



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

AUGUST 2023

Volume 32 - Issue 8

Wachiska Program and General Meeting — Thursday, August 10, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also via YouTube link: <https://youtube.com/live/W3uQOUg7rDQ?feature=share>

7 Basic Feeders for a Backyard Bird-feeding Program and the wild bird feeds recommended for each type of feeder

by Dave Titterington

You walk into a store to buy a new bird feeder, but when you observe all the styles and types available you become a bit overwhelmed trying to select the right feeder that will attract your favorite birds. The fact is that different types of feeders, along with the wild bird feed you put in them, are meant to fit the different feeding characteristics of backyard birds. Except for those specialty feeders used to attract orioles, hummingbirds, and bluebirds, all bird feeders designed for use with wild bird feeds fall under one of seven categories. Knowing these and the seed to fill them with, will increase the variety of bird species coming to your backyard for a quick meal.



bird feeder off the shelf at a big box store or many other hardware outlets, chances are it is a product from China and made from inferior materials. The plastics these feeders are manufactured with often become brittle in the hot summer sun as the plastics break down from the UV rays or form cracks during extremely cold winter temperatures; when this happens, you'll find yourself shopping for another bird feeder.

But at the Wild Bird Habitat Stores, 80 percent of bird feeders are manufactured in the U.S. and come with warranties lasting a few years to a lifetime. With replacement parts readily accessible, there is no need to replace a feeder you purchased from Wild Bird Habitat. If something goes wrong with our feeder, just take it in to the store and all repairs needed will be accomplished in-store for your convenience.

At this month's program, **Dave Titterington** from the Wild Bird Habitat Stores and former Wachiska Board member, will discuss this topic and others that audience members ask.

But it's not just knowing which feeders you need to attract your favorite birds. It's also about the quality of the bird feeders you purchase. Is it easy to fill? Is it easy to keep clean? Is it durable to withstand the extraordinary Nebraska weather? If you grab a

Also, don't be fooled by images of your favorite birds or by a catchy name like songbird garden on the bag of wild bird feed. All wild bird feed is required by law to be labeled with its content and in the exact order of that content. Every seed product in the bag must be listed on the label. If it says "full of fruits" then each type of fruit must be labeled. Often a consumer will purchase a low-cost package of wild bird feed only to find 40 percent of it left uneaten on the ground. That economy bird feed just got expensive.

Calendar

August

- 10 General Meeting, "7 Basic Feeders for a Backyard Bird-feeding Program," by Dave Titterington, 7:00 p.m. In-person meeting at Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also live-streamed; no registration needed (see link above)
- 12 Second Saturday Seeds, Wildcat Prairie, 9:00 a.m. - noon (page 2)
- 14 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 15 Newsletter submission deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 15 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, August 10, at 7:00 p.m.** to learn how you can create a bird feeding program designed to your needs and enjoyment. This program will take place at Lincoln's Unitarian Church and is free to the public. The in-person talk will also be live-streamed at <https://youtube.com/live/W3uQOUg7rDQ?feature=share>. Copy this link into your browser before the program begins. No registration is needed. Invite family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues to join us. The program can also be viewed at a later time. Check Wachiska's website for links to past programs.

PS—Those present will be eligible to win a feeder!

Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman

The summer is rapidly coming to a close, and we have recently received some much-needed rain in Eastern Nebraska. I attended the annual Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition summer grazing tour on June 27 in Southeast Nebraska. Ranchers told us this is as dry as they have seen it in decades, but due to rotational grazing and other practices, their pastures were fairing much better than others in the area. Rains have been sporadic and ranged from a few drops to several inches just a mile away.



The very end of June took me over to The Landing Retirement facility where they had asked for a presentation on Wachiska Audubon, what we do, and who we serve. About 30 residents had lots of questions and comments on their days growing up on the prairie.

July was a busy month—from visiting a prairie near Endicott to a wonderful potluck meal and presentation by Elsa Forsberg at our monthly meeting. I am part of the Otoe-Missouria planning committee and had a great meeting to prepare for their return to the Lincoln area in September. I was also able to meet with Larkin Powell, the new director of the School of Natural Resources at UNL. I've known Larkin for years, and it was great to be able to congratulate him in person and talk about potential partnerships with Wachiska in the future.

We had another tree-clearing event at the prairie just west of Arnold Elementary School on NW 48th Street. Members had carried out two previous tree-cutting parties this year, which allowed the City and the Airport Authority to cut the hay on a large portion of the site compared to the previous few years. Burning was not an option at this time, so haying was the next best thing.

"Tour the Wild Side" was held on Saturday, July 29, and I'll give you an update next month. I will also report on our bird tour to Marsh Wren on July 30.

Next month I will introduce you to a project in which we are partnering with Bluebirds Across Nebraska and others. It is not for bluebirds, but for chimney swifts. Enjoy the end of summer.

Tree-cutting Event a Hot One

by Mark Brohman

Five hearty volunteers braved the heat one evening in late July to cut trees at the Arnold Elementary School prairie on NW 48th Street in northwest Lincoln. Tim Knott, Anne DeVries, Jon Oberg,

Pat Leach, and I participated in Wachiska's third tree-cutting event at that prairie. The air temperature was in the 90s and heat index flirting with 100 degrees. Fortunately, there was a light breeze and some occasional clouds. Temperatures did moderate as the evening approached.

Cedar trees and hardwoods (mostly elm and locust) had become so thick that the prairie could not be hayed the past few years. By removing trees on two earlier occasions the prairie was hayed a few weeks ago, and by the end of July the native grasses and forbs had really taken off. There were dozens of common milkweed plants that were over two feet tall after the haying and some timely rains recently. Some of the hayed prairie was already over a foot tall and looked very nice.



Tim Knott cutting trees at the Arnold Elementary School prairie

Because the prairie is on the edge of town and owned by the City and the Airport Authority, it is almost impossible to get a burn permit, so haying is the next best management tool to keep woody vegetation at bay. By cutting out the trees that have invaded the prairie the last few years, haying over most of the site is possible.

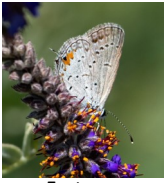
Second Saturday Seeds

Conservation Committee Needs Volunteers!

With the popularity of native plants and pollinator gardens, Wachiska's prairies are excellent sites to learn about tallgrass prairies and their flora and fauna. If you want to spend a morning walking through wildflowers, watching grassland birds, and marveling at the butterflies and bees all while gathering seed on one of Wachiska's prairies, join conservation committee members as we harvest native plant seed for a prairie restoration project at Wildcat Prairie in Gage County.

The outings are casual, and beginners are welcome. It is an excellent opportunity to learn about prairie plants from prairie enthusiasts. Depending on what seed is mature, you might even want to save a little seed for use in your own pollinator planting! Our next outing is scheduled for **Saturday, August 12, from 9:00 a.m. to noon** at Wildcat Prairie south of Virginia. (See our website or use Google for the location.) For more information or to be added to our volunteer list, email Ross Scott, chair of conservation committee, at rocaOak@gmail.com or text 402-202-1523. As Wildcat Prairie is on a mud road, in the event of rain, we will have a backup site at Dieken Prairie at Unadilla. Second Saturday Seed outings will continue into the fall as more native seeds mature. Save your second Saturdays each month for seed gathering, and watch the newsletter and website for updates.

More information will be available as we get closer to the August 12 date.



Eastern Tailed-Blue

Prairie Fire

by Richard Peterson



Orange sulfur

The goal of land managers in using fire is to improve native plant communities. But fire does not necessarily contribute to the diverse vertebrates and invertebrates that call the prairie home. Managers need to be cognizant of the total impact of a prescribed burn.

When a prairie fire is caused by lightning or human negligence, the area either burns itself out or is put out by weather or human intervention. It's one thing to burn part of a 500-acre prairie; it's quite another to burn half of a 10-acre parcel. When the prairie is surrounded by corn and soybeans or other habitat unsuitable for prairie wildlife, there is no place to crawl or fly to escape the fire. In small prairies, subdividing them may not be feasible. Costs and the preparation involved in doing the burn may be prohibitive. Actively feeding butterfly larvae, for example, or overwintering stages such as larvae, the chrysalis, or pupae cannot just get up and move out of the way. Reptile and amphibian species are also at risk. It negatively affects the burrowing owl, spadefoot, dung beetle, kangaroo rat, snakes, and other species that depend on the prairie. The problem is that base line survey data on the animals in danger is sparse or nonexistent for the individual prairies scheduled to be burned.

Some of the butterflies that are regularly observed in the prairies of Southeastern Nebraska, which utilize either as larval host plants or nectar sources, include:

- Regal fritillary – larvae feed on prairie violets, overwinter as larvae
- Great spangled fritillary – larvae feed on violets, overwinter as larvae
- Variegated fritillary – feeds on violets, passion vines, and others
- Spring azure – feeds on a variety of plants, overwinter as a chrysalis
- Eastern tailed-blue – feeds on legumes, overwinters as larvae
- Orange sulfur – feeds on legumes, like clover, overwinters as a chrysalis
- Common wood-nymph – feeds on a variety of grasses, larvae overwinter
- Common checkered-skipper – feeds on mallows, larvae overwinter
- Pearl crescent – feeds on asters, larvae hibernate overwinter

Prescribed burns may be beneficial to select grass species, but to violets and nectar plants? Burns should not be conducted in the spring when egg laying occurs, the first instar larvae are vulnerable, or after the first frost when species are overwintering. No more than 20 percent of the total butterfly habitat should be burned, spring or fall, in a given year. Have there been after-fire impact assessments on other species?

There has been renewed interest for developing best management practices that both maintain invertebrate biodiversity and achieve land management goals. For further reading, go online to the Minnesota DNR publication titled "Invertebrate Conservation Guidelines: With an Emphasis on Prairie, Savanna, and Grassland Ecosystems."

Just Go Plant a Tree

by Nancy Packard

"Just go plant a tree," Justin Evertson said to me when I visited him in Forestry Hall on UNL's East campus. The City of Lincoln recommends that we plant only 10 percent of any tree species, but Justin says in the case of oaks, we could use 20 percent. He says oaks are longest-lived and most resistant to storm damage, winter extremes, and climate extremes. He recommends a bur oak which is most life-giving and life-hosting, and he says a red oak is a close second.

As we wait for oak and other overstory trees to become giants, we also need to plant trees that are "fast growing and widely adaptable, that soften the environment." Evertson recommends elm, Kentucky coffee tree, pecan, sugar maple, and hackberry which "sustains birds like no other tree."

I have always regarded insects as icky crawly things, but Heather Byers of Great Plains Nursery recommended author Douglas Tallamy, and then I saw a Tallamy book on Justin's desk, so I reserved *The Nature of Oaks* at our South Branch Library. I am astounded to learn the life-giving property of oaks. If you like birds, you have to like the way oaks harbor the icky crawly insects that are essential to their survival. Look closely at the bark of an oak to see overwintering insects that keep birds alive during our Nebraska winters.

Justin says "Like a forest, cities need ecological connections. We plant trees too far apart. They are better as a group, providing a shared canopy without taking up more space." Tallamy writes, "...plant your oaks and other tree species as small as you can. They will be healthier trees that grow much faster than large transplants, and they will have the opportunity to interlock their roots, reducing future risks to life and property."

Justin Evertson's job title is Green infrastructure Coordinator with the Nebraska Forest Service and Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, but his visual credential is in Waverly. The trees surrounding Waverly High School and stadium, Waverly Middle School, and the streets and roads leading to them all provide a view of Justin's knowledgeable tree planting and care. Take a Sunday drive to see the great variety of attractively placed trees, some in clumps. They are thoughtfully tended with mulch and careful pruning, and will add value for 100 years and more.

Let us review: Why should we plant trees? "We need ecological connections like the forest has. We need trees for physical and mental comfort, for shade and protection, for their economic value, and for a smorgasbord of sustainability for insects and other creatures. Just go plant a tree."

In the Past Half Century

by Arlys Reitan

Reminiscing “down memory lane” for a few minutes, the following are recollections of just some of the projects, tasks, and events Wachiska has participated in during the last five decades (in no particular order). Some of you will recall several of them; many of you will find this to be the first you’ve heard of all that Wachiska has been involved with in our part of the world.

Those Prairie Festivals were huge undertakings and first were held at Nine-Mile Prairie. One in the ‘80s was a planned two-day affair and continued through a not-planned afternoon rain storm. Later the event was moved to Spring Creek Prairie when we managed to offer horse-drawn buggy rides, homemade ice cream and beef jerky, an authentic teepee where everyone could sit inside to check out the accommodations, and live music with homemade instruments. Another year Native Americans danced in authentic costumes. This event was held annually during the second or third weekend of September when prairie grasses were at their tallest, enabling dozens of volunteers to guide all ages through the tallgrass, identifying each specimen.

Audubon Adventures is a publication geared for upper-level elementary students. There are several topics covered in each issue and distributed every few weeks throughout a school year. Wachiska provided classrooms with these for many years until it was determined that teachers were getting so many materials from various sources that they couldn’t use them all.

Over the years Wachiska has hosted four National Audubon presidents during Lincoln visits. Each presented current national programs and proposed how we could continue them at our local chapter level.

For six consecutive years in the 1980s we hosted a National Audubon staff member to speak at our annual Audubon Month celebration in April. Each was an expert in various fields of agriculture, population, advocacy and law, marine life, nature education, and ornithology (birds, of course!).

During those bleak winter months it was sometimes difficult to get together, especially for field trips. “Wachiskafest” was organized as a Sunday afternoon of hot chocolate and cookies while enjoying local, top-rated poets and writers. Paul Johnsgard presented at our first event and in following years included Ted Kooser, Joel Sartore, John Janovy, and many more.

For 35 years Wachiska’s Birdathon has been the main fundraiser enabling the chapter to pay our bills, offer small scholarships for conservation and education programs, provide *Audubon Adventures* as mentioned above, partner with Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center and the City of Lincoln to help with prairie acquisition funding, and continue our part by sharing in advocacy with Audubon Nebraska and Audubon Society of Omaha.

Who hasn’t bought bird seed from Wachiska sales—or worked the sales from someone’s garage? In years past we included sales of bird guides and feeders. One year a garage sale was set up during the same time (but I wouldn’t dare say we were trying to kill two birds with one stone here, would I?).

In earlier years when all were young and hearty, some field trips took us to Kansas, Halsey and the Nebraska National Forest, and Crescent Lake on a three-day weekend. A tour-and-travel committee organized trips to several spots around the country.

Wachiska’s Backyard Habitat Tours were well-known for over 30 years before it was decided to change the focus to local, native plants to aid pollinators, and “Tour the Wild Side” began three years ago.

Wachiska has had its share of opportunities to send member representatives to attend National Audubon activities. Some of these have taken us to Estes Park a few times, New York City, Washington, DC, Maine to view puffins, Minnesota, and North Dakota among other venues.

This active Nebraska chapter has testified at state and national hearings on numerous topics. A few of them were chicken factories, clean water, clean air, Niobrara Scenic River designation, defeating the Norden Dam project on the Platte River, and many more. In addition, our phone tree in the 1970s and ‘80s was busy many week nights as we contacted one another about necessary contacts to be made on many topics (this, of course, before email).

For lack of space but not to be omitted were projects Wachiska took part in either as the sole sponsor or partnering with other groups: Earth Wellness, Prairie Discovery Days, Nature Nights, the annual crane trip the education committee organized and funded to introduce underprivileged kids to Nebraska’s spectacular spring event on the Platte River.

The legislation committee was always busy with issues such as instream flows, the Endangered Species Act in the ‘70s, Nebraska conservation easement law, The Nebraska Environmental Trust, the Haines Branch corridor, saline wetlands, Nine-Mile Prairie, and many other issues that needed attention at the time. In the early days we attended hearings at the Capitol, testified in person or gave written testimonials, made phone calls, and visited public offices to explain our views and the reasons for conservation intervention. This public concern was also present at the Lincoln City Council level.

It is said that time flies when you are having fun. That must hold true because it seems impossible that it’s been 10 years since the chapter celebrated its 40th anniversary—and here it is just four months until we gather for the 50th event. Last time we had a spectacular time—this year looks to be as memorable. So mark your calendars for Sunday afternoon, December 3, and meet with Wachiskans from parts unknown to experience the good news of what we’ve accomplished and what is expected for the future of Wachiska Audubon. Doug Tallamy will be our speaker to give us all hope for the future!

Record Ocean Temperatures Put Earth in “Uncharted Territory”

by Chuck Francis, Education and Outreach Committee

This recent, frightening headline in *The Guardian* should push climate concerns to the front burner for everyone. We spend our legislative time debating such seemingly worthy issues as limiting the filibuster, seeking funding for a non-needed canal to take water from Colorado, moving funds out of the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund, and questioning the need for a two-chamber legislature in Nebraska. Yet there is an “elephant in the room” that should draw more attention. Specifically, the current trend in global warming will likely impact agriculture, human health, and ultimately the potential to produce enough food globally for our species to survive.

Evolution has prepared us to survive immediate threats such as scaring a bear away from the entrance to our cave dwelling, moving to higher ground to avoid flood waters, and migrating to better lands when our available soil is exhausted. But even with our big brains we seem incapable of taking appropriate measures when nitrates gradually accumulate in groundwater, chemical residues from neuro-active substances such as neonic insecticides and accumulation of glyphosate herbicides shown to cause cancer are found in many people’s blood, or air-borne particulates from forest fires invade human lungs and increase respiratory disease. Our pursuit of current short-term economic gains are realized by ignoring the long-term known impacts of these present technologies and threats to survival.

Miners used “canaries in the coal mines” to detect growing concentrations of carbon monoxide that killed the smaller creatures before visibly affecting humans and gave our species with larger bodies time to escape. To use this as a metaphor, today we are surrounded by “canaries” that give indications of our own susceptibility to the impacts of inappropriate and unhealthy lifestyles that may provide comfort and profits in the short term but will likely doom our species in the not-too-distant future.

Please read the article from *Climate Action* [“Climate Change Facts to Scare You into Action”] that will convince you that global warming is not a hoax, but actually an “inconvenient truth” that everyone should take seriously. These issues stand out:

- Climate change could be irreversible by 2030.
- Greenhouse gas levels are at an all-time high.
- More than one million species face extinction.
- Climate change is creating a refugee crisis.
- Our oceans are dying.
- We use more of the Earth’s resources than it can renew.

You can read the details at <https://www.ecotricity.co.uk/our-news/2017/six-scary-facts-about-climate-change>.

These are facts that science has proven through observation, measurement, and modeling. They are not to be taken lightly or to be legislated against as is happening in too many states in the U.S. We should be able to use our big brains in useful ways other

than accumulating more toys and unnecessary gadgets that make life comfortable in the short term. We should think about what life will be like for our descendants over at least the next seven generations.

A Podcast by Birders, for Birders

“Birds of a Feather Talk Together” is a podcast where two bird experts discuss different topics with two younger bird enthusiasts. With access to over 50,000 bird specimens, the group discusses rare birds, extinct birds, and common birds. This introductory podcast is making birding accessible for everyone.

In the episode (links below) the ivory-billed woodpecker is discussed. Give it a listen and share with those who might enjoy.

Listen on Apple Podcasts: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/birds-of-a-feather-talk-together/id1688396186?i=1000613384634>

Listen on Spotify: Episode 1: Ivory Billed Woodpecker open.spotify.com

Catch a Glimpse of Spectacular Bird Moments

Thanks to National Audubon’s partnership with [Explore.org](https://www.explore.org), nature-lovers all over the world can now catch a glimpse of extraordinary birds in the wild no matter where you are.

During the spring and summer, when the cams are in season, you can see intimate family moments like Atlantic puffins getting cozy inside their rocky burrow. If you time it right, you can even behold breathtaking views like sandhill cranes leaving the river side for their morning lift-off by the thousands.

From parenthood to migration, [Explore.org](https://www.explore.org) wildlife cameras let us observe all the majestic and adorable displays of bird life from the comfort of home.

News of Photo Ark’s 14,000th Species

Lincoln’s Joel Sartore and his Photo Ark have once again been featured in the news. This summer, the United States Postal Service has showcased The Photo Ark in a set of 20 Forever postage stamps in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act. Check out this site and buy your stamps today!

<https://www.joelsartore.com/photo-ark-14000th-species-announcement/>

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

“Return to Sender—Addressee Not Known—Unable to Forward.” That’s what my letter to Senator Ricketts said when it was returned to me. I had written him about speeding up approval for transmission lines and many clean energy solar and wind projects stuck in the regulatory pipeline-permitting reform. I called his Washington office and learned he hadn’t yet set up his Lincoln office since January even though his three other offices in the state are functioning. So, I emailed my message to Ricketts.Senate.gov/share-your-opinion/. We’ll update his new Lincoln office address in the next newsletter or whenever we get it.

A short pep talk about writing to your elected representatives: I know, it does feel futile to be just one person with an opinion. But if six of us write about permitting reform, that may be enough to let the recipient know there is interest in the District.

Another letter to our Washington Senators and House member is urged by National Audubon in support of the Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act recently introduced in the House by Republicans from Florida and Ohio and Democrats from Washington and Arkansas. It provides competitive grants for habitat conservation, research and monitoring, and community education. The bill would reauthorize the program for the next five years. First enacted in 2000, it led to U.S. investment of more than \$89 million which sparked an additional \$346 million in matching funds from public and private partnerships. It supported more than 700 habitat restoration and protection projects in 43 countries, 40 states and Canadian provinces.

Felice Stadler, National Audubon’s VP of government affairs, explained the need: “We have lost three billion birds in North America alone since 1970, and to stem the tide of further devastating losses of migratory birds, we need to invest in protecting their habitats across the Western Hemisphere.” More than 350 species of birds travel thousands of miles from Latin America and the Caribbean to breeding grounds in the U.S., Canada, and the Arctic and back.

One might hope that orange skies, bad air, and intense heat would mean Americans would be calling for action on climate change. One reason that that’s not happening was identified by climate scientist Bill McGuire (*Heated*, July 11). He wrote: “TV is still the main source for Americans getting their news, especially the weather. . . Only five percent of TV stations that covered the heat waves in Texas and the Southwest connected them to the climate crisis, . . . ABC, CBS, and NBC aired a combined 123 segments about the heat wave, but only seven mentioned climate change. Major cable networks did no better: CNN, Fox News, and MSNBC aired 187 segments about the heat waves, but only eight mentioned climate change.

At this point, failing to connect extreme heat to climate change is more than oversight—it’s misinformation.”

A July 12 *Washington Post* story headlined “Floods, fires, and deadly heat are the alarm bells of a planet on the brink.” It quoted climate scientist Friederike Otto: “This is not the new normal. . . The new normal will be what it is once we stop burning fossil fuels.” The only remaining question is when will the alarms finally be loud enough to make people wake up?

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Upcoming Programs

Third Tuesday Bird Outing

Tuesday, August 15, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

A knowledgeable bird guide will lead this outing on the prairie trails for beginners to experts. Free. Registration requested.

Discovery Leader Training

Friday, August 18, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Interested in being a Discovery Leader? We need volunteers to guide students on field trips around the prairie trails. We’ll provide the training and lunch; you volunteer time and passion.

Climate & Culture: A conversation

Sunday, August 20, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon on the prairie to discuss how the current climate crisis is affecting you and our communities and culture. Share your story, hear from others, and come together around shared goals for a healthy Nebraska. We’ll have snacks and beverages but come early with a picnic lunch and join us at 12:00 noon. Then at 1:00 p.m. speakers will kick off the conversation. Joining us will be Dr. Martha Durr, Nebraska state climatologist, to give insights into how our climate in Nebraska is being affected. Free admission, space is limited, so registration is encouraged. Funding for these conversations is provided by Humanities Nebraska.

Summer Accessible Bird Outings

Monday, August 21, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Nebraska’s BIRDABILITY captain, Cassandra Dean, will lead these free, low-impact, and accessible birding mornings in and around the picnic area. Accessible birding gear will be available. Outings will be mostly stationary, near bathrooms.

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

Do You Enjoy Cookies After the General Meetings?

In order to continue the hospitality of treats with conversation after monthly meetings, several people are needed to bring cookies, make a couple of calls each month to line up who will bring treats, help prepare the tables, and clean up afterwards. Contact Arlys or Mark. If we don’t hear from several Wachiskans, this long-standing gesture will probably be discontinued.

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 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>

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>

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.

Sign Up to Receive *The Babbling Brook* Online

You can help Wachiska save paper and reduce the cost of printing and mailing *The Babbling Brook*. Since 2015, the newsletter has been posted online at the beginning of each month. Electronic subscribers receive a Mailchimp email with a link to the online issue.

About 340 members and Friends currently receive their monthly newsletters electronically. Additional advantages are that pictures are in color and you can adjust the size of print. If you would like to switch from paper to online delivery, send an email to newsletter@WachiskaAudubon.org and put "Electronic Newsletter" in the subject line, or let Arlys know your wishes and she'll take care of the switch. Thanks for helping save trees and postage!

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 AUDUBON LEADERS - 2023

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 Office Administrator Arlys Reitan

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

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 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.

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.

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**.

