



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 45th Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2018

FEBRUARY 2018

Volume 27 - Issue 2

General Meeting and Program — Thursday, February 8, 7:00 p.m., Hardin Hall, UNL East Campus

Cat Wars

with Pete Marra, PhD, Research Scientist, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
Migratory Bird Center, National Zoological Park, Washington, DC

Pete Marra love cats. They are among the many pets he's had over the years, and they are a key part of his work as a conservation scientist. He loves wild birds, too. Unfortunately, so do cats—to the point that some studies show as many as 500 million songbirds in the U.S. are killed by cats each year.



Dr. Pete Marra

The free-ranging domestic cat, both pet and feral, has become the most abundant mammalian predator on Earth, numbering 80 million to 120 million in this country alone. Whether they are pets that are allowed to roam, fully feral animals, or feral members of a trap/neuter/release (TNR) colony, domestic cats are by nature predators of small animals even when they are well fed by their owners. It is not surprising that cats have been responsible for numerous animal extinctions on islands. The millions of free-ranging cats in this country are inflicting similar devastation on wildlife populations.

What is the solution? It is unreasonable to expect to see the elimination of all free-ranging cats, but better education about responsible pet ownership, combined with effective regulations, could reduce their numbers. Such efforts will require more involvement by government at all levels and the implementation of mandatory licensing, more-engaged animal control programs, neutering, and indoor-cat campaigns. Although people on both sides of this debate feel passionately, there is an urgent need to come together to find common ground.

Dr. Marra is an ornithologist and conservation biologist. His book, *Cat Wars: The Devastating Consequences of a Cuddly Killer*, is a compelling writing tracing the historical and cultural ties between humans and cats from early domestication to the current boom in pet ownership. *Cat Wars* paints a revealing picture of a complex global problem and proposes solutions that foresee a time when wildlife and humans are no longer vulnerable to the impacts of free-ranging cats.

Pete Marra is the director of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center in Washington, DC. His primary interests lie in understanding the factors that control population persistence and dynamics, so his research examines the roles of climate, habitat, food, and pathogens on the individual condition of both migratory and resident birds.

Join Wachiska Audubon on **Thursday, February 8, at 7:00 p.m.** for this free public lecture and discussion at **Hardin Hall on UNL's East Campus**. Hardin Hall is on the northeast corner of 33rd and Holdrege streets. Free parking is available in lots around the building.

THIS PRESENTATION WILL REPLACE WACHISKA'S USUAL MONTHLY MEETING AND PROGRAM.

NOTE: The Spring Birdseed Sale will take place March 16-17. Order forms will be included in next month's *Babbling Brook* as well as on the website.

Calendar

February

- 8 General Meeting, *Cat Wars*, by Pete Marra, East Campus Hardin Hall, 7:00 p.m. (NOTE change of location this month)
- 11 Field Trip to Branched Oak Lake, 1:00 p.m. (page 2)
- 12 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 13 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 16-19 Great Backyard Bird Count (page 3)
- 17 Bird EnCOUNTER, Gere Library, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 noon (page 2)
- 20 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 22 Legislation Committee, DaVinci's, 11th & G, 6:00 p.m.

NO Education Committee meeting until further notice



Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Searching the Cedars at Branched Oak Lake State Recreation Area

Join Wachiska Audubon members on a jaunt to Branched Oak Lake north of Lincoln for a birding hike through both cedar and deciduous areas. Cedars can occasionally host large numbers of robins, yellow-rumped warblers, golden-crowned kinglets, fox sparrows at seedy edges and openings and, of course, cedar waxwings. We'll also check the lake for bald eagles and waterfowl that could potentially be present in substantial numbers depending on the amount of ice remaining on the lake.

Meet at **1:00 p.m.** on **Sunday, February 11**, at Branched Oak Lake SRA in the parking lot at the south end of the dam which is located just north of the intersection of West Raymond Road and Northwest Crouse Road. Anyone preferring to caravan from Lincoln can meet at 12:30 p.m. on the south side of the Capitol at 15th and H streets across from the governor's mansion. A vehicle entry permit is required and is available for a daily fee of \$6/car. The public is welcome. If you have questions, call John Carlini at 402-475-7275.

Wachiskans are Tough Birders

by John Carlini and Shari Schwartz

No one can say Wachiskans aren't tough. An impressive group of 14 birders braved the cold temps to search for winter specialties on January's field trip to the Omaha area. A short hike at Hummel Park turned up a mixed flock that featured a brown creeper, bluebirds gleaming against the white snow, and the trill of a Carolina wren, indicating it had survived the brutal winter conditions that periodically challenge that species.

Our next stop brought us to the expansive flats further north on a quest for rough-legged hawks, a species that's occurring in high numbers this winter. While the group was viewing a "roughie," one observant birder spied a great horned owl sitting in a low grassy depression. Another birder with expertise on the plumage of various subspecies, immediately identified it as a pale *subarcticus* visitor that rarely winters south of South Dakota. Typical rufous tones were nearly absent, and its coloration was aptly described by one birder as appearing "penciled in only."

The day's grand finale was a search for a snowy owl that generated a lot of publicity by inhabiting the intersection of I-680 and Maple Street in the preceding weeks. The owl wasn't visible when we first arrived, but a determined skeleton crew of birders scouted the area until dusk and was rewarded by its appearance on a sign next to a merge ramp before it caught and ate something on the ground. It then conspicuously flew up to a road sign that spans Maple Street.

Inviting Volunteers and Participants to Bird EnCOUNTER

by Colleen Babcock

Population/Environment Committee Chair

Children and adults of all ages are invited to Wachiska's Bird EnCOUNTER on Saturday, February 17, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Lincoln's Gere Library, 2400 South 56th Street. This is a free event for the public.

In addition to checking out books from bird-focused library displays, participants will have the opportunity to take home pine cone bird feeders and other bird-based items created during this time. Educational activities will help participants become more bird friendly, bird savvy, and better prepared to participate from their homes in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) February 16 -19 (see page 3 and also check out this site: <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/get-started/>). We are especially pleased that our esteemed friend, Dr. Paul Johnsgard, will work with children in their bird-drawing endeavors.

Live raptors from Fontenelle Forest Raptor Recovery will be onsite with their experienced handlers to explain how these recovered, non-releasable birds of prey serve as great educational ambassadors. (Visit their website at <http://www.fontenelleforest.org/raptor-recovery>).

Plan to attend, have fun, enhance year-round enjoyment of birds, and join in other activities supporting the designation of 2018 as "Year of the Bird" (see below for Nebraska's proclamation). This designation for a year-long celebration of birds is a joint effort of the National Audubon Society, National Geographic, BirdLife International, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (<http://www.audubon.org/yearofthebird>).

Thank you to those who have already volunteered for Bird EnCOUNTER 2018. For others interested in helping, please call Barb at 402-483-6727 or the Wachiska office, 402-486-4846.

"Year of the Bird" Proclaimed in Nebraska

Audubon's request for 2018 to be proclaimed "Year of the Bird" for Nebraska has been accepted. This official proclamation by the governor will take place on February 5, at 11:00 a.m. in the Warner Chamber on the second floor of the Nebraska State Capitol. Anyone who wants to attend must be there 20 minutes before the ceremony begins.

Rebate from National Audubon Society

Wachiska's baseline funding dues share from the National Audubon Society for 2017 amounted to \$2,772.50 which is the same amount we have received for the last several years. This rebate is not increased even though newsletter printing and postage costs have risen several times. Thanks to our Friends of Wachiska membership category for making up the difference.



From the Board ...

by Richard Peterson
Recording Secretary

Trump and USDA Organic

With daily embarrassments coming from the White House, the smoke screen is obscuring what's going on behind the scenes. Daily talk news shows seem obsessed by dissecting the latest tweet and emphasizing the president's inability to bring the country together. Instead, Trump seems intent, for his own personal reasons, on undoing the gains made by the Obama administration. But enough about what's wrong at the top. Let's see what might be brewing at the USDA.

Sonny Perdue (no relation to the chicken Perdue) is the new U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. He is a one-time veterinarian who was governor of Georgia for two terms. He campaigned heavily for Trump and does not believe changing climate is a problem, blaming instead "some on the left or in the mainstream media." He was confirmed by committee 19-1, with Kirsten Gillebrand (D-NY) opposed. The entire Senate confirmed him 87-11. Friends of the Earth, an advocacy group, released a statement, in part: "The USDA needs a champion who will support small family farmers, food safety standards, and healthier food—not another shill for big agribusiness."

From poking around the Internet and reading what some are suggesting, I definitely get the impression things are afoot at the Trump USDA—something not good for the future and for the integrity of the little green/white seal of approval some of us search for when buying staples.

Here are some places to read about what's happening:

Should Trump Scrap USDA's National Organic Program?
<https://geneticliteracyproject.org/2017/04/12/trump-scrap-usdas-national-organic-program/>

USDA Plans to Side with "Fake Organic" Egg Producers, Ditch Animal Welfare Rules. https://www.ecowatch.com/usda-organic-eggs-2524568365.html?xrs=RebelMouse_fb

Trump's USDA has Rolled Back Rules on the Humane Treatment of "Certified Organic" Animals. <http://uproxx.com/life/trump-usda-organic-animal-welfare-obama/>

President-elect Donald Trump and Organic Food—How Concerned Should We Be? <https://livingmaxwell.com/donald-trump-organic-food-gmos-his-position>

To weaken the standards already in place will, in the long run, leaves the program to die on the vine. I feel it will make the cost to grow and sell organic produce more difficult and less competitive; in many cases it will be cost prohibitive, especially for the small farmer.

21st Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

submitted by Dave Titterington, Wild Bird Habitat Stores

Try to imagine how many field biologists it would take to scour the North American continent in search of birds to get an idea of their movements during the winter months. It would take tens of thousands of biologists at astronomical costs and that might not be enough. Then consider identifying bird populations and where they are on a global scale. Such a task would be unimaginable—that is unless everyday bird enthusiasts became citizen scientists to help track the 917 bird species commonly found in North America or the more than 10,000 bird species worldwide.

In 1997, the Cornell Bird Lab, Bird Studies Canada, and the National Audubon Society created the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) to recruit everyday folks to help identify and count birds during a four-day bird count the second weekend of February. The data from the GBBC is combined with the annual Christmas Bird Count and Project FeederWatch to compile a snapshot of the state-of-our-birds.

During February 16 - 19, you can join millions of people around the world at birdcount.org counting birds during the 21st annual Great Backyard Bird Count. Then submit your data directly to the biologists at the Cornell Bird Lab via the Internet. When the count begins, you can track all the data as it's submitted.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in this bird count no matter your age or level of birding experience. It doesn't matter if you only count the five birds that you can identify at your bird feeders or the 75 birds you may observe on a walk through a city park or wildlife refuge. Every bird matters.

This is a great opportunity for schools, families, organizations, and individuals to become citizen scientists and make a difference. An all-time record was set in 2017 with more than 200,000 participants submitting 175,000 checklists identifying 5,940 bird species. In the U.S. alone over 650 bird species were reported on 114,000 checklists.

To find out more about the Great Backyard Bird Count just go to birdcount.org. Learn about past bird counts. Check out the GBBC tool box. Submit photos. Get kids involved and find many more resources. There is no cost to participate. Register now and get ready to count the birds from February 16 - 19.

No Internet access? You can still participate. Pick up a GBBC packet at any Wild Bird Habitat Store. Return your data sheet to our store and we will submit it for you.

There are many reasons why everyone should spend at least 15 minutes during this four-day bird event to count the birds they see; there aren't any reasons not to. Just count the birds!

"In the depth of winter, I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer."

— Albert Camus

Lincoln's Christmas Bird Count Report

by Lauren Dinan, Lincoln CBC compiler

This year's Lincoln Christmas Bird Count (CBC) took place on December. It ended up being a beautiful day to be out birding with the temperatures ranging from a low of 25° F to a high of 56° F and an average wind speed of 7 mph. Most bodies of water were open which helped with waterfowl numbers. We had a total of 47 individuals participating this year. CBC participants walked, drove, and observed feeders to tally a total of **80 species and 15,252 individual birds**. A few additional species (3) were observed during the count week (cw) but were not seen the day of the count. See the overall species list below.

A big thanks to more than 40 participants who did a great job counting birds for this year's Lincoln CBC!

Greater White-fronted Goose	1	Red-bellied Woodpecker	86
Cackling Goose	27	Yellow-bellied Woodpecker	1
Canada Goose	5899	Downy Woodpecker	126
Wood Duck	3	Hairy Woodpecker	10
Gadwall	6	Northern Flicker	61
Mallard	303	Northern Shrike	1
Northern Shoveler	63	Blue Jay	317
Green-winged Teal	13	American Crow	71
Canvasback	12	Horned Lark	20
Redhead	6	Black-capped Chickadee	128
Ring-necked Duck	10	Tufted Titmouse	cw(1)
Greater Scaup	cw(1)	Red-breasted Nuthatch	4
Lesser Scaup	20	White-breasted Nuthatch	115
Black Scoter	cw(1)	Brown Creeper	10
Bufflehead	12	Carolina Wren	22
Common Goldeneye	30	Winter Wren	1
Hooded Merganser	6	Golden-crowned Kinglet	3
Common Merganser	13	Eastern Bluebird	77
Northern Bobwhite	17	Hermit Thrush	2
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	American Robin	599
Wild Turkey	14	European Starling	2391
Great Blue Heron	4	Cedar Waxwing	107
Bald Eagle	4	Yellow-rumped Warbler	19
Northern Harrier	6	American Tree Sparrow	387
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	Fox Sparrow	10
Cooper's Hawk	2	Song Sparrow	18
Red-tailed Hawk	65	Swamp Sparrow	1
Rough-legged Hawk	3	White-throated Sparrow	6
American Kestrel	15	Harris's Sparrow	75
Merlin	3	Dark-eyed Junco	767
American Coot	42	Northern Cardinal	217
Killdeer	2	Red-winged Blackbird	303
Ring-billed Gull	405	Western/Eastern Meadowlark	60
Herring Gull	22	Common Grackle	53
Glaucous Gull	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	7
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	1074	Purple Finch	10
Eurasian Collared-Dove	73	House Finch	184
Mourning Dove	190	Red Crossbill	16
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	Pine Siskin	9
Great Horned Owl	4	American Goldfinch	201
Barred Owl	1	House Sparrow	365
Belted Kingfisher	10		

Remember Wildlife at Tax Time

by Kristal Stoner

Nebraska's Natural Legacy includes hawks and herons, bats and butterflies, turtles and tree frogs, milkweeds and milk snakes, and almost everything in between. Nebraska is a beautiful, interesting, and unique place in part because of our wildlife. About 98 percent of the thousands of birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians, insects, and plants are considered "nongame" species in Nebraska because they are not hunted, trapped, or fished. By law, revenue from hunting and fishing licenses cannot be spent on "nongame" species, so the Wildlife Conservation Fund was created in 1984. The Nebraska Wildlife Conservation Fund connects people to nature through education. It is the state's primary source of funding for the research and habitat restoration necessary to ensure that spectacular nongame species such as the whooping crane, river otter, and blowout penstemon thrive in Nebraska. By supporting the Nebraska Wildlife Conservation Fund with a tax-deductible donation, you are taking an active part in conserving our state's diverse wildlife and our natural legacy for future generations.



Visit NebraskaWildlifeFund.org to make a donation or consider donating a portion of your tax return to Nebraska's Wildlife Conservation Fund. Look for the peregrine falcon symbol on your tax forms to donate.

February Programs at SCPAC

by Kevin Poague

Great Backyard Bird Count Weekend is fast approaching, and we've got lots planned. The nationwide bird count takes place February 16 - 19, and anyone can participate by choosing to bird for just 15 minutes on one or all of the days and entering their sightings online. At Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, we're making it even easier (and more fun) to join in.

On Friday and Saturday, February 16 - 17, come to the prairie and become a community scientist and discover the winter birds of Nebraska on a guided, family-fun bird walk. Free admission, binoculars, and bird guides available. Both walks are 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Then, on Sunday, February 18, we'll celebrate counting birds in a different way by offering two fun and interactive workshops about eBird, using our new eBird trail tracker kiosk at the center. The eBird program is an amazing community science tool and bird-sighting database, and it's simple, fun, and important for all bird lovers to use. The workshop for kids and families will be at 1:00 p.m. and the adult eBird workshop will follow at 3:00 p.m. Both workshops are free and will include a short walk. Beef up your birding skills by becoming an expert eBirder! Reservations are recommended for each of the above programs. Full details of these and other programs can be found at springcreekprairie.audubon.org, 402-797-2301, or scp@audubon.org.

Mountain Lion License Plates

by Richard Peterson

Vehicle plates tell something about the state—and the person behind the wheel.



In the 1950s, some of our family summer vacations took us west to visit relatives. Before interstates, Highway 6 was the main artery, the route of choice. My parents and younger brother anticipated leaving (if only briefly) our hot and humid central Iowa home with no air conditioning. We took our favorite things to occupy us on the trip. No A/C in cars either, only the open wing vents to keep us cool. Shortly, boredom entered the equation and sooner, rather than later, "are we there yet" was blurted out.

"Let's see how many different license plates we can spot." So as cars passed we would zero in on the front and rear bumpers. "Florida, boy they're a long way from home." And so it went—different states, different colors and designs. Time slipped by and eventually . . . why does the last hour always seem to take the longest?

Official automobile plates date to 1903 when Massachusetts required the first state-issued plate. Prior to this time, people made their own plate of wood or leather—usually to tell their car from others. In 1931, Pennsylvania is believed to have been the first to issue personalized plates. These plates were popular with vehicles in customized car shows and racing—especially where states only required an official plate on the rear of the vehicle.

Specialty plates are those issued by the state where part of the fee supports a cause that the car owner believes in. The alpha/numeric numbering is left up to the state. Vanity plates are those where the owner adds their own letters and numbers to the state-issued plate. Some of the vanity plates can be quite clever.

I've never considered a specialty or vanity plate. Then came word of the new plate to celebrate 150 years of Nebraska statehood—the one to replace the meadowlark and goldenrod design. Then I saw it. You couldn't see the sower unless you were following way too closely. And to believe a committee agreed on this design! Where was the POP, the eye-catching colors, and graphics? Hadn't we learned anything in 150 years? How disappointing.

So I went online. In October 2016, Nebraska drivers could show their support for mountain lion conservation, an idea initially proposed by State Senator Ernie Chambers. The plate costs \$5 extra, paid every year when you renew. If you want your own "vanity" added, you pay \$40. In four to five weeks your plates arrive at your County Treasurer/Motor Vehicle office. The Game and Parks Commission Educational Fund receives a portion of the fees to provide wildlife conservation youth education programs. Consider it as a way to educate the public. I did.

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

“Why Solar Power is Good for Birds”

by Lynsy Smithson-Stanley and Liz Bergstrom

Currently, about two-thirds of the electricity used in the U.S. comes from burning coal, oil, and natural gas. In a furnace, those materials combust and release carbon pollution, which forms a thin layer in the atmosphere and traps heat like a blanket. Over the past century, that greenhouse-gas blanket has grown so thick that here on the ground we can feel and see its effects through rising temperatures which, in turn, affect long-term trends in rainfall, polar ice, and sea levels.

Birds feel this effect, too. On the wing, they can quickly react to subtle changes in their environments—food, water, temperature, habitat—and shift their ranges. Examples of this are that Carolina wrens, northern mockingbirds, and tufted titmice are creeping into the Midwest. Caspian terns are nesting at Cape Krusenstern National Monument in Alaska, nearly 1,000 miles farther north from previously recorded.

That's just the start of the changes to come. The [changing climate threatens more than 300 species of North American birds](#) and thousands more worldwide.

Solar panels produce plentiful electricity without releasing any carbon pollution with big benefits for birds. Still, it's important to keep in mind that some types of solar technologies are better for wildlife than others.

The presence of PV panels on a roof—whether on a house, office building, or other structure—doesn't disrupt wildlife habitat and takes advantage of already-built space. Large-scale PV installations can benefit birds overall, but it's vital for developers to consider solar farm placement; in fact, some conservation groups are working with states to minimize harm to wildlife, such as Audubon California's work to shape the state's new Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.

With large solar farms, water birds sometimes mistake the glossy blue expanse of solar panels for bodies of water and try to land on them. Some developers are adding special patterns or using other strategies to reduce the risk of crash landings.

What type of solar is not so good for birds? Thermal solar, also known as concentrating solar, generates electricity by focusing solar rays to transform a fluid into steam. Some concentrated solar towers create an incredibly high-heat area. What's worse, the light beam and surrounding mirrors actually *attract* birds and the insects they eat.

At the Ivanpah concentrated solar tower in California in 2015, Ivanpah killed about seven birds per gigawatt hour of electricity produced—or more than 6,000 birds estimated over the course

of the year; by comparison, the climate change impacts of burning fossil fuels are estimated to kill one bird per gigawatt hour. Because of this, Audubon opposes any further construction of concentrated solar towers.

All energy development has some impact on habitats and wildlife. In the big picture, the threat of climate change poses a greater risk to entire species than renewable energy installations generally pose to individual birds. However, it's crucial to reduce these projects' impacts on wildlife as much as possible.

If you live in Lincoln and have toyed with the idea of putting solar panels on your roof, you might begin by talking to local solar contractors. There's a list of such contractors at the Nebraskans for Solar website at <http://www.nebraskansforsolar.org/ne-solar-businesses/>. The LES website offers help with installation costs for west or south facing systems and how payment works for the electricity your panels generate. Check this site: <https://www.les.com/pdf/net-metering-gen/net-metering-snapshot.pdf>. The Nebraska Energy Office offers low interest loans for installing rooftop solar (<http://www.neo.ne.gov/loan/index.html>).

The federal tax credit for residential solar is 30 percent through December 31, 2019. It is reduced by four percent each year, ending December 31, 2021. Businesses under the new tax bill can now depreciate the full cost of a solar system beginning for the 2018 tax year in addition to the 30 percent federal investment tax credit. LES business customers will also get payment incentives for west or south facing systems.

Education Committee Events Volunteers Needed

by Tim Knott, Education Committee Chair

Wachiska's educational programs for kids, our Prairie Discovery Day outings, and our Getting to Know Raptors events have been popular with grade school students and their teachers. They allow kids to learn by getting “up close and personal” in an actual prairie or experiencing live hawks and owls onsite where they are actually rehabilitated.

This year, in order to continue these programs, we are trying a different strategy which should be easier on volunteers. Rather than having regular monthly meetings, we are going to try a project-oriented approach with fewer meetings, perhaps only quarterly. That means less time required of your schedule; volunteers will only be responsible for a particular task.

Examples where you might help include lining up the guest speakers for our Prairie Discovery Days events in September or scheduling the dates with the teachers. Another task would be coordinating volunteers for Getting Acquainted with Raptors in April. If you could help in this more limited way with any of these important activities, please call Tim Knott, 402-483-5656, or Sue Kohles, 402-780-5558. Thank you for your consideration.

Public Officials

President Donald Trump

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
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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
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Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (1st District)

301 S 13th St Ste 100, Lincoln NE 68508-2537
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Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4806 Fax: 202-225-5686
E-mail at website: <http://fortenberry.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: 308-632-3333 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 10th St Rm 110, Lincoln NE 68508
Phone: 402-441-7447 Fax: 402-441-6301
E-mail: commish@lancaster.ne.gov

Mayor Chris Beutler

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10th St Rm 301, Lincoln NE 68508-2828
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Lincoln City Council

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

Lincoln Journal Star

Letters to the editor, 926 P 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 _____

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

NOTE FOR THE FUTURE

In the event of inclement weather, Wachiska will follow the Lincoln Public Schools' policy—if LPS classes are canceled that day, Wachiska's events will be canceled that evening, too. Postings should appear on KOLN/KGIN TV, Channel 10. Of course, this will pertain **ONLY** to weather-related closures.

Aluminum Recycling Continues

Keep recycling aluminum cans at A-Can Recycling Center, 3255 South 10th Street, in Lincoln. Wachiska's 2017 check from members' contributions came to \$79.45. Let's get that up to \$100 in 2018. Thanks to all who are helping.



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WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2018

OFFICERS

President.....	*Gary Fehr.....	402-570-4382
Vice President.....	*Stu Lutich (Geneva).....	402-759-3597
Recording Secretary.....	*Richard Peterson.....	402-489-2996
Treasurer.....	*Bill Gustafson.....	402-488-1585
Immediate Past President.....	*Jessi Umberger (Otoe).....	402-580-3057

STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large.....	*Theresa Pella.....	531-289-6098
Director at Large.....	*Vacant.....	
Director at Large.....	*Terry Stentz.....	402-202-8819
Conservation.....	*Stu Lutich (Geneva).....	402-759-3597
Education.....	*Tim Knott.....	402-483-5656
Field Trips.....	John Carlini.....	402-475-7275
	*Lana Novak.....	402-475-8693
Hospitality.....	Cheryl Moncure.....	402-488-0036
Legislation.....	Bruce Kennedy (Malcolm).....	402-796-2114
	*Sam Truax.....	402-325-9012
Membership.....	*Jami Nelson.....	402-488-1598
Monthly Programs/General Meetings.....	Arlys Reitan.....	WAS office 402-486-4846
Newsletter Editor.....	Arlys Reitan.....	WAS office 402-486-4846
Population/Environment.....	*Colleen Babcock.....	308-850-0445
Publicity/Public Relations.....	Jeanne Kern.....	402-423-0428

*Denotes Board member

OTHER ASSOCIATES

Bird Questions.....	Kevin Poague.....	402-797-2301
Facebook Coordinator.....	Benjamin Vogt.....	402-499-5851
Raptor Recovery.....	Betsy Finch (Elmwood).....	402-994-2009
Interim Executive Director Audubon Nebraska.....	Bill Taddicken.....	308-468-5282
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Director.....	Glynnis Collins.....	402-797-2301

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**.