



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

# The Babbling Brook

Our 43rd Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2016

JULY 2016

Volume 25 - Issue 7

Annual Potluck Picnic — Thursday, July 14, 6:00 p.m., Ferguson House, 700 South 16th Street, Lincoln

## What Do You Get When Mixing History with a Picnic?

by Arlys Reitan

**A**s this edition of *The Babbling Brook* is being written, the calendar reminds us that it is the first day of summer. It's that time of year when Wachiskans begin thinking of having our traditional summer picnic.



On **Thursday, July 14**, we will gather at the historic Ferguson House, 700 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street in downtown Lincoln, just across from the southeast corner of our State Capitol. This is the home of the Nebraska

Environmental Trust. Executive Director **Mark Brohman** has offered to host our indoor/outdoor potluck picnic, lead a tour throughout the mansion, reveal if there really are/were ghosts in the house, and then report on some of the recent conservation projects that have been funded by the NET.

Around **6:00 p.m.** meet at this site with your dish to share and your own table service (which should include a cup or glass!).

The chapter will provide coffee and cold drinks. There is space for about 48 of us to eat indoors with plenty of additional space outside for those true summer picnickers. If you have a card table and a couple of chairs it would be helpful to bring them. Free parking will be available on the street.

### Wachiska Prairie Tour Planned for July 2

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, if you haven't had a chance to visit some of the best of Wachiska's prairies, this may be your opportunity on **Saturday, July 2**. In order to include an uncommon wet meadow prairie, we are changing the itinerary slightly. First we will visit Dieken Prairie near Unadilla. This is an outstanding example of an Eastern Nebraska upland prairie with plenty of blooming wildflowers including black-eyed Susans, lead plant, purple prairie clover, New Jersey tea, and others. Next we'll stop at Bentzinger Prairie near Cook. This is also a good upland prairie with plains gayfeather, plains evening primrose, and others plus some lowland species including thick-spoke gayfeather, butterfly milkweed, and white wild indigo.

The final destination will be Berg Prairie West near Talmage. Because it is sub-irrigated, the Berg Prairie contains some relatively uncommon species including Culver's root, American vetch, thick-spoke gayfeather, Indian plantain, meadow anemone, and foxglove beardtongue. Wachiska was fortunate to have this prairie donated by the Berg family in 2014.

We will meet at the Wachiska office at 4547 Calvert Street in Lincoln at **8:30 a.m.** to arrange carpooling, pass out maps and get a general idea of directions, meeting places, and other details. Wear good hiking shoes, a hat, and bring drinking water. We will have extra water and some snacks. People can leave the trip at any time if they need to return home early.

Call me at 402-483-5656, email [wachiskaoffice2@gmail.com](mailto:wachiskaoffice2@gmail.com), or leave a message at the office if you are planning to come. If there is quite a bit of interest, we may want to rent a van ahead of time. We could eat lunch in Tecumseh or Syracuse if people would like to do so and will return home by early afternoon.

### Calendar

#### July

- 2 Wachiska prairies tour, meet at Wachiska office, 8:30 a.m. (front page)
- 4\* Independence Day
- 5 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Field Trip to Jack Sinn WMA, 6:30 a.m. (page 2)
- 13 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 14 Annual potluck picnic, Ferguson House, 700 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St., 6:00 p.m. (article above)
- 18 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 26 Finance Committee, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 30 Seed harvest at Lamb Prairie, 7:00 a.m. (page 2)

\* NO Education Committee meeting due to holiday. Contact Sue at 402-525-7653 for rescheduled date.  
NO Legislation Committee meeting in July.



## Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

### Morning at the Marsh

You never know what kind of surprises are in store at Jack Sinn Wildlife Management Area (WMA) located near Ceresco at the north end of our unique saline wetlands. An early morning outing could potentially turn up marsh wrens, sedge wrens, least bitterns, and yellow-headed blackbirds. We'll be heading back to Lincoln before midday in order to beat the heat.

Meet on **Sunday, July 10, at 6:30 a.m.** on the south side of the State Capitol in Lincoln at 15th and H streets across from the governor's mansion. Anyone preferring to meet at the WMA can join up with the group at 7:00 a.m. in the parking lot on the west side of County Road 14 just north of Ashland Road. Bring a water bottle, sun protection, insect repellent, and binoculars and scope if you have them. There is no fee and the public is welcome. If you have questions, call John at 402-475-7275.

### Can You Help Harvest Seeds?

by Beth Coufal, Conservation Committee

The conservation committee is looking for volunteers to harvest seeds from prairie plants. Interest has been shown in buying local ecotype seeds from our prairies. As well as being a fundraiser for Wachiska, these seeds may be used for local prairie restorations. We will attempt to gather seeds from multiple species, including New Jersey tea, narrow-leaf purple coneflower, and penstemon. No experience is necessary as this will be a learning experience for everyone!

Meet at the Wachiska office at **7:00 a.m., Saturday, July 30.** We will caravan or carpool to the Lamb Prairie in Johnson County. Wear clothing that will protect you from the sun and vegetation and bring water. Also bring clippers and gloves if you have them. Other supplies will be provided. We will be finished by noon. If you would like to help, **please contact Beth at 402-797-8203 or [bethngaryc@windstream.net](mailto:bethngaryc@windstream.net).**

### Garage Sale Anyone?

Some chapter leaders are contemplating the idea of having a garage sale around Labor Day. If ten people contact the office that they are interested in donating worthwhile items (not junk unless it's antiques!) we would proceed with planning a date, location, helpers, etc. If we don't hear from you, the idea will be nixed—402-486-4846 or [office@wachiskaaudubon.org](mailto:office@wachiskaaudubon.org). Call now or forever hold your peace. **Let Arlys know if you are interested in unloading some of your stuff later this fall.**

## Earth Day Moving Forward

by Vicki Wood and Barb Francis  
Population and Environment Committee

On Earth Day 2016 the population and environment committee displayed environmental kids' book covers and distributed bookmarks in memory of longtime friend and P&E member, Jimmie Cooley.

Jimmie worked at Lincoln City Libraries for many years as a youth librarian and later in the adult collections department. Jimmie had a deep love of nature and walking. Her coworkers would often hear stories about the volkswalks she and her husband, Bruce, participated in. Jimmie had retired by the time the library entered into a partnership with Wachiska's P&E committee to bring awareness to the community about birds and the human impact on their populations. The first Bird EnCOUNTER activity was held at the library in February 2012 and continued annually through February 2015. Hundreds of Lincoln families participated in the EnCOUNTERs and learned about birds and how they are interconnected with our ecosystem. At her funeral, members of the library staff and Wachiska gathered in remembrance of Jimmie.

The Eco Books for Kids display in memory of Jimmie Cooley will be moving between four libraries beginning at Eiseley and followed by Gere, Walt, and finally Anderson Library, beginning on July 1. At each branch for about a month, the display will also feature additional environmental books and the bookmarks.

The P&E committee would like to express a late thank you to the folks who volunteered on Earth Day, some of whom got their hands dirty along with kids while planting prairie seeds. These folks were involved on that very windy day: Mary King, Duane Polzien, Colleen Babcock, Marilyn Leuenberger, Clarice Hedrick, Patty Spitzer, Jessi Umberger, Jeremy Othmer, Amy Swoboda, Phil Lewiston, Chuck Francis, and Barb Francis.

### New Friends for Wachiska Audubon

by Joyce Vannier and Jami Nelson, Membership Committee

We continue to welcome people who have shown an interest in supporting our chapter as a Friend of Wachiska. Our newest friends are:

Mary Burrow  
Wilfred DeVries  
John Dietrich  
Nancy Hamer  
Clarice Hedrick  
Sylvia Lempf

Jeff Meyer  
Cheryl Moncure  
James Norsworthy  
Nancy Oster  
Wilma & Harry Schaffert

Refer to the membership form on page 7 of this issue or on Wachiska's website to choose which category to select and then mail your application to the Wachiska office to support your chapter. Be sure to indicate if you would like to receive your monthly newsletter electronically or in the mail.



## From the Board ...

by Tim Knott  
Birdathon Campaign Chair

### Wachiska's Annual Birdathon is Making Good Progress

As a result of several substantial donations to Wachiska through the Give to Lincoln Day event on May 26, Wachiska's overall fundraising efforts are ahead of last year. According to the Lincoln Community Foundation, over 40 Wachiska members and friends contributed online to Give to Lincoln Day. In addition, a few dropped off checks at the office and were hand delivered on May 26. In addition, our chapter received over \$2,600 from the matching funds pool. Thank you to all our donors.

Now we need to complete the job. If you haven't donated to the Birdathon yet this spring, your support is needed in order to maintain programs that the chapter is committed to carrying out. For example, Wachiska has always relied on a volunteer treasurer to maintain our financial records. We hope to find a volunteer finance committee chair to maintain some of our financial records (see page 5). If we are unable to find a volunteer to do that part of our financial recordkeeping, we will need to set aside funds to pay for a part-time treasurer or finance coordinator. It is an essential part of our organization.

Also, we have been much more effective in securing good legislation at the state legislature in the last few years. It is because we and other conservation partners have had the assistance of an effective representative at the Capitol that we have been able to pass some really essential legislation and also avoid bad legislation. The money is well spent, but having representation at the Capitol also requires essential funding.

So, check your stack of mail, find your Birdathon letter, and please send in your contribution. If you think of all the activities that Wachiska volunteers participate in annually, you might want to increase your donation a little this year. All contributions, large and small, are appreciated and needed to carry on the vital work that volunteers have accomplished for the past 43 years.

A complete list of Give to Lincoln Day donors will be printed in next month's newsletter, and a current list of all Birdathon donors is coming soon.

Thank you for your past support for Wachiska Audubon and for your consideration again this year.

### Energy Efficiency Tip

Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your house any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

*(Editor's Note: The following article appeared in last month's newsletter. Since that time, members of the population and environment committee have offered to take the sale of this book under their wings. Please consider helping them raise some funds by selling 25 copies—11 copies have already been reserved by interested members and friends. Contact Barb now at [barbfrancis8@gmail.com](mailto:barbfrancis8@gmail.com) or 402-483-6727, and books might be here for pick up at the annual picnic July 14.)*

### A Practical Guide for Creating a Nature-Rich Life

**Vitamin N** (for "nature") by Richard Louv is a comprehensive practical handbook that readers of *Last Child in the Woods* and *The Nature Principle* have been asking for. It addresses the whole family and the wider community with 500 smart, fun, and effective ways to engage with the natural world; scores of information websites; and dozens of thought-provoking essays.

The reader will find an abundance of down-to-earth advice as well as creative projects and activities for every stage of life from suggestions for calming infants through nature, building a nature vocabulary with toddlers, and helping tweens become citizen scientists to finding nature-centered schools, medical professionals, and even careers. Included are easy ways for the whole family to join nature clubs, volunteer to restore damaged habitats, and more.

This 277-page paperback is the latest in Louv's arsenal on how to enjoy and benefit from nature and related activities. The publisher has contacted Wachiska with a generous offer if the chapter sells a minimum of 25 copies. This is the publishing company that handles the popular *Audubon* calendars that we sell each fall, so we know they are reliable and fun to work with.

If you are interested in ordering a copy or more, contact Barb (see editor's note above this article). The retail price is \$15.95. With freight and sales tax, a check for an even \$18/copy will do the trick. We already have requests for 11 copies. There is one copy in the Wachiska office for anyone to stop by and examine. This would make a good holiday or birthday gift for a child or family or to donate to a school library. Please consider helping your chapter by purchasing one or more of these educational environmental books.

### Save the Dates of October 20-21

October 20 - Nebraska Water Symposium - Managing an Essential Resource . . . Basin by Basin

October 21 - Nebraska Water Law Conference - The Latest in Nebraska Water Law for Attorneys and Water Professionals (open to all)

The location will be Nebraska Innovation Campus in Lincoln. Check the Nebraska Water Center's website for more details.



Louisiana Waterthrush

# Bird Species Identified During Birdathon 2016

by Ken Reitan, Species Compiler



Chestnut-sided Warbler

This year's Birdathon took place May 14-15. A total of **163 species** were found compared to 139 species seen in 2015. Field trips to Wilderness Park and Platte River State Park were included, but other areas were covered, also. As usual, the 14<sup>th</sup> Street entrance to Wilderness Park proved to be a great place to find warblers. That is where a chestnut-sided warbler was spotted; we had a fabulous look at it, enabling John Carlini to photograph it. On Sunday at Platte River State Park, a participant noticed that the Louisiana waterthrush pair the group was watching was carrying nest material up to the bank. This is the second time in six years that a birder on the Birdathon field trip has discovered the location of a Louisiana waterthrush nest. John Carlini got this photo above. The following species were reported by Larry Einemann, John Carlini, Shari Schwartz, Dan Leger, Tim Knott, Kevin Poague, Stan Shavlik, Ken Reitan, and others during this two-day weekend Birdathon:

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

## Zika Virus

by Richard Peterson



***Aedes albopictus* mosquito**

The Zika virus was first isolated in 1947 from the Zika Forest in Uganda, East Africa. At that time, the vertebrate host was primarily monkeys and was rare in humans. With more excursions of man into the forest to open areas for

agriculture, a mosquito-human-mosquito cycle was established. The primary vector or carrier of the virus is *Aedes aegypti*, the same mosquito that transmits yellow fever. Transmission of the virus by *Aedes albopictus* was reported in 2007 after an urban outbreak in Gabon, West Africa. In the United States, *Ae. albopictus* was first found in 1985 at the Port of Houston in a shipment of used tires. It then spread west into California, north into eastern Nebraska, up into Minnesota, across the South, and all the way up the East Coast. The Zika virus is related to dengue, yellow fever, Japanese encephalitis, and the West Nile viruses.

Eighty percent of the people who contract Zika fever have no symptoms and are unaware that they have the virus. The 20 percent who do exhibit symptoms have a mild headache, a rash, fever, feel tired, and have joint pain. After three days, with rest and over-the-counter ache and pain medication, the symptoms subside and the patient recovers. Complications from an infection, however, can spread from a pregnant woman to her child which may result in microcephaly. In extreme cases, infections in adults can result in Guillain-Barre' syndrome. It's for these reasons that the virus has come to our attention. If not for these complications, the virus would have remained a problem for those living outside of Nebraska. The fever caused by the virus cannot at this time be prevented by medicine or vaccine.

The Zika virus can also spread through blood transfusions. Blood banks should screen potential donors and avoid high-risk donors for at least four weeks. Men can transmit the virus during unprotected sexual intercourse. The virus has been found in semen up to ten days after the symptoms appear. Some countries have advised women to postpone trying to get pregnant. Sexual transmission has been documented in Europe, New Zealand, South America, and the United States.

*Ae. albopictus* is also known as the (Asian) tiger mosquito—a bit of a misnomer since it has black and white striped legs and a black and white body. It is a container breeder, i.e., the adult prefers laying eggs in water that collects in anything that will hold water. Homeowners should remove any standing water on their property including that in plugged roof gutters, unused bird baths, discarded tires, and other unlikely places. Water that collects in roadside litter is an ideal breeding site. Flowing water or water with fish and other predators is not an attractive site for egg laying. Sound sanitation practices are the most cost effective way to control the mosquito.

In 1992, *Ae. albopictus* larvae were found living in the water that had collected in discarded tires near Omaha in Douglas County and in West Point (Cumings County), Nebraska. Studies in 1995-1996 confirmed that the mosquito can survive our Midwest winter. In 2016, two cases of travel-related Zika virus were reported from Nebraska, one from Douglas County the other from Sarpy County. Other cases are likely to be confirmed. Anyone developing symptoms within two weeks of returning from a Zika-affected area should notify their physician.

To minimize the chance of being bitten, limit your outdoor activities during the day, especially at dawn and dusk. When out and about, wear a hat, long-sleeve shirt, pants, and shoes and socks. Use one of the recommended mosquito repellents containing either DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535. Continue to enjoy the outdoors, but remember to try to stay bite free.

## Needed: A Volunteer with a Sound Financial Mind — Can YOU Help?

Wachiska has revamped the way we manage our finances to get more people involved and to make each of the jobs easier. We are pleased that Lana Novak, Cathy Shaner, and Nancy Hamer are sharing the bookkeeping duties. These ladies take care of all incoming donations, outgoing payments, and keep our QuickBooks records up to date.

We need a new volunteer, or volunteers, to serve on our finance committee and make treasurer reports to the Board. This task has been revamped so that it requires NO data entry. We basically are looking for someone with a sound financial mind who can look over the monthly reports, work with the finance committee, make quarterly presentations to the Board, coordinate annual budget planning, and correspond with our accounting firm for tax payments. We have a strong, knowledgeable finance committee, a great bookkeeping crew, and a good accountant. We just need another set of eyes on the books and someone to help with coordination. It is anticipated this volunteer job will take about 35 hours a year, more some months and less others. You will get lots of training and support from the rest of the team!

**PLEASE, this is an area of critical need for Wachiska.** If you can do this job, we would oh so greatly appreciate your joining the finance team! If you might like to help, please contact Elizabeth Nelson (past president, member of the finance committee, and general helper outer) to discuss more details. You can reach Elizabeth at 402-770-3485 or at [enelson555@gmail.com](mailto:enelson555@gmail.com).



# Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

## Auduboners Across the Continent Are Protecting Birds

If you go to <http://www.audubon.org/news/climate>, you'll see many encouraging accounts of Audubon members across the continent working to protect birds from the effects of climate change. For example, there's a report of how the Audubon chapter in southeastern Washington—home of alfalfa, wheat, and grape growers—is assisting climate-threatened barn owls. The chapter provides the plans and materials for boxes usable by barn owls. The boxes are built by nearby penitentiary inmates. Audubon volunteers install them—42 have gone up so far—monitor them, and clean the boxes each year.

The project seeks to market a particular talent of barn owls. It is thought that a pair and their chicks can eat 3,000 rodents a year. One of the goals of the project is to reduce the use of rodent poisons (which accounts for the regular admission to the Blue Mountain Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center) of owls in various stages of rodenticide poisoning. The project hopes to increase the number of barn owls moving into the boxes, along with a few pairs of kestrels. Depending on interest from landowners and donors, the project may expand.

The same website has a lovely video about the work of the local Audubon chapter in Winston Salem, the state Audubon, and National Audubon as well as Audubon in the country of Belize. The star of the video is the wood thrush, a climate-threatened bird whose wintering grounds had been unknown. Audubon volunteers attached geolocators to the two-ounce birds. Then in spring came the hard part: Recapturing a banded bird is like trying to find a needle in a haystack, except that the needle keeps flying around and the haystack is infinite—wood thrushes don't have high site fidelity, which means they flit around to slightly different breeding locations year after year. Only two of the 22 tagged thrushes were recaptured, and one of the two had a dead battery. But one was all that was needed to track the bird in winter to Belize. For the rest of the story to date, see "Wood Thrushes Connect Bird lovers Across Borders" on the website above.

And now for some less-than-lovely climate news. In the course of filing the necessary papers for bankruptcy, Peabody, the world's largest publicly-traded, private coal company, revealed it had been funding lobbyists, litigators, trade associations, think tanks, and "experts" to promote the belief that climate change is no problem. More than that: Peabody Coal promoted the idea that more and more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is actually GOOD for us. (Wow. You can't make this stuff up.) Recent bankruptcy filings for Arch Coal, the second largest U.S. coal company, and Alpha Natural Resources also showed similar

funding. Refer to this link: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/jun/13/peabody-energy-coal-mining-climate-change-denial-funding>.

This spring, the granddaughter of climate scientist James F. Black spoke to Exxon-Mobil's annual meeting about a briefing her grandfather had given to top Exxon executives in July, 1977. He told them, "There is general scientific agreement that the most likely manner in which mankind is influencing the global climate is through carbon dioxide release from the burning of fossil fuels." He advised top Exxon executives that pivotal decisions about energy had to be made in five to ten years. Instead of seeking to reduce fossil fuel emissions, the company began substantial funding of groups that would refute what their own scientists had told them to be true. Check this out in these two sites: <http://ecowatch.com/2016/05/27/granddaughter-exxon-scientist/> and <http://insideclimatenews.org/content/Exxon-The-Road-Not-Taken>.

## How to Attract Birds to Your Feeders

by Stephen W. Kress, PhD

### Like us, birds need food, water, and shelter

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 can present some risks, potentially increasing the chances of window collisions, predation, and exposure to disease.

### 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.



Tufted Titmouse

### Offer different seeds in different 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.

## Public Officials

### **President Barack Obama**

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

### **Senator Ben Sasse**

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

### **Senator Deb Fischer**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Capitol Hill Switchboard**

888-436-8427 or 202-224-3121

### **Governor Pete Ricketts**

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

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

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

### **State Capitol Switchboard**

402-471-2311

### **Lancaster County Commissioners**

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

### **Mayor Chris Beutler**

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

### **Lincoln City Council**

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

### **Lincoln Journal Star**

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

## **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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

- \_\_\_ \$25 Individual/Friend
- \_\_\_ \$35 Family Friend
- \_\_\_ \$50 Black-capped Chickadee Friend
- \_\_\_ \$100 Northern Cardinal Friend
- \_\_\_ \$250 Western Meadowlark Friend
- \_\_\_ \$500 Bald Eagle Friend
- \_\_\_ \$1000 Peregrine Falcon Friend

Select the level of support that is right for you and make your check payable to **Wachiska Audubon Society**. All funds 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

\_\_\_ **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 monthly newsletter each month. If you wish to join NAS or receive *Audubon* magazine, please contact National Audubon Society directly.



**American Goldfinch family**

## Remember—Please

It is certainly appreciated when our members and supporters let us know when they move, change to a post office box number, have a name or phone number update, or a member passes away, so we can keep our database current. Please let us know also if you receive mail that is incorrect in any way. Being a volunteer conservation organization, we hope to save paper, postage, and time for our volunteers.

People find it surprising that returned mail can cost Wachiska between a few cents and often over a dollar to get a correct mailing address. Also, with more people going to cell phone use only, it is difficult to find people unless they have provided us with the information. The same goes for multiple last names in one family.

Thank you      Thanks      Thank you      Thanks

Arllys and all the volunteers



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## WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2016

### OFFICERS

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

### STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large.....	*Richard Peterson.....	402-489-2996
Director at Large.....	*Roxanne Smith .....	402-477-1319
Director at Large.....	*vacant .....	
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Education.....	Sue Kohles (Palmyra) .....	402-780-5558
	*Tim Knott .....	402-483-5656
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	*Ken Reitan .....	402-423-3540
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	*Sam Truax .....	402-325-9012
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	*Lana Novak.....	402-475-8693
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Newsletter Editor .....	Arlys Reitan .....	WAS office 402-486-4846
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Publicity/Public Relations.....	Jeanne Kern .....	402-423-0428

\*Denotes Board member

### OTHER ASSOCIATES

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Executive Director Audubon Nebraska.....	Marian Langan.....	402-797-2301
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Director .....	Glynnis Collins .....	402-797-2301
Webmaster .....	Dan Staehr .....	402-440-5869

## NEBirds Website

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

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

## A Gift to the Future

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

