid Birds Need* is here: <https://bit.ly/4ezQEFz>

The FERC rule was in development for three years and calls for planning 20 years into the future. The U.S. must double its existing regional impact capacity to meet clean energy goals by 2035, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

The second new federal rule that is good news this spring is the changes to NEPA, the National Environmental Policy Act. Community participation was strengthened as was consideration of impact for environmental justice and climate change. Some of the changes will speed the siting of clean energy.

Why am I telling you this if these rules are already law? BECAUSE THEY CAN BE UN-DONE! The November election will decide not only who is president, but whether clean energy can advance at the needed speed to stabilize climate.

Careful research by the Environmental Voter Project has discovered that there are a lot of voters who identify their top issues as “climate change” or “clean air, clean water, and the environment,” but they do not vote (see environmentalvoter.org). I’m betting some readers of *The Babbling Brook* know people like that. If you can identify environmental voters who don’t vote in your circle of friends, prepare your own campaign plan and get them to the polls in November! (The Environmental Voter Project also offers volunteer opportunities for callers or postcard writers.)

May was the 12th consecutive month during which average global temperatures surpassed all observations since 1850 and probably any extended period for more than 100,000 years, according to the European Union’s Copernicus Climate Change Service, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2024/06/05/global-temperatures-1-5-celsius-record-year/>.

Under limits set by the 2015 Paris Agreement, Earth’s temperature rise should be no more than 1.5 degrees C over preindustrial levels. Over the past year, the average was 1.6 degrees. That is not a permanent shift but a warning that it is likely to happen again soon, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

In response to this news, United Nations Secretary Antonio Guterres called for a ban on fossil fuel company advertising and for the public to stop buying its products. He called for investment to coal to end in coal and for an increase in clean energy.

Solid science tells us two more relevant things. First, the bodies of children, especially babies, are less able to process exposure to high temperatures than adults. Second, our experience is that older adults have been most at risk during heat waves. If you know any babies or older people you like, write your elected representatives asking what they are doing to stabilize climate and protect the people you care about.

2024 Tour the Wild Side a Big Success

by Mark Brohman

Cooperating weather enabled Tour the Wild Side to be a big hit on Saturday, June 22. Scattered clouds and a warm breeze were credited for a lovely event. Visitors enjoyed talking with landowners to learn more about their gardens. Some properties were all natives while others had a sprinkling of vegetable gardens and ornamentals.

We want to extend a resounding thank you to our garden hosts: Yvonne Meyer, Patty Spitzer & Sam Welsch, Allison Krohn & Carey Taylor, Emily Herrick, Hanna Pinneo & Matthew Boring, Mile Malloy & Martha Tanner, and Bob Henrickson & Pat England. Helpers at each location were appreciated, too.

The timing of this year’s tour seemed to be right for maximum blooming and color. Yvonne’s lemonade and ice water were welcomed, and her sister’s baked goods were a big hit.

There were 977 visitors at the seven locations. Many folks visited several sites while a few mentioned they were able to take in all seven. Conservatively, I would estimate we had 200 or more individual visitors enjoying the free tour. Visitors were generous as \$701.75 accumulated in the donation jars.

We will be drawing for the great prizes and notifying winners shortly. A big thank you to our prize donors and sponsors of this year’s event: Runza, Union Bank and Trust, U-Stop, Midwest Natives Nursery, LES Pollinator Program, Wild Bird Habitat Stores, Great Plains Nursery, Schrader Landscape, Nebraska Nursery, and Campbell’s Nursery.

(Editor’s Note: Recognition and another BIG thank you must be extended to Tim Knott and Mark Brohman for trekking across town on many, many occasions to finalize all the details.)

Public Officials

President Joe Biden

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State Capitol Switchboard

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Lancaster County Commissioners

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Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird

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Lincoln City Council

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Lincoln Journal Star

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

Join now! Become a Friend of Wachiska Audubon Society!

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

Friends of Wachiska (local membership)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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

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

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



American Goldfinches

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

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

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REMEMBERING WACHISKA'S HISTORY

Wachiska means “stream” or “creek” in the languages of Indigenous people of eastern Nebraska, the Omaha and Ponca.

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.

Wachiska Audubon Society

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WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2024

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

OFFICERS

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

STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large *Dakota Altman
Director at Large *Ann Briggs
Director at Large *Doug Campbell
Director at Large *Ethan Freese
Director at Large *Stu Luttich
Director at Large *Tom Lynch
Director at Large *Mercy Manzanares
Director at Large *Kris Powers
Conservation *Ross Scott
Education/Outreach..... *Tim Knott
Membership..... Linda Brown

*Denotes voting Board member

For contact information of officers and committee chairs, call or email the Wachiska office.

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

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

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

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.

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**.

