



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

**MARCH 2022**

**Volume 31 - Issue 3**

Wachiska Program — Thursday, March 10, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom web conference ([registration required](#))  
Link to register: [https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsd6qrT4tHtFx\\_KpoSbath0Xsz6lfdb62](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsd6qrT4tHtFx_KpoSbath0Xsz6lfdb62)

## Nebraska Native Freshwater Mussel Propagation and Reintroduction

by Chase Hartwig, North Platte State Fish Hatchery, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

**F**reshwater mussels spend the majority of their time unseen, and most people don't know they even exist. Besides resembling an algae-covered rock, these mollusks play a key role in filtering bacteria, providing habitat for macro-invertebrates and being an indicator of water quality. Mussels are low man on the food chain but support the lives of organisms above them. With a combination of environmental and human impacts, mussel populations have declined, and some species have been extirpated from Nebraska. How long will it take before this problem affects other organisms that rely on mussels?

Through past surveys of rivers and streams by Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) employees, a list of mussel species with limited populations was proposed for propagation, and the mussel team was developed. Mussel production began in 2014 with one species, the plain pocketbook, and has expanded to three species being produced with plans for two more to be propagated in the near future. This has been no easy task getting mussel production to where it is now. With some

fine-tuning of the mussel propagation process, NGPC employees are giving mussels a fighting chance to produce naturally in the wild.

**Chase Hartwig** developed a passion for the outdoors at a young age and had no intention of working in a cubical. Three months after graduating from Northwest Missouri State University



Chase Hartwig spreading mussels

with a degree in wildlife ecology, Chase accepted a full-time position with NGPC at the North Platte State Fish Hatchery where he has been since June 2019. Moving forward, he hopes to soak in all the knowledge from his superiors and get involved in every aspect of fish culture to provide optimal fishing for anglers throughout Nebraska. Chase is involved in the day-to-day aspects of the mussel program and is a member of the mussel team. He has worked on propagation of the mussels, the stocking, and the stream monitoring.

Join Wachiska Audubon for our next Zoom program on **Thursday, March 10, at 7:00 p.m.** This free, public presentation is available to those who register at [https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsd6qrT4tHtFx\\_KpoSbath0Xsz6lfdb62](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsd6qrT4tHtFx_KpoSbath0Xsz6lfdb62). Copy and paste this link into your browser or go to Wachiska's website after March 1 and click on the link directly from the notice to register. You will then receive a confirmation email with the meeting number and password. Keep that and a few minutes before the program is to begin, click on that confirmation and you'll be invited into the meeting. Encourage friends and colleagues to join us, too.

### Calendar

#### March

- 10 Postmark deadline for receiving Spring Birdseed Sale orders** (pages 3-4)
- 10 General Meeting via Zoom, "Nebraska Native Freshwater Mussel Propagation and Reintroduction," by Chase Hartwig, 7:00 p.m. (**NOTE required registration**)
- 14 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 15 Newsletter submission deadline in Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 15 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
- 18-19 Spring Birdseed Sale distribution** (pages 3-4)
- 20 Field Trip to Wilderness Park, South 14th Street parking lot by the bridge, 9:00 a.m.

# Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman

The legislative session is more than half over, and we continue to monitor several legislative bills. **LB1135** is the bill the conservation community is most concerned about, as it **prohibits perpetual conservation easements in Nebraska and limits conservation easements to 99 year or less**. The bill also makes it easier for county officials to turn down easements. Even if the bill doesn't pass this session, we suspect it will be back next year.



The drought continues in much of the state and is very concerning, especially through the flyway. Many ponds and wetlands are currently dry, just as early migrants are beginning to arrive. Conservation groups like Ducks Unlimited, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and others will be artificially pumping water into some of the sites in the Rainwater Basin, but it will not be enough to meet the demand. When shorebirds and waterfowl are forced into concentrated areas during droughts, disease outbreaks can become a concern. Limited water will also force many birds to spend less time in Nebraska, and they may not put on adequate fat reserves for their long journey north to breed and nest. I'm not hoping for heavy snows in the next few weeks, but some early spring rains would be welcomed. April showers may bring May flowers, but March rains bring migrating birds.

## March Field Trip to Wilderness Park

by Todd Paddock

It's almost spring! In fact, the calendar shows the first day will be on this field trip! If you can't wait to enjoy some spring birding, meet other birders, try your hand at birding for the first time, and maybe even see some early spring flowers in Wilderness Park, then plan to meet on **Sunday, March 20**, at **9:00 a.m.** at the parking lot on the west side of South 14th Street between Yankee Hill and Denton Road. (Look for the metal bridge crossing Salt Creek and a large gravel parking lot.)

Bring binoculars if you have them, a face mask for COVID-19 protection, and dress for the weather. There is no fee, and the public is welcome as long as you're fully vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19 (those under 5-years-old are exempt from this requirement).

Whether we wear masks while walking is a decision we will make as a group, but we will defer toward greater safety. If you have questions, call Todd at 507-458-9416.

## What Does Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (and Belonging) (EDIB) Look Like in Action for Wachiska Audubon Society?

by Theresa Pella, (she/her)

In September 2021, the Wachiska Board adopted the National Audubon's Statement on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion as the chapter's own goals: "*The birds Audubon pledges to protect differ in color, size, behavior, geographical preference, and countless other ways. **By honoring and celebrating the equally remarkable diversity of the human species**, Audubon will bring new creativity, effectiveness, and leadership to our work throughout the hemisphere.*"

In our local chapter where we "mirror" each other in age, skin color, life styles, etc., how can we fulfill this pledge? For years, we've talked about needing younger and more diverse members, but are we ready to open our doors to people who may differ in how they look and/or identify themselves?

Do you automatically think "him or her" when you meet someone? Or do you wonder why someone includes "him/his" in email signatures? Why would someone use "they/them" when you see that; does your brain go to "good grief that's not correct grammar" or "ok, they have a right to refer to themselves as they want"? A growing trend is to self-identify by using pronouns. When I asked a lesbian relative and her partner about the increasing use of pronouns in the LBGTQ+ populations, they responded that use of pronouns gives some comfort because it doesn't "box" them into the male/female image and/or places everyone on the same level. Some may use "they/them" because they don't believe it's anyone's business how they self-identify. In an online article from San Diego State University's Pride Center, it's suggested that it is okay to ask someone what their preferred pronoun is. And, by using one yourself, you're showing solidarity in the thought that it is okay to self-identify. For more information, go to [https://newscenter.sdsu.edu/sdsu\\_newscenter/news\\_story.aspx?sid=77823](https://newscenter.sdsu.edu/sdsu_newscenter/news_story.aspx?sid=77823).

The article also suggests greeting people with something like "hello y'all" rather than "ladies and gentlemen" or "you guys." I'm especially guilty of the last one, and now that I know that, I will make every effort to de-manize my greetings.

Another growing trend is to address letters Dear Mx., rather than Mr. or Mrs. (or Miss). As someone who has struggled at times trying to figure out how to address a letter, to me Dear Mx. makes a lot of sense.

The intent of this article is to just get us thinking about what commitment to a pledge to celebrate diversity in humanity really means. It's not just words—it's also actions.

*"I wonder if the snow loves the trees and fields, that it kisses them so gently?" — Lewis Carroll*



## Wachiska Audubon Spring 2022 Birdseed Sale Order Form

	Bag Size	Bag Code	Price Each	Quantity	Total Cost
<b>ALL PRICES INCLUDE SALES TAX</b>					
FEED MIXES	Standard Audubon Mix	40 lb bag	ST40	\$ 39.00	\$
	Classic Audubon Mix	20 lb bag	CL20	\$ 24.00	\$
		40 lb bag	CL40	\$ 38.00	\$
	Attraction Audubon Mix	35 lb bag	AT35	\$ 46.00	\$
	Woodpecker Gourmet	20 lb bag	WO20	\$ 40.00	\$
	Bushy Tail Treat	20 lb bag	BT20	\$ 36.00	\$
SEEDS	Millet, White (98%)	50 lb bag	MI50	\$ 35.00	\$
	Peanuts, shelled rejects	20 lb bag	PR20	\$ 36.00	\$
	Safflower Seed	20 lb bag	SA20	\$ 30.00	\$
		50 lb bag	SA50	\$ 55.00	\$
	Safflower Seed, Nutra-Saff	20 lb bag	Not Available		
	Sunflower Hearts, coarse	20 lb bag	HC20	\$ 40.00	\$
		50 lb bag	HC50	\$ 75.00	\$
	Sunflower Hearts, fine	20 lb bag	HF20	\$ 38.00	\$
Sunflower Seed, black oil	25 lb bag	SB25	\$ 27.00	\$	
SUET CAKES	High Energy Treat, 11.75 oz. cake		EN-C	\$ 1.50	\$
	Berry Treat, 11 oz. cake		BT-C	\$ 1.50	\$
<b>Total number of bags and cost (All prices INCLUDE sales tax)</b>					\$
<b>Tax Deductible Donation</b> to support Wachiska's education & conservation activities					\$
<b>Total Enclosed. Make check payable to Wachiska Audubon Society.</b>					<b>\$</b>

Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

**This form and your check must be postmarked by Thursday, March 10, 2022**  
 Mail to: Wachiska Audubon Society Birdseed Sale - 4547 Calvert St, Suite 10,  
 Lincoln NE 68506-5643

### ORDER PICK UP DATES - MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

**PLEASE—Plan to pick up your order during one of these times**

Friday, March 18  
3:00 -6:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 19  
9:00 -11:00 a.m.

**Note: stay in car; we will bring the seed to you.**

Pick up location: 14th & Arapahoe streets (between Van Dorn & Hwy 2)

Are you interested in volunteering for the birdseed pick up  Yes (check box)

# Wachiska Audubon Spring 2022 Birdseed Sale & Fundraiser

Wachiska's Birdseed Sales are an important part of our fundraising and offer you a great deal on birdseed! **Our prices are very competitive.** The great majority of Wachiska's budget for education and conservation programs comes from donations and fundraising, and our twice-a-year birdseed sales are two of our major fundraisers. If you feed birds regularly, or want to give it a try, please buy from Wachiska. Our new convenient pickup location in SW Lincoln makes it easier than ever to get your birdseed. We depend on your purchases, and so do our feathered friends! Thank you!

## FEED MIXES

**Standard Audubon Mix** – white millet, sunflower seed, cracked corn, peanuts, oat groats

**Classic Audubon Mix** – sunflower seed and hearts, white millet, cracked corn, safflower seed, peanuts, oat groats

**Attraction Audubon Mix** – sunflower seed and hearts, safflower seed, peanuts, raisins, protein pellets

**Woodpecker Gourmet** – 75% nuts (almonds, peanuts, walnuts), pumpkin seed, corn, black oil sunflower seed and hearts, safflower seed

**Bushy Tail Treat** – peanuts, sunflower seed, whole corn, raisins, pumpkin seed, feed pellets. Treat your favorite backyard squirrels and keep them away from the bird feeders!

## SUET CAKES

**High Energy Treat** – sunflower seeds, millet, cracked corn; enjoyed by most wild birds

**NEW! Berry Treat** – a wonderful winter treat

## SEEDS

**White Millet (98%)** – popular with cardinals, mourning doves, house finches, juncos, sparrows

**Peanuts (shelled)** – attractive for woodpeckers and blue jays

**Safflower Seed** – good for house finches, chickadees, cardinals, woodpeckers – NOT FAVORED by squirrels and grackles.

~~Nutra-Saff Seed is without the hard, outer shell.~~

**Sunflower Hearts** – highly prized by birds and leave less mess—use coarse hearts for feeders with large openings that might allow fine hearts to drop out

**Black Oil Sunflower Seed** – favored by most seed-eating birds; high oil content for more energy

**Additional copies of this flyer and the order form are available on our website:**

**[www.WachiskaAudubon.org](http://www.WachiskaAudubon.org).**

## ORDER PICK UP DATES - MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

Pick up site is:  
N.W. Corner of 14<sup>th</sup> &  
Arapahoe Street  
(between Van Dorn &  
Hwy 2) in Lincoln.

Look for Signs

**Reminder: stay in your car; we will bring the seed to you.**

**Friday, March 18**  
3:00 -6:00 p.m.

**Saturday, March 19**  
9:00-11:00 a.m.

**PLEASE—Plan to pick up your order during one of these times.**

Orders that are not picked up cause a lot of extra work for our volunteers whose help we greatly appreciate! If it is totally impossible for you to pick up your seed, please email Arlys at [office@wachiskaudubon.org](mailto:office@wachiskaudubon.org) to make alternate pickup arrangements.

**If anyone is interested in volunteering to assist, please contact Lana Novak, 402-570-1273.**

## Steller's Sea-eagle Long Way from Home

by Mark Brohman, Executive Director

A Steller's Sea-eagle has been making headlines for more than one year now as it crosses the continent. These are native to far eastern Russia, the Korean peninsula, and northern Japan. They are considered a national treasure in Japan, and their total numbers in the wild range from 4,000 to 5,000.



Steller's Sea-eagle

It is believed this individual traveled from Alaska to Texas, eastern Canada, New England, and recently to Maine. It was first photographed last December along the Denali Highway in Alaska, then not seen for months. It was seen in Texas and in June 2,500 miles away in eastern Canada. Four months later it showed up in Nova Scotia and in December in southern Massachusetts. On December 30, it appeared in Five Islands, Maine and the next day in Georgetown, Maine. The first week of January it was around Southport Island, Maine.

This individual appears to be healthy and has been observed feeding on fish. They are also known as the white shouldered eagle and get the distinctive white on their shoulder when they reach maturity at around four years of age. They can live into their 20s in the wild. This individual could breed with a local bald eagle as evidenced by a supposed hybrid eagle seen in Juneau, Alaska, in 2004. The bald eagle is typically around 10 pounds with a wing span of up to seven feet, while the Steller's Sea-eagle can weigh 15-20 pounds with an eight-foot wing span. They are black with white shoulders, legs, and tail and are known for their large golden bill. They lay 1-3 greenish eggs with usually just one offspring surviving. They are often monogamous except during breeding season. A majority of vagrant raptors are males, but the gender of this individual is unknown.

A GroupMe group has been created as an easier way to post frequent updates on eagle sightings. Read details here on how to join: <https://sites.google.com/view/mainebirdalert/home/groupme-maine-rare-bird-alert>. There is also eBird to follow and on Facebook see the Maine Rare Bird Alert.

## Self-medication Is Surprisingly Common Among Animals

(online article from Animals, News, February 7, 2022)

It's not unheard of for animals to self-medicate. Birds, bees, lizards, elephants, and chimps know to ingest certain plants or use them in seemingly unusual ways when they need them. For instance, some lizards respond to a bite by a venomous snake by eating a certain root to counter the venom. Baboons in Ethiopia eat the leaves of a plant to combat the flatworms that cause schistosomiasis. Amazingly, sparrows and finches collect nicotine-heavy cigarette butts to reduce mite infections in their nests, showing animals have learned to use pharmacological ingredients even in artificial environments.

## Volunteer Opportunities this Spring

One of the strategic plan priorities is a continued (or given the last two years, renewed!) effort in educational programs. Planning is getting underway for Wachiska to participate in a couple of family-related events this spring--Earth Day on April 23 and the Lincoln Nature Challenge on May 1. Each is a great opportunity to interact with families who are drawn to appreciating and exploring Mother Earth!

Wachiska has participated in Earth Day for years with a variety of child-friendly projects promoting birds and prairies. After two years of cancellations, the event is back on! This year it will be held on Innovation Campus with volunteers needed from approximately 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on April 23.

Lincoln's City Nature Challenge is scheduled for May 1 with Wachiska stationed at the newly installed Pollinator Garden at Walt Branch Library. A goal of the Challenge is to introduce families to iNaturalist, a social network for naturalists—<https://www.inaturalist.org>. By connecting different perceptions and expertise through pictures of nature in various forms, iNaturalist hopes to create more community awareness of local biodiversity promoting further exploration of local environments. This event is tentatively planned for 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. If you are familiar with iNaturalist, your volunteer time is especially needed.

If either or both events are of interest to you or you have questions, contact Mary King at [marybruceking6@gmail.com](mailto:marybruceking6@gmail.com) or text her at 402-570-3295.

## Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Upcoming Programs



### Big B.A.D. Birdhouse Project

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center and the American Institute of Architects Lincoln are collaborating to bring the Big B.A.D. Birdhouse Project to Lincoln. It's a birdhouse building and design competition for individuals and families of all abilities and ages. Entries will be accepted from March 1 - April 1. All entries must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 1. More information can be found at <https://springcreek.audubon.org/get-involved/birdhouse>.

**Third Tuesday Bird Outing** - Tuesday, March 15, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. Our popular third Tuesday bird outings return for a new year. Join a knowledgeable bird guide, meet fellow birders, and learn the birds of the prairie. Free admission! Check the website for registration information. Binoculars will be available. Watch our website for information on mask requirements. We look forward to birding with you. For more news on these and other upcoming programs and activities, check out the website at <https://springcreek.audubon.org>.

# Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

On February 3, National Audubon joined more than 60 other organizations in a letter to Senate leadership asking them to move ahead immediately with the climate and energy part of the Build Back Better proposal. The letter points out the broad popular and Congressional support for the “historic clean energy tax platform for solar, wind, offshore wind geothermal, energy storage, energy efficiency, electric vehicles, transmission, low-income communities, and manufacturing here in the U.S.”

Signers included religious and professional groups like architects and nurses and a broad list of environmental groups, including these with Nebraska constituencies—Audubon, Citizens Climate Lobby, Interfaith Power & Light, League of Conservation Voters, National Wildlife Federation, and Sierra Club.

I hope by the time you read this, energy and climate legislation has become law in the reconciliation bill; if it hasn't, please add your voice to a call for passage.

The letter refers to a 2022 study titled “The Turning Point, a New Economic Climate in the United States” released in January by the Deloitte Economics Institute. It models the effects on the U.S. economy of inaction compared to transitioning to a low-emissions economy. Check out this link: <https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/us/Documents/about-deloitte/us-the-turning-point-a-new-economic-climate-in-the-united-states-january-2022.pdf>.

If you are a member of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, LIBA, or similar organizations, you might want to review this 50-page study and ask others with an interest in long-term planning to look at it.

To quote the conclusion: “Economic and scientific evidence confirm that the U.S. economy, like the global economy, is at a crossroads. The production system for the goods and services we enjoy—the economic engine for global growth—is no longer tenable because it is based on an energy system that is changing the climate, damaging economies, and disrupting lives. Future economic prosperity will require the U.S. to make a purposeful change in how Americans power their homes and businesses, how industry produces goods, the way people and goods get transported, and how land and food production is managed.

“Faced with this evidence, it's incredibly costly for the U.S. to choose inaction or insufficient action . . . Not only would inaction expose the U.S. to more severe damages from a changing climate, it would significantly diminish the country's economic potential, damaging the pillars of economic competitiveness, innovation, and productivity that it is known for today . . .

“Economics is on the side of a low-emissions future. As governments, industry, and financial markets continue to

reallocate capital toward decarbonization, the U.S. economy can accelerate to net zero and unlock the economic opportunity that comes with it.”

A team of researchers in Germany has made an important step toward a circular economy in which everything is reused. The Fraunhofer Center for Silicon Photovoltaics in Freiburg announced they have taken silicon from used solar panels from all manufacturers and recycled it for use in new panels. They have produced solar cells from 100 percent recycled silicon. Silicon turns sunlight into electricity.

Currently the aluminum (10 percent of a panel's weight) and wiring (5 percent) are reused, but glass (75 percent) is not (“Inside Clean Energy” 2/10/22).

## Swedish Firm Deploys Crows to Pick Up Cigarette Butts

(summarized from *The Guardian*, February 1, 2022, online report)

Clever corvids are becoming the newest weapon in the war against street litter in Sweden. Crows are being recruited to pick up discarded cigarette butts from the streets of a Swedish city as part of a cost-cutting drive. The wild birds carry out the task as they receive a little food for every butt they deposit into a machine specifically designed for this task.



**New Caledonian Crow**

“These are wild birds taking part on a voluntary basis,” said Christian Günther-Hanssen, the founder of Corvid Cleaning, the company behind the method. He estimates this task could save at least 75 percent of costs involved with picking up cigarette butts in the city. The Keep Sweden Tidy Foundation says that more than a billion cigarette butts are left on Sweden's streets each year, representing 62 percent of all litter.

The Swedish city is carrying out a pilot project before potentially rolling out the operation across the city, with the health of the birds being the key consideration, given the type of waste involved.

New Caledonian crows, a member of the corvid family of birds, are as good at reasoning as a human seven-year-old, research has suggested, making them the smartest birds for the job. They are easier to teach, and there is also a higher chance of their learning from each other. At the same time, there's a lower risk of them mistakenly eating any rubbish.

“Variety is the soul of pleasure.” —Aphra Behn

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

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

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

### **Congressman 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: 308-633-6333  
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-6435 Fax: 202-225-0207  
E-mail at website: <http://adriansmith.house.gov>

### **Capitol Hill Switchboard**

888-436-8427 or 202-224-3121

### **Governor Pete Ricketts**

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

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

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

### **State Capitol Switchboard**

402-471-2311

### **Lancaster County Commissioners**

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

### **Mayor 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: [council@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:council@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lincoln Journal Star**

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

## **Join now! Become a Friend of Wachiska Audubon Society!**

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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.

*The Babbling Brook* (ISSN #1068-2104) is published monthly by Wachiska Audubon Society. The known office of publication is 4547 Calvert St Ste 10, Lincoln NE 68506-5643. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Send address changes to *The Babbling Brook*  
Wachiska Audubon Society, 4547 Calvert St Ste 10  
Lincoln NE 68506-5643



*The Babbling Brook* is printed on recycled and recyclable paper.

## Report Whooping Crane Sightings

If you think you see a whooping crane, do two things:

- Report the sighting at <http://outdoornebraska.gov/whoopingcranemigration/>.
- Do not approach or harass whooping cranes for any reason which could put them at risk. It is also a violation of state and federal law.



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

**Spring Birdseed Sale**  
**Order Form Inside**

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

## WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2022

Executive Director .....	Mark Brohman
Office Administrator .....	Arlys Reitan
<b>OFFICERS</b>	
President .....	*Theresa Pella
Vice President.....	*Marilyn McNabb
Recording Secretary .....	*Linda Plock
Treasurer .....	*Dylan Aufdenkamp
Past President.....	*Stu Luttich
<b>STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS</b>	
Director at Large.....	*Ethan Freese
Director at Large.....	*Bruce Kennedy
Director at Large.....	*Kris Powers
Conservation .....	*Ross Scott
Education.....	*Tim Knott
Field Trips .....	vacant
	*Lana Novak
Hospitality .....	Cheryl Moncure
Legislation.....	*vacant
Membership .....	*Linda R. Brown
Monthly Programs/General Meetings..	Arlys Reitan
Newsletter Editor .....	Arlys Reitan
Population/Environment.....	Mary King
	*vacant
Publicity/Public Relations.....	Arlys Reitan
Donor Development.....	Elizabeth Nelson
Executive Director Audubon Nebraska..	*Kristal Stoner

\*Denotes voting Board member

For contact information of officers and committee chairs, call the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846.

## Donate to Wachiska When Shopping Online

Remember to shop for deals at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon app. Sign up for AmazonSmile and select Wachiska Audubon Society as your preferred charity at [smile.amazon.com/ch/51-0229888](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/51-0229888). Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of the purchase price of eligible purchases to Wachiska Audubon at no cost to you.

**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**.

