



Wachiska
Audubon Society

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 49th Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2022

SEPTEMBER 2022

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Wachiska Program — Thursday, September 8, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom web conference (registration required)
Link to register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vceCspj8oGdW8otHvqhD1vxhBVexYFyn0>

Crane Trust: How Helping Whooping Cranes is a Win-Win for all Platte River Species

Nebraska is home to one of the last great migratory spectacles in the world. Every year in March, over a million sandhill cranes and increasing numbers of endangered whooping cranes visit the Central Platte River Valley to fuel up during their long migration north to their breeding grounds, where they will raise the next generation. In the hours of dawn and dusk, these large silver and white birds fill Nebraska's opalescent skies by the thousands. Their ancient calls, together with the wind off their wings, create music one must hear to believe.



According to fossil records, this migration has been going on for millions of years. However, there was a time when this migration nearly disappeared. In 1900 the whooping crane was nearly hunted to extinction, and in 1941 only 21 whooping cranes were left in the wild. Today, these birds are slowly making a comeback; however, their success is a credit to hard working conservation organizations like Crane Trust.

Crane Trust is a nonprofit conservation organization located in Wood River, Nebraska. Their mission is to protect and maintain the physical, hydrological, and biological integrity of the Big Bend reach of the Platte River so it continues to function as a life support system for whooping cranes, sandhill cranes, and other

migratory bird species. In addition to offering tours of one of the greatest migrations in the world, the Trust works year-round to maintain over 8,000 acres of protected habitat critical for millions of migratory birds, including whooping cranes, and a wide variety of plant and animal species native to this area. These efforts are paying off. In November 2021, 46 whooping cranes stopped on this stretch of the river during their migration south. This was the largest gathering of migratory whooping cranes in recorded history and an affirmation that this habitat is critically important to their recovery.

This program will review Crane Trust's history, its ongoing work with the endangered whooping cranes, along with the research and land management which has resulted in a win for cranes and other species. We will also share the many ways you can engage with Crane Trust during and outside of Crane Season, and we will bring you highlights from our 2022 Virtual Program.

Four presenters will join this programming. Brice Krohn is the President of Crane Trust. Tim Smith currently serves as the Director of Land Management for Crane Trust. Matt Fong serves as Crane Trust's Director of Funding and Outreach. Kylee Warren has been coordinating Crane Trust's Virtual Program since the beginning of the 2022 Crane Season.

Join Wachiska Audubon for our next Zoom program on **Thursday, September 8, at 7:00 p.m.** This free public presentation is available to those who register at this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vceCspj8oGdW8otHvqhD1vxhBVexYFyn0>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with the meeting number and password. Save that email; a few minutes before the program is to begin, click on that confirmation email, and you'll be invited into the meeting. Encourage friends and colleagues to join us.

Calendar

September

- 8 General Meeting via Zoom, Crane Trust by staff, 7:00 p.m.
(NOTE required registration)
- 12 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 15 Newsletter deadline in Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 20 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman

"Tour the Wild Side" was a success, despite the high temperatures. We had around 250 visits at the six sites across the city. Two of the sites were just outside of Lincoln to the east. We really appreciate everyone who visited one or more of the sites, and a big thank you to our hosts: Hinkles, Fletchers, Titteringtons, Walt Branch Library, Aldersgate Methodist Church, and Arapahoe Community Garden. A thank you to Prairie Pines Nature Preserve that was open to the public that day. We could not have done it without all the volunteers and our sponsors (Union Bank and Trust, U-Stop, Wild Bird Habitat Store, Prairie Legacy, Inc., Great Plains Nursery, and Runza). A big thank you to the landowners, volunteers, sponsors, and donors. Congratulations to the raffle prize winners. The raptor demonstrations by the Raptor Conservation Alliance at the Walt Branch Library were well received. I got two thumbs up from several visitors as they departed the Fletcher Prairie where I was stationed.



I can't believe local schools have started. Summer is over and we can look forward to seeing some of our feathered friends migrating to the south. I have seen a few migrant birds and a few monarch butterflies, but the monarch numbers seem to be lower than in the past few years. Butterfly watchers I know have reported seeing fewer monarchs, swallowtails, and others this year. Let's hope the larger numbers are yet to come this fall.

Don't forget we still have two Second Saturday Seed collections on September 10 and October 8. Beth Coufal will lead both outings to Dieken Prairie just south of Unadilla. This is a good opportunity to see what is blooming, what has gone to seed, and maybe get to see some interesting insects, a few birds, and other wildlife. Seed collected helps plant new prairies and diversify other prairies in eastern Nebraska.

I saw an article about the Center for Biological Diversity suing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to demand habitat protection for 49 rare Hawaiian plants and animals. Forty-eight of those species are only found in Hawaii. That is a lot of species in a small chain of islands. At the same time, they have filed formal notice of intent to sue the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for protecting six endangered species (Florida bonneted bat, Miami tiger beetle, two butterfly species, and two plant species) as a result of a water park and retail development called Miami Wilds in Florida. The Center also warned of potential litigation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for being two years late in protecting habitat for the endangered

Barrens topminnow found in just a handful of Tennessee streams. In addition, they have launched a suit over the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's failure to grant Endangered Species Act protection to lesser prairie chickens. It sounds like a lot of litigation happening; hopefully, positive results will occur.

Goodbye summer.

Wachiska Audubon Board Nominations Open for the 2023 Term

by Theresa Pella, President

The nominating committee formed to recommend a slate of Board candidates for 2023 (January 1 to December 31, 2023) is in place. Members are Stu Luttich, Marilyn McNabb, Kristal Stoner, Dwayne Wilson, and Theresa Pella. The committee will be joined by Executive Director Mark Brohman.

The Board worked hard over the past few months to update the bylaws. If the Board's recommendations are approved by the membership during the November meeting, all officers and directors-at-large will be elected by members and Friends. Currently, directors-at-large may be nominated by members but are elected by the Board. The Board feels members and Friends should participate in the entire election process.

Another change to the bylaws will be to clarify eligible candidates. Though National Audubon Society members automatically become voting members of their local chapter, the current bylaws have been interpreted that only Wachiska Friends may be candidates. Therefore, with the pending change, a candidate who is a National member or Wachiska Friend (or both) may be considered. If a candidate is nominated by others, it must be with the consent of the candidate.

With our executive director on board to handle routine office decisions and communications, the Board has been able to think more strategically about itself. We recently completed a survey about what skills and expertise would be most helpful to the 2023 Board. Though all types are welcome, individuals with administration/management, advocacy/public policy, or marketing/public relations backgrounds or knowledge were consistently ranked high. Please help us find them!

Nominations for both Board and director positions may be made by September 30, 2022—if you'd like to nominate yourself or someone else, you may submit the name(s) to President Theresa Pella at pella_t@yahoo.com.

2023 Audubon Calendars Offered Soon

Next month will feature the 2023 Audubon calendars with ordering information. Also check our website for details.

Wildlife Group Gets Conservation Easement Despite Opposition by Ricketts, County, Niobrara Council

by Paul Hammel - nebraskaexaminer.com August 20, 2022

Despite Gov. Pete Ricketts' opposition to conservation easements, and "no" votes from two local boards, a wildlife group recently was able to establish a permanent conservation easement along a pristine stretch of the Niobrara River in north-central Nebraska.

A year ago, Ricketts held a series of "30-by-30" rallies across the state, railing against permanent conservation easements and steps by the Biden administration to provide more incentives for such voluntary conservation steps.

But despite that, and "no" votes from the Rock County Board and the Niobrara Scenic River Council, Audubon of Kansas recently filed its permanent easement on about 290 acres of land it owns along the Niobrara River, north of Bassett, just a few miles from the South Dakota border.

Putting the land into a permanent easement, according to Jackie Augustine, executive director of Audubon of Kansas, enables the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to install berms and water retention barriers to create additional wetlands for the birds, which have included a pair of sandhill cranes nesting on the property.

Augustine said Audubon of Kansas isn't seeking a fight over the conservation easements but is just pursuing its mission to preserve and expand the wildlife-drawing characteristics of its 5,000-acre Hutton Niobrara Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary.

The property, a mix of grasslands and wooded ravines that hug the south bank of the Niobrara, was gifted to the organization in 2002 by a local author, Harold Hutton, and his wife, Lucille.

Conditions of the gift included that the land would never be sold, that it would be managed for wildlife, and that it would remain on the tax rolls.

That last stipulation—that property taxes would continue to be paid on the ranch—is what allowed the conservation easement to go into place, despite opposition by the county board and the scenic river council, according to Augustine and Rock County Attorney Avery Gurnsey.

Augustine said another difference is that the federal government held the easement through the USDA's "Wetland Reserve Easement" program, instead of being held by a private conservation organization. That, she said, makes the federal government "a partner" in Audubon's wetland restoration.

Conservation easements have stirred controversy with some agricultural groups because they can lower the valuation of a plot of land, thus shifting the tax load onto neighboring farms and ranches.

Landowners have used them to maintain and improve wildlife habitat. In exchange, they promise not to develop and, in some cases, not to farm the property. They can also be used to preserve farmland from urban development. In exchange, the federal government or conservation group will pay a landowner for the development rights they've given up.

After a conservation easement goes into effect, the valuation of the land for property tax purposes will often decline because the plot will be valued as marsh or prairie, instead of farmland, hay meadows, or a cabin/housing development.

Ricketts and other critics have also opposed "permanent" conservation easements because they allow a current owner to dictate the future use of land into perpetuity, preventing future generations from using the land differently.

This spring, Ricketts joined with an anti-federal government group, the American Stewards of Liberty, and U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert, R-Colo., to rail against the Biden administration's efforts to increase voluntary conservation of land via what was once called the "30-by-30" plan—to conserve 30 percent of the nation's land by 2030.

Farmers and ranchers know best how to manage their land, Ricketts wrote in an April column, saying Nebraskans don't need "the heavy hand" of the federal government involved in pushing a "radical" environmental agenda.

Biden administration officials, as well as local wildlife advocates, say that such criticism is misguided and inaccurate and that it is more about political posturing.

The 30-by-30 plan, now called "America the Beautiful Initiative," seeks only to increase funding for already existing conservation programs that are totally voluntary for landowners, proponents say. That includes the popular Conservation Reserve Program, which pays farmers to set aside marginal farmland and plant native grasses for wildlife habitat and to prevent soil erosion.

"There's been a lot of misinformation about easements and trying to discourage landowners from exercising their rights to sell or donate their easements as they choose," said Shawn McVey, an easement restoration specialist with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

A map of conservation easements in Nebraska done through the USDA shows dozens of locations across the state. McVey said that almost 90 percent of them are wetland easements on marginal land that is usually too wet to farm.

Rock County Board member Jim Stout of Bassett said he voted against the conservation easement in large part because of a lack of information. No one from Audubon of Kansas attended the meeting to explain the conservation easement when it came up for a vote in February, Stout said.

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He said he opposes such permanent easements because they lower the tax base, although that wasn't the case in the Audubon of Kansas easement. Stout said area ranchers were upset with the Audubon group when it tried to reintroduce prairie dogs to the Hutton Ranch preserve. But feelings have since cooled because the reintroduction failed, he said.

Augustine said efforts to establish a prairie dog town on the ranch have been suspended but said she's very excited about the improvements now underway.

Last year, viewing blinds were set up so visitors could watch the spring mating dances of sharp-tailed grouse that inhabit the Hutton Ranch. And school groups from Bassett visited the ranch to learn more about wildlife.

There are plans to erect a "motus tower" to electronically track the movement of small birds through the area, Augustine said, and an online reservation system was recently set up to book the ranch lodge for overnight stays.

Virginia rails and soras are not common, Augustine said, and are "definitely birds that birdwatchers get excited about. It's unusual to find them and see them," she said. "They love dense marsh vegetation, and they rarely fly and they randomly call. It always feels kind of special when you get an opportunity to hear them," Augustine said. Soras got their name, she said, because their call sort of sounds like "soor-a." The rails have a distinctive grunt-like call. The last survey of the birds on the Hutton Ranch estimated 13 Virginia rails and nine soras. A total of 142 bird species have been documented on the ranch, along with elk, mountain lions, wild turkeys, and porcupine.

Augustine said Audubon of Kansas plans to hold an open house at the ranch this fall to show local residents more about their plans for the property.

She said she understands why people would oppose conservation easements because of the property tax implications, but she said she hopes they also understand why an easement furthers the mission to preserve birds and wildlife.

Fall Birdseed Sale in October

by Cathy Shaner, Birdseed Sale Coordinator

Watch for next month's issue of *The Babbling Brook* for the Fall Birdseed Sale order form. Beginning September 1, you can also go to the website at <https://www.wachiskaaudubon.org> to place your seed order online. Online orders must be placed by the end of the day on Thursday, October 13. Mail-in order forms must be postmarked by Thursday, October 13. Pick up dates will be Friday and Saturday, October 21-22. If you can help on these dates, leave a message with Cathy at 402-421-1652, or contact the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846.

Chimney Swifts Need Chimneys

by Shari Schwartz

If the best way to protect a species is by protecting its habitat, how can we reverse a 67 percent decline since 1966 in our chimney swift population? By restoring chimney habitat! The chittering "flying cigars" overhead that spend almost the entirety of their lives on the wing when not sleeping or nesting were referred to as American swifts in John James Audubon's day. Today they're known as chimney swifts after having adapted to manmade brick chimneys when their hollow old-growth roost trees were cleared by human settlement. No other bird species in our region is as reliant on human structures, and their chimney breeding habitat has been in decline for decades as buildings with chimneys are lost to time and newly constructed chimneys have caps or smaller metal flue pipes rather than clay liners.



The advent of chimney swift towers provides a tangible and immediate way to restore habitat and end this housing crisis. The Chimney Swift Conservation Association offers helpful information at their website: <http://www.chimneyswifts.org>. Towers can vary widely and can be large or small and made of brick or insulated wood. The Waking Audubon chapter of North Carolina built a tower that can accommodate large roosting flocks; Little Rock Audubon in Arkansas erected a tower atop their nature center. Smaller freestanding 12+ foot-high towers are another option for homeowners and conservation groups. Bluebirds Across Nebraska has recognized the dire need for chimney swift habitat and is spearheading a project to install some chimney swift towers. They're looking for a location with good habitat and have had tentative talks with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission about becoming a partner and are also interested in partnering with an Audubon group. They have a builder who will be constructing a full-scale model chimney swift tower as an example of their chosen design.

As cold fronts push waves of migrants southward in the latter half of September, impressively large flocks of chimney swifts congregate at dusk above extra-large chimney roosts to "racetrack" around and around in the sky before plunging into the chimney, sometimes in a stream so dense it looks like smoke going backwards into the chimney. The body heat of so many birds roosting together warms the chimney significantly on chilly fall nights. A great place to view a spectacular show at dusk is the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2110 Sheridan Boulevard, (near the corner of 27th and South streets) in Lincoln. The church members fortunately embrace their annual overnight visitors who rely heavily on the church's roomy chimney that houses many



hundreds of birds during migration. The parking lot in between the church and the South Branch Library offers handy access. Binoculars are recommended but not necessary to enjoy this astonishing phenomenon.



Roadrunner

by Richard Peterson

We couldn't recognize the coyote last month without highlighting the roadrunner. There are two species of these fast-running, ground cuckoos in the New World. The greater roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) lives in the southwestern and south-central U.S. and northern Mexico; the lesser roadrunner (*Geococcyx velox*) is in Mexico and Central America.

Greater roadrunners are 20-24 inches long, have a wingspan of 17-24 inches, and weigh up to 18 ounces. Their body is streaked with brown and white feathers. Their distinctive long tail and head crest can be raised or lowered. Their song is a slow, descending series of cooing notes. There are four toes on each zygodactyl foot; two toes face forward and two face backwards. They can often be seen scanning their territory while perched on fence posts and rocks. Roadrunners fly infrequently, preferring instead a low glide. While running over 20 miles per hour, they place their head and tail parallel to the ground, using the tail as a rudder to change direction. Beep-beep.

"Wile E. Coyote and the Road Runner" was a Warner Bros. Looney Tunes animated cartoon series first appearing in 1949. The cunning, devious, and hungry Wile attempts to catch and eat our featured bird. Many of these traps were mail ordered from the Acme Corporation. The devices invariably failed in improbable and spectacular fashion. Mel Blanc was the voice of Wile from 1952 to 1989.

The roadrunner is an opportunistic omnivore, a true gourmand. They eat grasshoppers, crickets, caterpillars, beetles, small reptiles, lizards, rodents, spiders, tarantulas, scorpions, centipedes, snails, small birds and their eggs, fruits, and seeds. It's the only real predator of the tarantula hawk wasp, and a pair of roadrunners will team up to take on a rattlesnake. It kills larger prey by holding it with the bill and slamming it repeatedly on the ground.

This bird is active mostly from sunrise to mid-morning, then again in late afternoon to evening. It rests in the shade during the hottest part of the day. On cold nights roadrunners can thermoregulate; in the morning they warm up by sunbathing.

They live alone or in pairs, are monogamous, and mate for life. Their nest is composed of sticks with leaves, feathers, shed snakeskins, and other fine material. Nests are 3-10 feet above ground in a low bush or cactus. They lay 2-6 white eggs and both sexes incubate the eggs. Eggs hatch in 20 days. The young leave the nest after 2-3 weeks and forage with their parents. They do not migrate but stay in their breeding area the year around.

Roadrunners play a part in many native peoples' belief systems, now and in prehistoric times. Their tracks have been found in the rock art of the Anasazi and Mogollan cultures. Their feathers have been traditionally used to decorate Pueblo infant cradleboards as a spiritual protection.

Climate Signs Available

Stop by the Wachiska office and pick up your Climate yard sign. Join your friends and neighbors and show your concern about our climate and our elected officials. Yard signs that say, "VOTE with CLIMATE in Mind" are available for \$10 each. The signs are made of material that will hold up well to the elements and come with a metal holder to push into the ground. We encourage you to put your signs out now until the November general election. You can also keep the signs in your yard year around. These signs are durable and could easily last three or four years in your yard.



Get Your Pets Microchipped

by Mark Brohman

If there is even the slightest chance of your cat or dog getting lost, you should get them microchipped. In the last few months, the media has reported several amazing stories about dogs being gone for several months to years and then being reunited with their owners. The longest missing pet recently reunited with its owner happened right here in Nebraska.

On June 24, a small mixed breed dog was found as a stray northeast of Holdrege. She was severely underweight, dehydrated, and covered with fleas and ticks. North Park Animal Hospital in Holdrege took her in and scanned her for a microchip. The chip contact information was outdated. After contacting the microchip company and then searching Facebook, the dog's owner was located in Georgia. The dog, Mimi, was lost 10 years ago on a family vacation to Florida and had not been seen since. A meeting was set up in Columbia, Missouri, and Mimi was reunited with her family. After 10 years, she recognized the owner's son.

A couple of months ago in Lincoln, a 13-year-old beagle-mix named Spook was reunited with his owners after two years. Spook went missing after he didn't come back to the house. The family searched the neighborhood for months. A co-worker spotted a familiar dog on a veterinarian's Facebook page and told his owner. Upon going to the clinic, Spook recognized her. Spook was in poor health. The dog's owner said Spook was technically her father's dog, and her father had been suffering from his own health issues recently. Seeing Spook after two years meant a lot to the recovering father. Unfortunately, Spook's health issues were too great to overcome, but he was reunited with his family at the end of his life.

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."

-- Albert Camus, French philosopher

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

As of mid-August, the big story is the passage of the first ever major piece of climate legislation in the U.S. That's 34 years after climate scientist James Hansen first warned the Senate about the cause of the greenhouse effect and the risks of increased flooding, hurricanes, and heatwaves.

Here's what the National Audubon office said about passage of the climate law, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA):

"America is once again a strong player in the global effort against climate change with the passage of this historic bill," stated Elizabeth Gray, CEO of the National Audubon Society. "Science shows that failure to slow the rate of global temperature rise has devastating consequences for birds, an indicator species found in nearly every habitat on Earth. That is a wake-up call for us all. The provisions in this bill are a leap forward in meeting our goals to reduce emissions."

Among the promising provisions listed in the National Audubon press release are:

- Sweeping tax credits for renewable energy and electric vehicles
- A fee on harmful methane emissions
- \$100 million for offshore wind and regional transmission planning
- \$25 billion for agricultural and forestry conservation and technical assistance
- \$2.6 billion for NOAA coastal conservation
- \$4 billion for Western drought response and resilience
- Investment for environmental justice efforts with an emphasis on black, indigenous, and people of color communities disproportionately affected by pollution and climate change

For more specifics, see <https://www.audubon.org/news/the-inflation-reduction-act-big-deal-heres-what-it-means-birds-and-you>.

The *Wall Street Journal* headlined August 13, "Climate Bill Success Hinges on Timely Renewable Project Build Out." Success is measured by meeting the legislation's emissions goals of reducing carbon emissions by 40 percent by 2030 compared to 2005 levels, estimates supported by three independent research groups. Obstacles include supply chain problems, resistance in securing project approvals for energy infrastructure, increases in the costs of copper and lithium needed for grid-scale batteries, and bottlenecks in the permitting and siting of high voltage transmission lines.

A separate bill expediting permitting is under consideration. House Natural Resources Chair Raul Grijalva (D-Ariz) said he is "concerned that the deal's promise of 'comprehensive

permitting reform' is just another euphemism for gutting our most foundational and public health protections, like the National Environmental Policy Act." (*Bloomberg Law*, "Post Climate Bill Permit Plan Aims to Fix 'Hindering' Process" 7/29).

Dan Gearino (*Inside Climate News*, 8/11) reports that solar companies are rejoicing at the IRA's gift of certainty on federal tax policy. The investment tax credit covers 30 percent of the cost of buying and installing a solar system and will be available for ten years.

If you have a sunny roof facing south or west, this is a good time to consider solar. The average cost of a residential rooftop system has fallen from \$7.53 per watt in 2010 to \$2.65 per watt in 2021, a 65-percent decrease according to the National Renewable Energy Lab. The rate of the decrease may slow, Gearino notes, but the direction will continue downward. [IES.com/solar](https://www.ies.com/solar) offers help with considerations about going solar and selecting a company.

2nd Annual "Tour the Wild Side" a Success

by Mark Brohman

This year's "Tour the Wild Side" held on Saturday, August 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. brought out around 250 visits. The sites included Tim and Carol Hinkle's prairie and yard, Peg and Larry Fletcher's prairie and yard, Dave and Linda Titterington's yard, Walt Branch Library Garden, Aldersgate Methodist Church grounds and gardens, and Arapahoe Community Garden. Prairie Pines Nature Preserve was also open to the public to tour that day. A big thank you to the landowners, the sponsors, all the wonderful volunteers, and the planning committee. Jason St. Sauver from Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center helped with a number of tasks that enabled a successful event.

Our sponsors this year included Union Bank and Trust, U-Stop, Wild Bird Habitat Store, Prairie Legacy, Inc., Great Plains Nursery, and Runza. We also appreciate visitors' donations. Native plant seedlings were available at the Arapahoe Community Garden, and the Raptor Conservation Alliance had raptors on display at the Walt Branch Library.

The tour allows the public to see native plantings and ask questions of local experts and the landowners. Seeing native plants in a garden setting allowed visitors to imagine what they can do in their own backyards and small prairies. Pollinators as well as birds and other wildlife can benefit greatly from thoughtfully planned gardens of native plants. Native plants can provide homeowners with drought, insect, and disease protection while helping out nature.

Next year we may move the tour earlier in the summer to allow folks to see what things look like at a different time of the year. Keep a look out on our website and in *The Babbling Brook* for changes and details. If you have or know of a special site in or just outside Lincoln, let us know as we are always looking for new sites to include on the tour.

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 Ben Sasse

1128 Lincoln Mall Ste 305, 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 8th 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 Mike Flood

301 S 13th St Ste 100, Lincoln NE 68508 (1st District)
Lincoln phone: 402-438-1598
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4806 Fax: 202-225-5686
E-mail at website: <http://flood.house.gov>

Congressman Don Bacon (2nd District)

13906 Gold Cir Ste 101, Omaha NE 68144
Omaha phone: 888-221-7452
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4155 Fax: 202-226-5452
E-mail at website: <https://bacon.house.gov>

Congressman Adrian Smith (3rd District)

416 Valley View Dr Ste 600, Scottsbluff NE 69361
Scottsbluff phone: 308-633-6333 Fax: 308-633-6335
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 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 10th St Rm 110, Lincoln NE 68508
Phone: 402-441-7447 Fax: 402-441-6301
E-mail: commish@lancaster.ne.gov

Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10th St Rm 301, Lincoln NE 68508-2828
Phone: 402-441-7511 Fax: 402-441-7120
E-mail: mayor@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln City Council

402-441-7515
E-mail: council@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln Journal Star

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

Join now! Become a Friend of Wachiska Audubon Society!

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

Friends of Wachiska (local membership)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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

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

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



American Goldfinches

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

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

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