



**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 51<sup>st</sup> Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2024

**MARCH 2024**

**Volume 33 - Issue 3**

Wachiska Program and General Meeting — Thursday, March 14, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church,  
6300 A Street, and also via YouTube link: <https://youtube.com/live/EZ-w3dSWq9Y?feature=share>

## Loren Eiseley: Anthropologist, Nature Writer, Philosopher, and Birdwatcher, Too

by Tom Lynch

**C**elebrated nature  
writer Loren  
Eiseley (1907-77)

grew up in Lincoln. He graduated from the University of Nebraska with a joint degree in English and Anthropology. He went on to earn a Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania, resulting in a successful career as a professor of anthropology. Eiseley was particularly interested in the history of early humans in the Americas. He studied Clovis and Folsom sites on the Great Plains. Later in his life, he returned to his early passion of nature writing and became one of the most influential American nature writers of the 20th century.

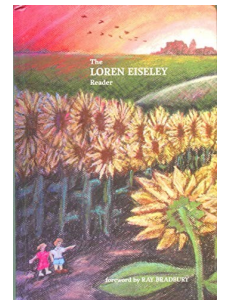


**Tom Lynch**

Though not thought of as a birder, birds, in fact, figure prominently in much of his work, including some of his most famous essays and poems. Living much of his adult life in Philadelphia, Eiseley paid particular attention to urban nature and to the birds that live among us in our cities, those that birders often overlook or disdain.

In this presentation I will first introduce Eiseley and discuss his significance. I will then turn to a discussion of the important role of birds in some of his essays and poems: "The Bird and the Machine," "The Judgment of the Birds," "The Cardinals," and "Sunflower Song."

Bonus: Everyone who attends will receive a free copy of *The Loren Eiseley Reader*, published by the Loren Eiseley Society.

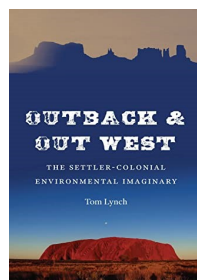


Much of Eiseley's writing engages with the landscapes of Nebraska, both in and around Lincoln and out in the western badlands, where as a student he had conducted paleontological fieldwork for Morrill Hall. Throughout his essays and poems, he infuses his nature observations with the light of his anthropological training, seeing everything in the context of evolution, what he referred to as "the immense journey."

### Calendar

#### March

- 4 Education Committee via Zoom, 6:00 p.m.
- 7 **Spring Birdseed Sale order deadline** (page 3)
- 11 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 14 General Meeting, "Loren Eiseley," by Tom Lynch, 7:00 p.m.  
in-person at Unitarian Church and also live-streamed;  
no registration (see above)
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 15-16 **Spring Birdseed Sale distribution** (page 3)
- 19 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.



Tom Lynch is a recently retired English professor from UNL where he specialized in environmental literature. Among his publications, he edited a collection of articles on Loren Eiseley titled *Artifacts and Illuminations: Critical Essays on Loren Eiseley*. He currently serves as vice-president of the Loren Eiseley Society.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, March 14**, at **7:00 p.m.** at Lincoln's Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, to learn more about this Lincoln native. This free, public, in-person talk will also be live-streamed on YouTube at

<https://youtube.com/live/EZ-w3dSWq9Y?feature=share>

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

# Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman

Mother Nature has not disappointed us here in Nebraska; she has given us variety in weather. From daytime highs below zero to 66 degrees. Recently someone told me they were visiting Hawaii where the local weather channel was boring—84 degrees today, 84 degrees tomorrow, and 84 degrees the rest of the week. I can't deny that this forecast would sound pretty good all winter long in Nebraska, but I do think I would miss the seasonal changes. On a recent weather forecast in Lincoln, the meteorologist noted the all-time high and low temperature for February 15th in Lincoln was a staggering 103-degree shift. The lowest ever was -33 and the highest was 70. That is an incredible variance over the years.



The numbers of sandhill cranes on the Central Platte River continue to increase. There were 38,000 sandhill cranes on the river in mid-February and 122,700 the last week of the month. If you have never been out to see the migration or if it has been several years, this might be a good year to make the trip. Rowe Sanctuary is remodeling their nature center and have built some new blinds. Maybe you will get lucky and see a whooping crane.

The 2024 legislative session is more than halfway completed. This is a short 60-day session ending mid-April. With 597 new bills introduced this session and all requiring a public hearing, it has been a hectic schedule so far. We are tracking many bills. Some of these include LB828, the Apiary Act, that establishes a Pollinator Task Force; LB831 that establishes a "restricted" plant list to limit sales of highly invasive species; LB1243 adopting the Wildland Fire Response Act; LB1335 exempting government entities from the Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act; LB1375 making it easier to obtain conditional use permits from counties for confined animal feeding operations; and LB1413 to sweep cash funds like the State Game Fund and Habitat Fund from Game and Parks and recycling programs from NDEE. We are also monitoring several bills dealing with drinking water, noxious weeds, public power changes, solar and wind production, weatherization grants, the use of eminent domain, and others.

We lost a good friend of Wachiska's last month. Don Pepperl had been a member, Board member, and chapter president. He also served as Wachiska's legal counsel pro bono and our landlord the entire time we've had an office. Don will be missed by many. Be sure to read the article on page 3.

The conservation world lost another friend in Nebraska with Bruce Lauritzen's passing last month. Most people know Bruce and his family for Lauritzen's Gardens and the family-owned First

National Bank of Omaha. Bruce had a heart for conservation and helped in many ways to improve our environment.

Wachiska has been chosen to be Open Harvest's SEED recipient for the month of March. The SEED program allows customers to "round-up" their grocery bill for local organizations that "share a commitment to a healthy community, sustainable food system, and strong local economy." Look for more information in this issue of *The Babbling Brook*.

Remember our spring birdseed sale will end March 7 with the **pickup** days of Friday, March 15, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 16, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. **at the garage at the Wachiska office, 4547 Calvert Street** (new location this time).

We have six Nature Nights coming up this spring. They will be March 21, West Lincoln Elementary, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; April 4, Huntington Elementary, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; April 11, Lakeview Elementary, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; April 16, Riley Elementary, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; April 18, Randolph Elementary, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.; and April 30, Eagle Elementary, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. If you can help with a booth at any of these events, let Tim Knott or me know.

We will also have Prairie Discovery Days, Tour the Wild Side, and tree cutting events coming up. If you have an interest in volunteering for any of these events, please let us know. We may have additional opportunities coming up for volunteering or helping Wachiska. Thank you for everything you do for Wachiska and get ready for that spring migration!

## Bird EnCOUNTER at Gere Library by Mark Brohman

The 2024 Bird EnCOUNTER at Gere Library was a huge success with 185 kids accompanied by 262 adults attending. There were stations demonstrating bird banding, build a bird, Birdability, creating your own pine cone feeder, using binoculars, listening to music and playing instruments, bird calls and songs, and a live raptor show by the Raptor Conservation Alliance.



**Brady Karg and Jason St. Sauver from Spring Creek Prairie doing a bird banding demonstration.**

Kids loved seeing live birds and making their own bird feeder. The adults enjoyed watching the younger kids listening to music and beating on inverted buckets as drums. Attendees were able to put on a blindfold and listen to bird songs to experience what someone with hearing disabilities might experience. Parents and grandparents enjoyed seeing their children and grandchildren learning about birds.

This was a lively event enjoyed by all attending. What a stellar experience for elementary children and their families.

## Loss of Don Pepperl

Don Pepperl passed away on February 5, 2024, at the age of 73, after a valiant battle with cancer. Don served as Wachiska Audubon's pro bono legal counsel for 29 years. He also served as our landlord and gave Wachiska very reasonable rental rates along with other nonprofit tenants like the Nebraska Wildlife Federation.



In 2003 and 2004, Don served as chapter president. He also served on our Board for several years and was active with the conservation committee until late last year. He was instrumental in setting up conservation easements and land acquisitions for Wachiska.

Born in Pawnee City on April 25, 1950, Don grew up near Burchard on a family homestead that has been in the Pepperl family since the 1880s. After graduating from Lewiston High School, Don graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in political science in 1972 and earned a JD degree from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1975. Don soon began working as a real estate attorney and established his own law practice.

Don married his college sweetheart, Joanne Wisnieski, in 1972. They raised their two children, Kevin and Nicole, in Lincoln. The family enjoyed annual trips to Minnesota, where Don taught his children how to fish. He loved cooking for his family, and his specialties were grilled salmon, beef stroganoff, and homemade ice cream. Don also loved traveling with his family, visiting Costa Rica annually for many years and enjoying offshore fishing trips. The last several years included many trips to visit the four grandchildren on the East Coast.

Don's family was so kind as to designate memorials to Wachiska Audubon. Don's generosity and love of tallgrass prairies continues even after his passing. Memorial donations received include gifts from Leland Carmichael, Doug & Mary Campbell, Peg & Larry Fletcher, Earl Kramer & Mary Sommermeyer, Ronald Bump, Walt Radcliffe, Linda & Charles Nichols, Stephen Bartling, Stephanie Peterson, Stu Lutich, Victoria Yee, Nate Donovan, Alissa Jijon, Lyle & Joyce Vannier, Tim Knott, Bob Pepperl, Mark Brohman, Bonita Rapp, Janet Loder, Laurel Marsh & Danny Clark, Michaela & Richard Brown, Arlys & Ken Reitan, Mary Fischer, Bianca Nunes, Daniel Shih, Leanna Hengst, and Stephanie Robillard.

We will all certainly miss having our dear friend Don around our office for almost three decades of friendship and advice.

**"Love comforteth like sunshine after rain."**  
-- William Shakespeare

## Open Harvest's 2024 SEED Program

*by Mark Brohman*

Wachiska has been chosen to be Open Harvest's SEED recipient for the month of March. The SEED program allows customers to "round-up" their grocery bill for local nonprofit organizations.

Open Harvest noted that a big part of being a food co-op is "actively pursuing our mission of creating a vibrant community, upholding our cooperative values, and building strong partnerships to better serve our customers." That's why in 2020 they launched the SEED Program. This program is a simple, yet powerful community giving opportunity allowing customers to "round-up" their grocery bill for local organizations that share a commitment to a healthy community, sustainable food system, and strong local economy.

Since March 2020, over \$68,000 has been raised, an average of \$1,800 per month for their SEED recipients. Last month, Open Harvest Co-op Grocery moved from their long-time home at 17th and South streets to their new home at 330 South 21st Street in the Telegraph District. Their operating hours are 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you are a regular customer or have never visited Open Harvest, we encourage you to stop in during March and "round-up" your bill. Then be sure and thank them for making Wachiska their March SEED recipient. A big THANK YOU to Open Harvest and congratulations on the new store!

## Spring Birdseed Orders Due Thursday, March 7

*by Cathy Shaner*



REMINDER: Order your spring birdseed from Wachiska RIGHT NOW. Forms were included in the February newsletter and can be downloaded and printed at

[www.wachiskaaudubon.org](http://www.wachiskaaudubon.org). You can also order online from this site. The

last day to order online is Thursday, March 7. All mail-in orders must be postmarked no later than Thursday, March 7. Then ***pick up birdseed orders at the Wachiska office, 4547 Calvert Street***, on Friday, March 15, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. or on Saturday, March 16, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. This is a major Wachiska fundraiser which began more than 35 years ago. What can be a more perfect project than providing nourishment for our feathered friends! Call the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846 if you have any questions.

**NOTE THE CHANGE IN LOCATION FOR  
PICKING UP YOUR ORDERS!!!**





## 2024 Nebraska Legislative Session

by Mark Brohman

This is a short, 60-day legislative session scheduled to end mid-April, so it is more than halfway completed. There were 597 new bills introduced this session. There were 820 introduced last year in the longer 90-day session.

Wachiska is tracking a number of bills and has provided comments on several. Wachiska opposed LB 1413 (a mainline Appropriation bill) as it aims to sweep more than 30 cash funds such as \$1M from the Clean Air Title V Cash Fund, \$1.5M from the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund, and \$1.5M from the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Fund—all from the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy; and \$7M from the State Game Fund, \$2.5M from the Nebraska Habitat Fund, \$2.5M from the State Park Cash Revolving Fund, and \$6.5M from the Water Recreation Enhancement Fund—all at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC). Eliminating these funds at NGPC also means the loss of millions of dollars of federal matching funds.

Wachiska submitted support letters on LB828 establishing the Apiary Act and setting up a Pollinators Task Force and LB831 creating a “restricted” plant list to limit the sales of highly invasive plant species. Wachiska supports LB218 that is reaching the finish line, but it is worth monitoring as it is implemented. The bill increases from \$3M to \$6M annually for management of vegetation within the banks of the flood plain of a natural stream. It is good to keep invasive species like purple loosestrife, salt cedars, and other noxious weeds out of the corridors, but some vegetation is critical for habitat for aquatic insects. Some overhanging vegetation keeps rivers shaded and keeps water cooler. Wachiska opposes LB1335, which exempts state agencies and political subdivisions from provisions of the Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act, which is Senator Moser’s priority bill.

Wachiska supports LB1243 adopting the Wildland Fire Response Act and two other bills related to fire: LB 576 limits liability and nuisance related to land-management burning, and LB655 establishes two statewide fire-fighting crews. LB1375 makes it easier to obtain conditional use permits from counties for confined animal feeding operations and is very concerning to conservation organizations. We are also monitoring several bills dealing with drinking water, public power changes, solar and wind production, weatherization grants, use of eminent domain, and others.

It will be very important to monitor all bills as they go from Committees to the floor, on General File, then Select File, and then on to Final Reading. Many bills get combined, and some bills become “Christmas tree” bills with many added bills, much like ornaments hung on a Christmas tree.

“The flower that blooms in adversity is the rarest and most beautiful of all.”  
-- Walt Disney Company

## Monthly Meetings without Cookies?

by Arlys Reitan



Since resuming monthly meetings after COVID-19 kept us all at home watching our speakers’ presentations via Zoom, we are once again in need of cookie donors. Having refreshments and social time following great talks has become a staple (and expected) activity. The cookie list is very small at this time. If you can provide 2-3 dozen cookies once or twice a year, please let me know. You can even choose the month that works for you!

We are grateful to the following for providing cookies, brownies, cupcakes, and other treats the past six months: Ethan Freese, Ann Briggs, Kris Powers, Pam Deines, Ross Scott, Lana Novak, Dennis King (several times), Rosemary Thornton, Joyce Vannier, Linda Helzer, Mark Brohman, and Arlys Reitan.

## 2024 Calendars Accepted All Year Now

by Arlys Reitan

What began several years ago as a recycling activity to find homes for those extra calendars we all keep getting for half the year has turned into a year-around gesture. It used to be I would contact retirement centers, nursing homes, and day care centers and then find member volunteers to deliver them. The last three years we have discovered a need for calendars for people who are incarcerated or are returning to daily life afterwards. The intent is that having a calendar will encourage them to organize their schedules to meet responsibilities. One of our members volunteers with this group and stops by the office to pick up calendars all year long. So if you find you have current calendars on hand, drop them by the Wachiska office or bring them to monthly meetings. We are no longer able to accept old calendars as our outlets for them can no longer use them.

## Bad Weather Policy

Wachiska’s monthly general meetings continue to take place at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln where the bad weather policy states that the church premises will be closed any day that Lincoln Public Schools call off classes for inclement weather, including that evening. Listen to local TV and radio stations for the school closing announcements for that day.



“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.”

-- Anne Bradstreet

“Winter is not so much a season as it is a state of mind.”

-- Unknown

## Buffalo Robes

by Richard Peterson

Humans like to think of themselves as righteous beings. We are all the product of many different cultures, all born and then reared within some framework of religious beliefs—all with what is good or evil, right and wrong. So, when the Europeans began colonizing America, they found themselves at a fork in the road.

When they arrived, the bison ranged to the Atlantic coast in the Carolinas. They lived in most every state east of the Mississippi. By 1833, little more than 200 years after the Pilgrims had landed, there were no bison in that region; however, west of the Mississippi to the Big Horn Mountains was a vast sea of grass with bison in the millions.

By 1700, most Native peoples had acquired the horse so hunting bison on foot practically ceased. Many of the already nomadic plains tribes embraced the new lifestyle. They became more selective and focused on the cows which had more edible meat and pliable hides for clothing. They exchanged bison hides, beyond those needed for their own use, for European trade items like metal cooking utensils and tools, blankets, beads, firearms, and ammunition.

The trade for buffalo hides, however, began earlier with the Spanish in the Southwest. By 1800, the bison there had all but been eliminated from the southern plains. Like they had done with the market for beaver pelts two generations before, the large fur trading companies stepped in to profit. The buffalo robe soon became a fashion necessity both here and in Europe. By 1840, the bison harvest had risen to 100,000 hides a year. The remainder of the animal was left to the scavengers. It would get much worse. Trade in the thicker bull hides increased when they were found suitable for the drive belts that connected the machines of the emerging Industrial Revolution. Bison hides became part of international commerce.

With the herds on the central plains holding their own, professional hide hunters arrived and focused their attention. The Sharps .50-caliber rifle came out in 1840. It was designed to kill bison from long range. The goal of the settlers, the eastern press, and the decision makers in Washington was to marginalize and then eliminate the nomadic tribes and their way of life, all to make room for the influx of Christian ranchers, farmers, and gold seekers. Colonization and social theory had taken a dark turn.

Transporting the heavy hides was costly; prairie schooners, canoes, and other river craft were slow and could carry only so many. In 1869, the Union Pacific railroad completed its track, and steam-powered transport by the box car transformed the market.

Yes, there were critics of the slaughter and waste. The ASPCA, established in 1866, got wind of the horror stories and

extended its concern beyond pets and domestic animals. Other groups also voiced concerns and tried to slow the inevitable.

The colonists' greed for land and riches continued. The hunting accelerated with the peak kill in the winter of 1881-82 when deep snow made the bison even more vulnerable. By the next winter the American bison was almost an animal of history.



What could they have been thinking, to kill and waste on such a scale? The wanton destruction of the bison was one thing; the wanton will to destroy a people and their way of life was quite another. What attitudes about human life and its meaning rattled around in people's heads? The bison were pushed to near extinction by a society that had slipped their moorings and yielded to the dark side of human reasoning. Finally, other considerations and changing fashion trends saved the bison from extinction. The Native peoples also survived and continue to adapt.

That dark mindset is still among us. It threatens our ability to either improve the planet as a whole or use its resources for the corporate few. Today, the survival of all that is around us hangs by the slender thread of individuals who care about the future of us all.

## Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Upcoming Events

March on the tallgrass prairie seems to be "in between." It is in between winter and spring, in between migratory bird seasons, and in between busy seasons at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center. While not a lot is happening with bird sightings or programs in March (check in at Rowe Sanctuary though—we hear they may have LOTS of cool birds coming in), there is a lot starting in April. Third Tuesday bird outings return on April 16, the center hosts Return of the Thunderbirds for the third year at the Indian Center, and all of Lincoln celebrates Earth Day on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Join in the fun!

Tuesday, April 9	Discovery Leader Training, 12:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Lunch provided
Saturday, April 13	Return of the Thunderbirds, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Lincoln's Indian Center, Inc.
Tuesday, April 16	Free 3rd Tuesday Bird Outing, 8:00 a.m. — 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, April 20	Earth Day Lincoln 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Innovation Campus
April 26-29	City Nature Challenge, all day, all around Lincoln & Lancaster County

# Climate Change Update

*by Chuck and Barb Francis,  
Education & Outreach Committee*

## Fund Raising to Reverse Climate Change

“As climate change tightens its grip on communities across the United States, extreme heat, wildfires, and flooding are growing more frequent and severe. Charles, every second counts in our response—so with time running out on our 3X match opportunity, I’m asking: Will you take a moment to triple your impact with a gift now?”

How many of these requests do you receive each day? How do you sort out the activities of well-meaning and effective nonprofit organizations with viable programs from the likely self-promotional chaff that fills our mailboxes?

This challenges all of us, especially those with young families, with low-paying jobs, and retirees with limited discretionary income to support worthwhile charitable organizations. This is not a trivial question, as we pore over web sites and try to sort out how much funding goes for ‘administration’ and fund raising, and what is dedicated to actual programming. In our opinions, many of the glib promotional statements cover up actual fund allocations, and the truth is difficult to sort out from information that is publicly available.

We are turned off by bold requests on envelopes such as Open Immediately, or Please Respond by [date]. Although many of the promises of matching funds that will ‘double your gift’ up to a certain amount, or ‘increase the value of your donation 5 times’ may be legitimate, we fail to see any accountability for such claims on their web sites. Creative accounting is part of the fabric of our culture, and we are skeptical about these types of promotion.

This is not meant to discourage donations to groups that are working hard to raise awareness and lobby for more action on climate change. Their activities are badly needed at this critical time, and we urge you to support them when possible. We have a few personal guidelines to share and invite you to let others know who you support and why.

- How well do you know their programs, and what evidence do you have about their impacts?
- Do you know people who work or volunteer with the organizations and why they believe in their goals?
- What groups do you work with personally; do you understand their projects and accountability?
- Do you have trusted friends who are contributors, and do they have evidence of success?

Our country is unique in the level of individual support for nonprofit organizations, while other governments are more

active in supporting viable climate initiatives and humanitarian causes. In the U.S., individuals donate an amount equal to 1.44 percent of Gross Domestic Income (GDI) to nonprofits, compared to New Zealand (0.79) and Canada (0.77). Although Scandinavians are low on individual donations, those countries and several others in Europe put 0.5 to 1 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) into development assistance including climate change mitigation, with large government involvement. The U.S. is highest among Development Assistance Countries (DACs) in absolute contributions at USD 34.8 billion, yet this is only 0.18 percent of GDI.

In the recent movie *Uncharitable* the authors urge us to reward and support charities for their goals and accomplishments, rather than just look at claims for how much is spent on programs versus fund raising. This complicates our decisions about who is doing good work, as it is difficult to impossible to read through all the self-reported data and evaluate their claims. So, we stick to our guidelines listed above. We encourage everyone to consider climate change as the most critical issue of our time, and to support those groups that are actively seeking solutions.

Donations to our local Wachiska Audubon and Spring Creek Prairie are places where you know the funds will be spent educating about wildlife and other critical issues for the future.

## ID Time Coming Soon for Early Voters in Nebraska

*by Arlys Reitan*

If you've put off getting a photo ID in Nebraska and you plan to vote in this spring's primary elections, get it done now. This year, election officials must check your ID before you can vote, including if you're voting early by mail. It's easy to do, but you must allow time for processing, so call or email now and get the form. There are only a couple questions to complete; if you have a valid Nebraska driver's license or official state ID, you'll only need to include the number on the form. Call the local Lancaster County election office at 402-441-7311 or check out this website:

<https://nebraskaexaminer.com/2024/02/07/id-time-is-coming-soon-for-early-voters-in-nebraska/>. For information within other Nebraska counties, call 402-471-2555.

## Field Trips Anyone?

Wachiska has not gotten back to regular field trips since the pandemic cancelled many activities. Do you miss them? Do you have sites you'd like to visit or revisit and would be more inclined to do so with a small group—maybe to include a leader with knowledge on a particular site? How about offering to lead or organize a short trip? Comments should be relayed to Mark or Arlys in the office.

## Public Officials

### **President Joe Biden**

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

### **Senator Deb Fischer**

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

### **Senator Pete Ricketts**

1248 O St Ste 1000, 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://ricketts.senate.gov>

### **Congressman Mike Flood**

301 S 13<sup>th</sup> St Ste 100, Lincoln NE 68508 (1<sup>st</sup> 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> District)**

416 Valley View Dr Ste 600, Scottsbluff NE 69361  
Scottsbluff phone: 308-633-6333 Fax: 308-633-6335  
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 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 Leirion Gaylor Baird**

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10<sup>th</sup> St Rm 301, 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: [councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lincoln Journal Star**

Letters to the editor, 21<sup>st</sup> and N 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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



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## REMEMBERING WACHISKA'S HISTORY

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

The environmental stewardship efforts of the Wachiska Audubon Society take place on the past, present, and future homelands of the Pawnee, Ponca, Otoe-Missouria, and Omaha Peoples, as well as those of the relocated Ho-Chunk, Sac and Fox, and Ioway. We humbly join our efforts with theirs in honoring and stewarding this land of prairies, rivers, and streams.

## Wachiska Audubon Society

4547 Calvert St Ste 10

Lincoln NE 68506-5643

402-486-4846

office@WachiskaAudubon.org

www.WachiskaAudubon.org

## WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2024

Executive Director ..... Mark Brohman

Office Administrator..... Arlys Reitan

### OFFICERS

President ..... \*Theresa Pella

Vice President ..... \*Andrea Faas

Secretary ..... \*April Stevenson

Treasurer/Finance ..... \*Carol Bodeen

### STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large ..... \*Dakota Altman

Director at Large ..... \*Ann Briggs

Director at Large ..... \*Doug Campbell

Director at Large ..... \*Ethan Freese

Director at Large ..... \*Stu Lutich

Director at Large ..... \*Tom Lynch

Director at Large ..... \*Mercy Manzanares

Director at Large ..... \*Kris Powers

Conservation ..... \*Ross Scott

Education/Outreach..... \*Tim Knott

Membership..... Linda Brown

**\*Denotes voting Board member**

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

If you missed a monthly program or want to view one again, Wachiska Audubon's monthly programs are available on YouTube via the homepage at [www.WachiskaAudubon.org](http://www.WachiskaAudubon.org).



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

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

## Mission Statement of the Wachiska Audubon Society

**The mission of the Wachiska Audubon Society is to bring people together to preserve and restore tallgrass prairies and other natural ecosystems, promote birding, support native wildlife, provide nature education, and advocate for the sustainability of our natural community.**

## A Gift to the Future

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

