



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

# The Babbling Brook

Our 40th Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2013

NOVEMBER 2013

Volume 22 - Issue 11

General Meeting—Thursday, November 14, 7:00 p.m., Dick Administration Building, Union College, Lincoln

## Hutton Niobrara Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary

by Ron Klataske, Executive Director, Audubon of Kansas

The 5,000-acre Hutton Niobrara Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary is managed to accommodate a broad spectrum of Nebraska's wildlife heritage—from sharp-tailed grouse and bobolinks to white-tailed jackrabbits and an occasional mountain lion—found in prairies and forests along the Niobrara River. A small colony of black-tailed prairie dogs is the latest addition to an old field, a keystone species that will provide habitat for burrowing owls. Other previously cultivated fields have been planted to native grasses and forbs to provide wildlife habitat and habitat for native pollinators. Most of the native grasslands are managed to provide cattle grazing while maintaining cover for a full suite of grassland-nesting birds.

Exceptional accommodations within two guesthouses have been established to provide opportunities for people who cherish the experience of staying at the sanctuary while quietly enjoying the setting or actively exploring the natural and rural character of this unique landscape where the Sandhills merge with river bluffs, canyons, and woodlands associated with the Niobrara River valley. A system of trails, suitable for walking or horseback riding, has recently been completed. A trail extends in forests and on bluffs along three miles of the nationally designated scenic Niobrara River. The blend of ranchland and "wilderness" is as inviting for hiking and exploring after a winter snow as in

summer when stunning wildflowers grace the prairie hills.

The Hutton Guesthouse has four bedrooms, three baths, a view of every sunrise and sunset, and the ever-presence of birds—goldfinches and wild turkeys—outside the kitchen window. The Lazy Easy Ranch Guesthouse also offers four bedrooms, but it is surrounded by trees in a traditional ranch stead.



Ron Klataske releasing black-footed ferrets in Kansas

The Niobrara Sanctuary is owned and managed by Audubon of Kansas. Ron Klataske is executive director. Prior to this position Ron was regional vice president of the National Audubon Society (1970-1998) and worked with landowners and others to defeat the proposed Norden Dam and alternatively win congressional approval for including the Niobrara River in the national Wild and Scenic River System.

See the sanctuary website for details:  
[www.niobrrasanctuary.org](http://www.niobrrasanctuary.org).

*(Editor's Note: Ron was the impetus for Wachiska's becoming a chapter of National Audubon in the early 1970s and spent thousands of hours with Nebraska chapters during his years with NAS. In 1991, along with Tim Knott, Ron received Wachiska's Earthkeeper Award for Niobrara River preservation/Scenic River designation. )*

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, November 14, at 7:00 p.m.** for this free public presentation in the Dick Administration Building's auditorium on Union College campus, 3800 South 48<sup>th</sup> Street, in Lincoln. From 48<sup>th</sup> and Calvert streets, go one block south to the north end of campus. Due to construction on that end of campus, parking can be found along 48<sup>th</sup> Street, near the church on Prescott Avenue, or at the campus gym. Look for Audubon signs on the doors of the Dick Building. An on-site ramp and elevator are available. Refreshments will be served following the talk.

## Calendar

### November

- 5 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 14 General Meeting, "Hutton Niobrara Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary," by Ron Klataske, Union College's Dick Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Field trip to find winter migrants, 12:30 p.m. (page 2)
- 18 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 18 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 21 Legislation Committee, DaVinci's, 11<sup>th</sup> & G, 6:00 p.m.

### December

- 12 Holiday Potluck – details next month
- 14 Lincoln Christmas Bird Count



## Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

### Winter Preparations

This is the time of year that birds of a feather flock together. Geese, ducks, gulls, and blackbirds congregate in enormous groups and move south to stay ahead of winter as lakes and marshes turn to ice. This month we'll visit favorite birding spots at Lincoln area lakes to scan for flocks of migrants and other interesting possibilities like loons and grebes.

We'll meet at **12:30 p.m. Sunday, November 17**, on the south side of the State Capitol in Lincoln at 15th and H streets, across from the governor's mansion. Participants can either carpool or caravan with the group to as many of the locations as they wish to visit. Very little walking will be required to bird these areas. Some stops may require a state park entry permit which is available for \$5 per vehicle for a daily pass. Bring binoculars and scope if you have them. The public is welcome. If you have questions call John at 402-475-7275.



### From the Board ...

by Ken Reitan, Field Trip Board Rep

#### Decline of the Lesser Prairie-chicken

The lesser prairie-chicken is a gallinaceous bird similar to Nebraska's greater prairie-chicken. The former historically occupied parts of southeastern Colorado, southwestern Kansas, western Oklahoma, eastern New Mexico, and the Texas Panhandle.



**Ken Reitan**

Since the 1800s, the species has been in decline due to droughts, conversion of rangeland to cropland, overgrazing by livestock, and chemical control on rangelands. In recent years, new threats such as unregulated wind power development and expiration of CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) acreage have increased the urgency of conservation efforts. Estimates are that only about 35,000 birds remain; Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing is probably warranted.

Let your U.S. senators and representative know that you support increased funding for the CRP as well as ESA listing for the lesser prairie-chicken (left).



These policies will help not only the lesser prairie-chicken but also Nebraska's greater prairie-chicken. (See page 7 for the listing of congressional office information.)

### Annual Meeting in November

At Wachiska's annual meeting November 14, the following slate of officers will be presented for 2014 by the nominating committee:

- President – Elizabeth Nelson
- Vice President – Jessi Umberger
- Recording Secretary – Bob Boyce
- Corresponding Secretary – Joe Francis
- Treasurer – Gary Fehr

Nominations will be accepted from the floor with the condition that each nominee is currently a member and has given consent to be nominated.

If you are interested in running for one of the above positions, chairing a standing committee, or serving as a director at large, call President Arnold Mendenhall at 402-525-4884 or the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846. Officers serve a one-year term which may be extended two times.

### Dollars Needed for Birdseed

For the past two years, Wachiska has sponsored a family activity at public libraries on International Migratory Bird Day in February. As a result, Dave Titterington of Wild Bird Habitat Stores donated and installed bird feeders at Eiseley, Walt, Gere, and Anderson branch libraries. Mary King, Joyce Vannier, and Sue Guild have been keeping them filled with seed. We need money on an ongoing basis to purchase quality seed from Wild Bird Habitat to keep the feeders filled, especially in the late fall, winter, and early spring months.

Before this announcement was made known to our members, supporters, and readers, the following scenario transpired.

Someone with an Omaha address ordered birdseed online from our fall sale. When it was not picked up, it had to be toted back to the Wachiska office by volunteers. The Omahan was contacted that his seed was here and that it was always an issue that rodents can be a problem if left for long. He replied that he hadn't realized the sale was being conducted in Lincoln and that he'd need to find someone to pick it up since he doesn't get over here often. After explaining we could either send him a refund check and try to resell the seed to someone else or he could donate it to the library bird feeding project, he quickly replied that he would like to take advantage of the latter offer. So THANK YOU, David Corbin in Omaha, for your donation. The committee above has been alerted to this situation and is thrilled that the city's birds will have more seed this winter.

For the rest of you, if you are willing to donate money to purchase this feed, please send your check to the Wachiska office, making sure it is designated for the library birdseed project. We will then purchase and distribute the seed as needed in the libraries' feeders. The libraries and their clients are thrilled to have this service. Thank you to all for your consideration.

## New Audubon Members and Friends

by Joyce Vannier, Membership Chair

We are still catching up on announcing our newest members due to the extra space that was needed for the chapter's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in several issues. We continue to welcome our latest members and invite them to become involved in their chapter:

### Joining locally as a Friend of Wachiska

Karee Shonerd                      Suzanne & Charles Taylor  
Melody & Lyle Stohlmann      Linda Trone

### Transferring in from another chapter

Kevin Miller                      Cynthia Tedore

### Joining through National Audubon

Shireen Adenwalla	Lorraine Kohout
Tim Anderson	Jean Larkins
Wendy Bantam	Elizabeth Manning
Robert Brehm	Joan McKay
Eileen Brown-Steinkuehler	Marla Mortensen
F. Byrd	Phyllis Olson
Bobbi Carlin	Betty Orr
Debra Clopton	Anne Pamperl
Robert Creager	Rosina Paolini
Nicholas Cusick	Perry Pirsch
Ron Delong	Cynthia Rockwell
Mary Donnelly	S K Rockwell
Susan Fortune	Larry Ruth
John Gewecke	Denise Schneider-Bargar
Laretta Gibson	Phyllis Schupbach
Lou Green	Marilyn Shaw
Shirley Green	Dee Simmons
Susan Hafermann	William Smith Jr
Larry Hector	Donna Stover
Jeffery & Kristine Herzberg	Mary Kay Vestecka
Arleen Hippen	Mark Weilage
D. Jacobson	Frazer Williams
Brad Johnson	Judith Wilson
Gladys Jones	Sharon Wingrove
Cece Kelley	Nancy Witters
Kim Kenney	Shelley Zart

### Name and Address Changes

With postage costs going up once again in January, our membership committee finds it necessary to request members to handle all contact information status changes for National Audubon memberships directly through National Audubon. This can be done by email to [audubon@emailcustomerservice.com](mailto:audubon@emailcustomerservice.com) or calling toll free, 800-274-4201.

For changes to local memberships only, continue to inform the Wachiska office at [office@wachiskaaudubon.org](mailto:office@wachiskaaudubon.org), 402-486-4846.

## Discuss It with Your State Senator

by Sam Truax

I live in State Senator Amanda McGill's district and have discussed some of Wachiska's concerns with her on a couple of occasions. Senator McGill is very concerned about issues involving caring for vulnerable members of our society. She has been involved with legislation regarding court-appointed special advocacy for children, juvenile justice efficiencies and child welfare accountability, treatment for children with behavioral disorders, human trafficking, and similar projects, so she had little time to consider other areas of environmental concern; however, the senator was considerate and attentive when I spoke to her about issues of importance to Wachiska and other conservation groups. Senator McGill was one of only 11 senators voting against the bill to allow counties to legislate prairie dog controls which the Wachiska legislation committee opposed because killing prairie dogs results in collateral damage to other species. Even if there may have been a very few folks who may not have been opposed to controlling the prairie dogs themselves, the collateral damage was a concern.

In the latest legislative session, Senator McGill introduced legislation that supported renewable energy and otherwise supported environmental issues even though her primary concern may have remained with humanistic issues.

The point to be made here is that if Wachiska members would make an effort to contact their state senator on issues of interest, it could pay off with surprising results. Senators should appreciate hearing the opinions of their constituency, and their thinking and voting could reflect the information they receive. Be an active supporter of our environment by discussing issues with your state senator.



### Cash for Cans? Just say Wachiska Audubon!

You can drop off your aluminum cans at A-Can Recycling Center, 3255 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Lincoln, and earn extra cash for our chapter. Owners Ben and Connie have set up an account for Wachiska whereby anyone can drop off their cans and specify that the proceeds should be credited to the Wachiska Audubon account. Wachiska will receive an extra dividend because we are a nonprofit organization. This site is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

If this location in southwest Lincoln is convenient for you, make your recycling count twice—once for the environment and again for Wachiska. Call the office at 402-486-4846 if you have questions.

# Nebraska Sandhills National Park

by Bob Den Hartog

Can you remember the last time a National Park of any significant size was created east of the Rockies? I sure don't. In a short Googling, it looks like the last sizeable National Park east of the Rockies was created in the 1930s. These national parks are the jewels of our country. Millions visit them annually. Why aren't there more? Why don't we think big like we used to?

The geological region in Nebraska known as the Sandhills is estimated to contain 19,000 to 23,000 square miles of land, depending on definition. To put this into perspective, Yellowstone National Park contains 3,468 square miles. Now, let's think big. What if the Sandhills became a national park? The Nebraska Sandhills National Park would rival in size the largest national park in North America. Can you imagine a national park six times the size of Yellowstone right here in Nebraska!? A bison herd in the tens of thousands!? Elk and deer by the thousands!? Wolves, mountain lions, and maybe even grizzly bears!? An intact and fully functioning ecosystem!

Is this a pipe dream? Not if it's an economically viable alternative. Let me attempt to make a case for how and why...

How? First: How much is it going to cost? What's the market value for Sandhills ranchland? For the sake of discussion, I'll use a recently published estimate of Sandhills ranchland value at ~\$475/acre. For the purchase of 21,000 square miles, we're looking at a grand total of ~\$6.38 billion. No doubt this is a staggering number, and it doesn't include purchases of real estate in towns, which I would propose to be excluded from the park. I imagine some towns will thrive being located within the park but, excluded from the park itself, some towns will die. In any case, there is no need to purchase all the land at once or to eliminate conventional income potential of the land during the acquisition period. Taking a longer view, if the purchases were spread over, for example, 20 years, the result would be \$319M/year in land acquisition expenses. From this, grazing leases could be offered and the resulting income subtracted from that amount. The 2012 federal budget is estimated to be \$3.8 trillion. A land acquisition expense of \$319M/year would represent just 0.0084 percent of that budget. Since the State of Nebraska would stand to benefit significantly by the creation of the park, it could pay a share of these expenses as well. Either way, \$319M/year is a number that could easily be absorbed given the popularity of national parks.

The second significant hurdle would be overcoming loss of agricultural-related economic activity resulting from the creation of the park. Since the vast majority of land used in the Sandhills is for cattle production, it's reasonable to use the economics of the cattle industry as a benchmark. It's estimated that five to ten percent of Nebraska's cattle herd is found in the Sandhills. According to the Nebraska Beef Council, Nebraska's cattle industry creates \$12.1 billion in economic activity in Nebraska annually. So, by calculation, the cattle industry in the Sandhills creates ~\$0.6-1.2 billion/year in economic activity for the state.



Bob Den Hartog

Considering this benchmark, what increase in tourism, resulting from the creation of the park, is necessary to recuperate this amount? In 2010, travelers spent ~\$4 billion in Nebraska on trips away from home with overnight stays in paid accommodations and on day trips to places 100 miles or more away. With this figure, travel spending in Nebraska would have to increase by 15-30 percent. This is a sizeable but not shocking amount; and this says nothing of the relative consumption of natural resources.

So, if we "built" it, would they come? In my view, absolutely. There is no doubt the Nebraska Sandhills National Park wouldn't have the same jaw-dropping, awe-inspiring, natural wonders of iconic parks of the West. But none would rival the vastness of the park, the massive beasts by the thousands, and the potential to become the largest intact terrestrial ecosystem preserved in the U.S. east of the Rockies. The Nebraska Sandhills National Park would be a jewel of a different shade, but no less valuable.

And finally... Why? Everyone understands cold, heartless economics. And my case has been made. But, cold-hearted economics don't come close to measuring the true value of a Nebraska Sandhills National Park. By nature, this value is immeasurable. What value is the blood of a bison calf to a wolf? A prairie fire to the hawk? A spring to the wet meadow? What's a daydream worth? We must save these things. These wild places. We must hold them in our collective hands like the jewels they are. For one day, an author's pen will press onto the page an account of our decisions. Let it not be a lamentation. We must let the whispers of all things wild rise from our hearts to our minds. Blot out the curses of capitalism.

Ok. Maybe it is a dream. So what if it is? Combine the threads of many dreamers into a common cord and so fashion the means to move great things. All things that are worth doing or great things that have been done started with a dream.

# Bird Feeding Basics from National Audubon

by Stephen W. Kress, Ph.D.

(reprinted from National Audubon Society brochure)

While most wild birds rely on wild foods for most of their meals, more than 100 North American species supplement natural foods with birdseed, suet, fruit, and nectar obtained from feeders. Bird feeding can benefit birds while also providing pleasure for people throughout the year. Feeders benefit birds most during the winter when natural food supplies are scarce; however, additional species visit feeders during the spring and fall migrations, and some nesting birds utilize feeders during the summer.

To keep birds coming back to your feeders, provide them with three essential elements: the right variety of quality seed, a source of fresh water for drinking and bathing, and ample cover, preferably provided by native plants. Native plants also provide potential nesting sites and a source of natural food.

Bird feeders also present risks, potentially increasing the chances of window collisions, predation, and exposure to disease. Following are tips for safely attracting birds to your feeders.

**Locate feeders at different levels.** Sparrows, juncos, and towhees usually feed on the ground while finches and cardinals feed in shrubs, and chickadees, titmice, and woodpeckers feed in trees. To avoid crowding and to attract the greatest variety of species, provide table-like feeders for ground-feeding birds, hopper or tube feeders for shrub and treetop feeders, and suet feeders well off the ground for woodpeckers, nuthatches, and chickadees.

**Offer a variety of seeds in separate feeders.** A variety of seeds will attract the greatest variety of birds. To avoid waste, offer different seeds in different feeders. Black oil sunflower seed appeals to the greatest number of birds. Offer sunflower seeds, Nyjer (thistle) seeds, and peanuts in separate feeders. When using blends, choose mixtures containing sunflower seeds, millet, and cracked corn—the three most popular types of birdseed. Birds that are sunflower specialists will readily eat the sunflower seed and toss the millet and corn to the ground, to be eaten by ground-feeding birds such as sparrows and juncos. Mixtures of peanuts, nuts, and dried fruit are attractive to woodpeckers, nuthatches, and titmice. Relatively few species prefer milo, wheat, and oats which are featured in less expensive blends.

**Provide suet during cool weather only.** Suet (beef fat) attracts insect-eating birds such as woodpeckers, wrens, chickadees, nuthatches, and titmice. Place the suet in special feeders or net onion bags at least five feet from the ground to keep it out of the reach of dogs. Do not put out suet during hot weather as it can

turn rancid; also, dripping fat can damage natural waterproofing on bird feathers.

**Mix peanut butter and corn meal.** Peanut butter is a good substitute for suet in the summer. Mix one part peanut butter with five parts corn meal and stuff the mixture



Black-capped chickadee

into holes drilled in a hanging log or into the crevices of a large pinecone. This all-season mixture attracts woodpeckers, chickadees, titmice, and occasionally, warblers.

**Provide fruit for berry-eating birds.** Fruit specialists such as robins, waxwings, bluebirds, and mockingbirds rarely eat birdseed. To attract these birds, soak raisins and currants in water overnight and then place them on a table feeder, or purchase blends with a dried fruit mixture. To attract orioles and tanagers, skewer halved oranges onto a spike near other feeders, or provide nectar feeders.

**Provide nectar for hummingbirds.** Make a sugar solution of one part white sugar to four parts water. Boil briefly to sterilize and dissolve sugar crystals; no need to add red food coloring. Feeders must be washed every few days with very hot water and kept scrupulously clean to prevent the growth of mold and slime.

**Store seed in secure metal containers.** Store seed in metal garbage cans with secure lids to protect it from squirrels and mice. Keep the cans in a cool, dry location; avoid storing in the heat. Damp seeds may grow mold that can be fatal to birds. Overheating can destroy the nutrition and taste of sunflower seeds. For these reasons, it's best not to keep seed from one winter to the next.



American goldfinch

**Discourage squirrels from consuming feeder foods.** Squirrels are best excluded by placing feeders on a pole in an open area. Pole-mounted feeders should be about five feet off the ground and protected by a cone-shaped baffle (at least 17" in diameter) or similar obstacle below the feeder. Locate pole-mounted feeders at least ten feet from the nearest shrub, tree, or other tall structure. Squirrel feeders stocked with blends that are especially attractive to squirrels and chipmunks can reduce competition for high-priced foods offered at bird feeders. Locate squirrel feeders far from bird feeders to further reduce competition.

**Locate feeders to reduce window collisions.** In the U.S., approximately one billion birds die from flying into windows each year. Protect birds from collisions by placing feeders within three feet of windows, if possible. Mobiles and opaque decorations hanging outside windows also help to prevent bird strikes. Attaching fruit tree netting outside windows can help to deflect birds from the glass.

**Clean feeders and rake up spilled grain and hulls.** Uneaten seed can become soggy and grow deadly mold. Empty and clean feeders in the spring and fall—more often if feeders are used during humid summers. Using a long-handled bottlebrush, scrub with dish detergent, rinse, and soak in a bucket of 10 percent non-chlorine bleach solution, rinse well, and dry in the sun. In early spring, rake up spilled grain and sunflower hulls.

# W.A.R.B.L.E.R

(Wachiska Audubon Readers' Bulletins, Letters, and Environmental Reports)

## What does WACHISKA mean?

by Arlys Reitan

This is the most often asked question of Wachiska leaders. Back in 1973 when our chapter was chartered by the National Audubon Society, co-founder Betsy Finch recalls seeing in a book that "Wachiska" was an Omaha Indian word meaning "land of many streams." At that time Nebraska supposedly had more miles of waterways than any state in the contiguous U.S. Thus, our name.

About 15-20 years later we had a field trip led by an elder of the Omaha tribe. I purposely attended in order to clarify this name affiliation as so many people were having trouble pronouncing and spelling it. It had become known as "the W word" among members and the press. The tribal elder assured me that their language had no word even similar to "Wachiska" and that it would have been impossible for someone from the tribe to have verified this name as an authentic Omaha word.

I was surprised and disappointed, so I approached Betsy to be sure my recollection of her story was correct. All this time later she was not able to provide information on the book or details of the name. I wished many times that I could find some derivation that could be linked to water or nature or just about anything positive, at that point.

Fast forward to Wachiska's plans to celebrate our anniversary when I received an email from new Board member Ben Vogt, whose wife is a UNL researcher. Jaelyn reported she found the word "Wachiska" in a UNL library where it was found to be part of a 1933 dissertation. The Omaha called it Mazi snede *Wachiska*; mazi for "cedar" or "pine" and snede meaning "long." Wachiska referred to "creek." Numerous spellings were shown, but this was what I've needed as reassurance for the countless times I've relayed the story above but without verification to this point. And to think this discovery was made while celebrating Wachiska's 40th anniversary made it all the more rewarding. Thank you, Ben and Jaelyn!!

## End-of-year Gifts

As the end of 2013 draws near, supporters of Wachiska Audubon may want to consider the tax advantages of a gift before the dawn of the new year. Contributions can range from cash donations to stock gifts to acceptable property. Our conservation committee is ready to receive easements for high-quality native prairies in any of our 17-county membership area in Southeast Nebraska. Other contributions can help us with land management, field trips for children and families, workshops and conferences, and much more. Please contact the office if you would like to put Wachiska on your end-of-the-year or holiday list.

## Christmas Bird Count

Mark your calendars that this year's CBC in the Lincoln area has been set for Saturday, December 14. Details will follow next month. If you have immediate questions, contact the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846 or [office@wachiskaaudubon.org](mailto:office@wachiskaaudubon.org).

## Hospitality Committee Needs YOU

by Cheryl Moncure, Hospitality Chair

Hospitality Committee member Brittany Dabestani has served Wachiska well by calling members each month to provide cookies for the general meetings. Numerous compliments have been received regarding Brittany's friendly, efficient manner while making those calls. As Brittany's career involving the environmental movement grows as well as the responsibilities of taking care of a young family, she has decided to step aside at the end of this year. We give Brittany a hearty Thank You and wish her an exciting future. If you would like to become a part of this committee with the main duty being to call members on the baking list to provide cookies each month, I'd like to hear from you, 402-488-0036.

## Another Silent Auction?

With the explicit success of our first ever silent auction during the anniversary celebration, additional items were donated too late to be included. It's been decided to hold a mini-auction during the December 12 holiday party. If you would like to donate please contact the office before bringing your donations between now and the beginning of December.

## Fontenelle Forest Association's Appreciation

Wachiska has received a letter from Fontenelle Forest thanking chapter members for the \$300 donation given to them in appreciation of the raptor center's stellar program in August. The letter explained how Fontenelle Forest Association has merged with Raptor Recovery Nebraska which was described during our presentation. Once again, we all thank Betsy, Elaine, Carri, and Janet for the time and effort expended in bringing over a dozen birds for us to enjoy—another special anniversary presentation!

## Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Donation Acknowledged

This fall Wachiska received an informational report from SCPAC telling of their programs and thanking our chapter for the \$350 donation applied to the Twilight on the Tallgrass prairie festival. This event grew out of the annual prairie festival Wachiska organized in the early 1980s at Nine-Mile Prairie and later moved to Spring Creek Prairie when it was purchased.

## Public Officials

### **President Barack Obama**

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

### **Senator Mike Johanns**

100 Centennial Mall N Rm 294, Lincoln NE 68508-3803  
Lincoln phone: 402-476-1400 Fax: 402-476-0605  
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-4224 Fax: 202-228-0436  
E-mail: [mike\\_johanns@johanns.senate.gov](mailto:mike_johanns@johanns.senate.gov)

### **Senator Deb Fischer**

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

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

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

### **Congressman Lee Terry (2<sup>nd</sup> District)**

11717 Burt St Ste 106, Omaha NE 68154  
Omaha phone: 402-397-9944  
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4155 Fax: 202-226-5452  
E-mail at website: <http://leetterry.house.gov/>

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

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

### **Capitol Hill Switchboard**

888-436-8427 or 202-224-3121

### **Governor Dave Heineman**

Capitol Bldg, PO Box 94848, Lincoln NE 68509-4848  
Phone: 402-471-2244 Fax: 402-471-6031  
E-mail: [dave.heineman@nebraska.gov](mailto:dave.heineman@nebraska.gov)

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

District \_\_\_ State Capitol  
PO Box 94604  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604  
State Capitol Switchboard 402-471-2311

### **Lancaster County Commissioners**

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10<sup>th</sup> St Rm 110, Lincoln NE 68508  
Phone: 402-441-7447 Fax: 402-441-6301  
E-mail: [commish@lancaster.ne.gov](mailto:commish@lancaster.ne.gov)

### **Mayor Chris Beutler**

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10<sup>th</sup> St Rm 208, Lincoln NE 68508-2828  
Phone: 402-441-7511 Fax: 402-441-7120  
E-mail: [mayor@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:mayor@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lincoln City Council**

402-441-7515  
E-mail: [council@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:council@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lincoln Journal Star**

Letters to the editor, 926 P St, Lincoln NE 68508  
E-mail: [oped@journalstar.com](mailto:oped@journalstar.com)

## **Membership**

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

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 Individual/Friend

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Sustainer

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Families

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Patron

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

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

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

### **OR**

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Enclose introductory membership fee of \$20.

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

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

**C3ZP040Z**

## The Online Guide to North American Birds



This *Online Guide to North American Birds* features over 800 species of birds in 22 orders and 74 families. The guide covers all of North America's regular breeding birds as well as non-breeding species that regularly or occasionally visit North America, north of Mexico.

Start identifying birds now at:

<http://www.audubonbirds.org/>

Identify birds in your PC, I-phone, I-pad, Android, Kindle Fire, or NOOK color.

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Wachiska Audubon Society  
4547 Calvert St Ste 10  
Lincoln NE 68506-5643  
402-486-4846  
office@wachiskaaudubon.org  
www.wachiskaaudubon.org

## WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2013

### OFFICERS

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Director at Large.....	*Benjamin Vogt.....	402-499-5851
Director at Large.....	*vacant.....	
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\*Denotes Board member

### OTHER ASSOCIATES

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## NEBirds Website

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

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

## A Gift to the Future

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