

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 41st Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2014

AUGUST 2014

Volume 23 - Issue 8

General Meeting—Thursday, August 14, 7:00 p.m., Dick Administration Building, Union College, Lincoln

The Wildlife and Ecology of the Yellowstone/Teton National Parks Region

by Dr. Paul A. Johnsgard, Foundation Professor of Biological Sciences Emeritus, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

I recently published a book (my 62nd) entitled *Yellowstone Wildlife: Ecology and Natural History of the Greater Yellowstone*

Ecosystem. 2013. Boulder, CO: Univ. Press of Colorado. 239 pp. It is illustrated with my drawings and about 40 photos by my one-time student, Thomas R.

Mangelsen. It will be information and photos from this book that will be the basis of my presentation to Wachiska in August.



Tom and I are also planning a similar coffee-table-size book on the North American and world cranes, with the same press. The University of Nebraska Press will be publishing a collection of my Nebraska essays later this fall, and the University's Conservation and Survey Division will publish a book titled *Great Gamebirds of the World*, based on a collection of 90 mounted specimens of gamebirds collected worldwide by another former student, Dr. Everett Madson, and donated by him to the State Museum in my honor. (September newsletter will feature this event. Editor)

Dr. Paul A. Johnsgard is Foundation Professor of Biological Sciences Emeritus at the University of Nebraska. He received the Distinguished Teaching Award, Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award, and an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from UNL. He also was awarded a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, the National Wildlife Federation's National Conservation Achievement Award, the National Audubon Society's Charles H. Callison Award, and the American Ornithologists' Union's Ralph Schreiber Conservation Award, all in recognition of his ornithological writing and conservation work. To date Dr. Johnsgard has written over 60 scholarly books, including nine world avian monographs, plus several non-technical and fictional books, more than 100 peer-reviewed articles, and about 150 nature-related popular articles, making him the world's most prolific author of ornithological literature.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, August 14, at 7:00 p.m.** for this free public

presentation in the Dick Administration auditorium on Union College campus, 3800 South 48th Street, in Lincoln. From 48th and Calvert streets, go one block south to the north end of the



Dr. Paul A. Johnsgard

campus. Now that the new science building is finished, parking is still adequate even though it is not in the same place! People can park in the College View SDA Church parking lots and also behind Prescott Hall and the gymnasium. (Prescott Hall is the multi-story building just south of the Dick Building.) Also, there is parking to the north of the new science building and all along 48th Street (both sides). Look for Audubon signs on the west doors (48th Street side) of the Dick Building. (Note that this month due to inside construction, we will need to use only the west doors of the building. Unfortunately, the handicapped ramp will not be accessible this month. The elevator will still be useable inside.)

Calendar

August

- 4 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 4 Population/Environment Committee, East Campus Dairy Store, 5:30 p.m.
- 5 Finance Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 5 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 14 General Meeting, Wildlife in Yellowstone, by Dr. Johnsgard, Union College, 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 24 Field Trip to Jack Sinn WMA and then Omaha, 3:00 p.m. (page 2)
- 28 Legislation Committee, DaVinci's, 11th & G, 6:00 p.m.



Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Stop at Jack Sinn then Departin' for Martins

The saline wetlands at Jack Sinn Memorial Wildlife Management Area vary considerably this time of year. Water levels can fluctuate, enticing different types of bird species that may be traveling south. The marshes and ponds can attract anything from large stately herons to small energetic shorebirds. We'll take an afternoon hike around the wetlands to scout for breeding birds that haven't departed yet and fall migrants which may have recently arrived.

After our hike, participants can either return home or continue on to Omaha to view the massive annual gathering of purple martins at their pre-migratory roost. This regional roost can reach peak numbers of more than 50,000 martins in late August and early September. The show starts about a half hour before sunset and lasts for around an hour as martins arrive and fill the sky in a swirling vortex before settling into their favorite roost trees. The spectacle occurs next to Nebraska Medical Center on 44th Street immediately south of Farnam Street. The parking lot next to Clarkson Doctor's Building South is open to birders.

Meet at **3:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 24**, on the south side of the Capitol in Lincoln, at 15th and H streets across the street from the governor's mansion. Recommended items to bring include sturdy shoes for the hike, insect repellent, water bottle, and binoculars and scope if you have them. Some martin watchers wear a hat and shirt for protection from receiving an unlikely but possible martin "offering." We'll plan to take a pit stop in between our two destinations. There is no fee and the public is welcome. Call John at 402-475-7275 with questions.

Soaring Hawk Wachiska T-shirts Now Available

Proudly proclaim your support of the Wachiska Audubon Society when you wear this striking new t-shirt. A soaring hawk and the Wachiska logo intertwine to form the bold graphic designed by ScreenInk. The unisex V-neck chocolate brown shirt is 100% cotton with bright green and white imprint.



Sizes S - XXL only \$16.82 each (\$18 with sales tax) are available at Wachiska general meetings or contact the Wachiska office, 402-486-4846. Limited edition of 48. Get yours while they last!

New t-shirt modeled by Wachiska President Elizabeth Nelson.

Linwood Bird Paradise Continued

(Editor's Note: Last month we printed a report by Wachiska member Stan Shavlik in which he described his experiences with orioles eating him and his wife, Jean, "out of house and home" on oranges and grape jelly! Now Stan has submitted a photo of this endeavor with this additional commentary.)

"After my conversation this last week with John Carlini [Wachiska's field trip chair] about my bird paradise, John suggested I send in a photo of my oriole feeding! . . . These birds are comical and very smart with their eating.



Baltimore Oriole

"I surely enjoyed sharing my letter with many Wachiska readers and look forward to seeing one of my orioles in a future newsletter issue. Thanks."

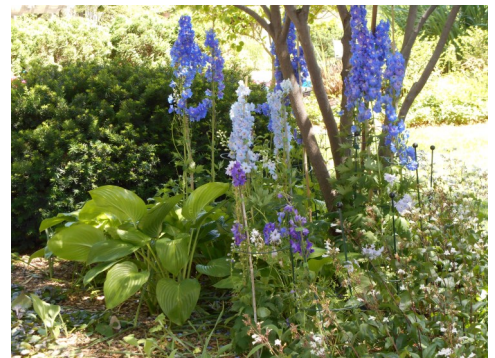
Stan & Jean Shavlik,
Linwood, Nebraska

What Gardens Qualify for Habitat Tour?

by Anne Senkbeil, Chair, Backyard Habitat Tour

Often people ask members of our Backyard Habitat Tour committee what we look for in choosing gardens for the annual habitat tour on Father's Day. We only have three requirements for gardens: water, food, and shelter. Several years ago, Tim Knott and Cara Bentz created a list of plants and revise it often. We are in the process of visiting gardens now for next year and the year after that. We are always looking for new gardens and would really appreciate help. It would also be wonderful to get input on what people would like to see in the future—rain gardens, more native plants featured, more (or less) handouts giving ideas and instructions, partnering with the City of Lincoln and other local organizations, etc. When possible, we have tried to feature a particular part of town to eliminate time spent driving from one site to the next.

Please pass your ideas on to me at 402-423-6524 or call or email your thoughts to the Wachiska office. Thank you for your past support of Wachiska's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Tour which marked its 25th anniversary this year! Come join our committee. Give me a call!





From the Board ...

by Joe Francis, Corresponding Secretary

Strange Bedfellows?

It is easy to get discouraged when looking at the challenges we face in providing future generations with a quality environment; the list is long: a plentiful supply of quality water, an atmosphere free of pollutants that compromise our respiratory systems, meeting the growing needs for energy resources, feeding nine billion people by 2050, and the list goes on. The challenges seem daunting, and there are no easy answers.

Where do we begin? There's no better way to get started than bringing people to the table who care about and have a passion for the problem being addressed. In some instances, that includes those with seemingly opposing beliefs and philosophies. Reflect on the collaboration of Ted Kennedy and Orin Hatch. Recently Rand Paul and Cory Booker—a Tea Party Republican from Kentucky and a Democrat from New Jersey—have attempted to put aside stark differences and are collaborating on a much-needed reform of our criminal justice system. Some may say that the recent collaboration between the state chapters of Audubon and Ducks Unlimited (previously published in the May issue of *The Babbling Brook*) falls into this category. As Marian Langan, executive director of Audubon Nebraska, reported, with the support of Wachiska and Audubon Society of Omaha, they have joined with Ducks Unlimited Nebraska and retained the services of Katie Zulkoski of Mueller Robak to lobby for mutual conservation interests. The discussion began with efforts aimed at the protection of the Nebraska Environmental Trust. Most recently the group focused on the establishment of a permanent funding source to ensure protection and sustainment of Nebraska's precious water resources.

While there may be some who are surprised over the collaboration of groups with some divergent objectives, both Audubon and Ducks Unlimited have a deep appreciation and passion for critical habitat. Steve Donovan, Ducks Unlimited of Nebraska, captured it best with the simple statement, "Many may assume our organizations have no common ground, but at the end of the day we're both looking for the same thing—protecting critical habitat." While all interests of Audubon and Ducks Unlimited may not perfectly align, both Nebraska chapters recognize the overall significance of critical habitat and have been successful in placing differences on a back burner, for the greater good of both. The ability to "check agendas at the door" is something that seems to be happening less and less, when the practice is needed more than ever.

The significance of our environmental challenges only grows with time. Decisive action is needed now at local, state, and federal levels. Our local chapters have demonstrated the value of collaboration, and one can only hope that their efforts are replicated. As Thomas Stallkamp put it, "The secret is to gang up

on the problem, rather than each other." Let's hope our leaders in Washington are watching what's going on at the local level.

Joe joined Wachiska as a member of the population and environment committee in 2000. While no relation to Chuck and Barb Francis, Chuck enjoys introducing Joe as his "older brother." Joe is back on the Wachiska Board as well as serving on the Nebraska Land Trust board. He has seen the advantages of having diverse representation on boards and believes diversity is a critical component in addressing the environmental issues we are facing today.

Water Funding Task Force and LB 1098 Success or Failure?

by Stu Luttich, Conservator and Ag Landowner

Although the Water Funding Task Force and resulting legislation is considered a success by many, including the legislation's authors, others including myself are less certain. Who's correct?

The truth is, no one is correct; we all are wrong; and, it is far too premature to be generating any conclusions regarding the success or failure of this most recent effort to develop the means for creating a sustainable water conservation and management process, along with a funding mechanism for the same, in the State of Nebraska. Other than for expanding the interests and representation on the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission (NeNRC) from 16 to 27 members (an increase of 11) and providing one-time budgetary resources to assist in completing existing water projects, little else has been accomplished. Time will only reveal whether the remodeled NeNRC is capable of the challenge, and the truth will be revealed in the reality of arresting and restoring the depletions of the state's water aquifers, revitalizing the springs, rivers, and streams, and guaranteeing minimum water flow volumes for the streams and rivers of the state. When the decisions and actions of the revised NeNRC result in rising water tables and bringing life back to the springs and perennial flows of the state's rivers and streams, then and then only, will the facts begin to exist for formulating reliable success or failure conclusions.

Forty-two years ago when LB 1357 created the Nebraska Natural Resources Districts, many thought this entity would accomplish the task; but time has proven that the NRDs alone either were not capable of, or were not prepared for, fulfilling the challenge. Perhaps the remodeled NeNRC will accomplish what the NRDs failed to achieve, but that fact will not be known until this revised NeNRC has been tested. Sixteen of those 27 representatives on the new NeNRC are still being appointed from the NRDs, and 11 are being appointed at the discretion of the governor. While adding and shifting chairs around the table has changed, what has not changed is the human nature filling those chairs. Greed and self-interest continues to work and lurk in the shadows.

Therefore, better stay tuned and remain cognizant of changing trends in the state's water fortunes. Hope does spring eternal.

Give to Lincoln Day 2014 Final Report

by Tim Knott and Arlys Reitan



During the third year of this event, almost 100 people contributed to Wachiska Audubon during Give to Lincoln Day on May 29. Sponsored by the Lincoln Community Foundation, donors are encouraged to give to their favorite nonprofit organizations during a marathon 24-hour span. This year an additional \$300,000 was donated by sponsors of LCF and shared on a proportional basis with each nonprofit taking part. Wachiska Audubon received a total of \$7,500, including our share of the match. Because of the timing of Give to

Lincoln Day each year, Wachiska encourages its supporters to consider making their annual Birdathon donations through this means in order to take advantage of the match. Last month's newsletter listed those who had donated to Birdathon through June 26 by using the Birdathon donor envelope. Below are those who contributed through Give to Lincoln Day.

No matter how you have given gifts to Wachiska, we want to wholeheartedly thank you and let you know once again how vital your donations continue to be to this local volunteer organization striving to protect native prairies and provide nature education in Southeast Nebraska.

Again, these folks remembered Wachiska Audubon during Give to Lincoln Day in late May. Please let us know of any errors. Thank you once again to everyone participating during Birdathon! Contributions continue to be received every week if you still wish to take part.

Nancy Aden	Sue Gardner	Paul & Irene Marcussen	Averil Savery
Judy & Raymond Althouse	Bill Garthright	Steve Martindale	Starla & Scott Schleicher
Anonymous (1)	Rachel Garver	Linda & Pete Maslowski	Marjorie & Arnold Schmidt
Laurence Ballard	Beth & Ron Goble	Marilyn McNabb	Rebecca Seth
Colleen Babcock	Nan Graf	Arnold & Agnes Mendenhall	Morton Stelling
Ingrid Bangers	Priscilla Grew	Malcom Miles	Barbara Straus
Diane Bartels	Patsy Hackley	Kevin Miller	Linda Sullivan
Bob Boyce	Carolyn Hall	Cheryl Moncure	Ron & Camy Svoboda
Lynne Brehm	Twyla & Tom Hansen	Virginia Myers	Amy Tabor
Mark & Anessa Brohman	Laurie Haszard	"Bud" & Phyllis Narveson	Dave & Linda Titterington
Linda R. Brown	Clarice Hedrick	Elizabeth & Daniel Nelson	Sam & Ida Truax
Jan & Jim Burch	Rosemarie & Steve Heinisch	Barbara Nieveen	Jessica Umberger
Ron & Karen Case	Kathleen & Gary Hejl	Lana Novak	Mark Van Roojen
Scott Chaffin	Heidi Hillhouse	Tom Pappas	Joyce & Lyle Vannier
Carole Closter	Jeanne Johnson	Don & Joanne Pepperl	Verjean Vannier
Bev Cunningham	Ron Johnson	Duane Polzien	Anne Vidaver
Anne DeVries & Andrew Pitcher	Sara Kauffman	Neva & Ken Pruess	Dennis & Betty Vodehnal
Tom Dickerson & Patty Shanahan	Marge & Bruce Kennedy	Ken & Arlys Reitan	Ben & Jackie Vogt
Dennis & Stephanie Dohner	Jeanne & Rich Kern	Ted Rethmeier	Sam Welsch
Susan Dwyer	Ingrid Kirst	Carolyn & Bernie Rieke	Bruce & Judy Wendorff
Laurel Erickson	Leo Klameth	Ernie & Audrey Rousek	Dan & Diane Wheeler
Gary Fehr & Shannon Moncure	Lucy Lien	Cindy Rutan & Dean Cole	Denise Wiemer
Chuck & Barb Francis	Marjorie Manglitz	Sue Samson	Jerry & Mitzi Wiggle
Joe & Jane Francis			

Candidate Forums

For the past 12 years, Wachiska has co-sponsored a Candidate Forum for every local election. Headed up by Friends of Wilderness Park, we are again participating in several meetings in August and early September.

Attend the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (NRD) Candidate and County Commissioner Candidate Forums listed below. Come and ask questions of the candidates running for each of these positions. Sponsors this year are Friends of Wilderness Park, Wachiska Audubon Society, Nebraska League of Conservation Voters, Bluestem Sierra Club, and NeighborWorks Lincoln.

- NRD Subdistricts 8 & 9 – Gere Library, 2400 South 56th Street – August 18 at 6:00 p.m.
- County Commissioner for District 5 – Anderson Library, 3635 Touzalin Avenue – August 25 at 6:00 p.m.
- NRD Subdistricts 5, 6, & 10 – Walt Library, 6701 South 14th Street – September 8 at 6:00 p.m.

Wachiska's Berg Prairies

by Ernie Rousek, Conservation Committee

Nine years ago Wachiska Audubon was notified that it was being given two prairies near Talmage, which is about 12 miles southeast of Syracuse. This gift was made by Lourin Berg and his two sisters, Leva and Lavern. This was a Life Estate gift where the



Bergs retained possession during their lifetimes. At that time a sign with the names of the donors was erected on the prairie which lies on the east side of Highway 67, a half-mile east and a half-mile south of Talmage.

Last fall Wachiska was notified that Lavern, the last of the three siblings, had died and that Wachiska now had full ownership of both prairies. Don Pepperl was of great help in getting this final property transfer made.

None of the three Berg siblings ever married. They lived together on a farm just south of the prairies and did quite a lot of livestock raising. They sponsored an annual rodeo on their farm in the 1950s and '60s. Both Leva and Lavern were quite accomplished barrel racers. The Bergs were interested in preserving some of the pioneer history of the community and felt that leaving two native prairie tracts in the care of Wachiska Audubon would help in this effort. We certainly appreciate their thoughtfulness in this regard.

Each of the two prairies is about 12 acres in size. The one mentioned above is on bottomland of the Little Nemaha River. The land surrounding it is in the Wetland Reserve Program. This Berg Prairie has quite a lot of compass plant as can be seen in the photo. The second prairie is in the interior of the section



Doug Campbell, Ernie Rousek, Sam Truax

across the road and is less accessible. To reach it, go north of the first prairie, to the intersection and then west a half-mile where you will see the sign that was

erected this spring. Wachiska was given a right-of-way along the east side of the fence to reach this second prairie. This requires a one-fourth mile walk which is well worth the effort. This is an excellent prairie with great native plant diversity.

To reach the Berg Prairies: From the south edge of Syracuse, go eight miles south to the Talmage Road, then nine miles east to Highway 67.

Hawk in Antelope Park

"I had my grandkids at Antelope Park (30th & A streets) yesterday and noticed a large hawk on the ground next to a tree. Thinking it was hurt, I circled around towards it. It hopped a few feet when I got within 20 feet; when I got closer, it hopped/flew about 30 feet. I took a few more steps towards it, and it then flew about 100 yards to the top of a tree where it started to squeak and call. So it does not seem to be injured, but may be a juvenile? I do not do well identifying hawks, but I do know what a red-tail looks like, and it certainly wasn't a red-tail. I do think it was probably a bit bigger than one, though. Wish I had my camera with me!

"I asked a park worker about it who said it had been hanging around for a week or two, landing on vehicles parked near the old covered shelter and the large garbage dumpster near that shelter.

"I was wondering if anyone else had mentioned seeing this hawk and how normal it is to see a hawk like this in the middle of the city. I did not see any other hawks in the couple of hours we were there—if it was a juvenile it looked like it was alone; if this is so, could it be that it got "blown in" during recent storms and separated from its parents? Will it be OK and survive on its own or should Raptor Recovery be contacted?" ~ Trish Petersen

"Trish, it does sound like a juvenile bird. If you are sure it wasn't a red-tailed hawk, then a Cooper's hawk is about the only other raptor that would be that size and in an urban area. But birds do get blown off course, so it might be something else.

"It's not that uncommon to see birds of prey in urban areas (great horned owls and screech-owls are common, and red-tails are becoming more so). I personally think they are adapting more to urban life and that we are likely to see more of them as time goes on.

"I haven't heard of any other reports of this bird. If it has been hanging around for a week or two, then it is likely being cared for by an adult. As long as the bird can fly and appears healthy, then I don't think Raptor Recovery needs to be called.

"Hope this helps. Keep in touch if you see the bird again and notice any changes in its behavior or appearance."
~ Kevin Poague, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Denton

From Our Readers

"Your newsletters are wonderful! So attractive and filled with great info. Thank you!"

~ Laurine Blankenau, President, Audubon Society of Omaha

Then from southwest Lincoln came the following comment with a Birdathon contribution: "I support everything you do."

Missouri River Recovery Program Threatened

by Marian Maas, Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee – Water Quality

The Missouri River is the longest river (2,341 miles) in the U.S. and the most highly modified. The lower part of the river begins below Gavins Point Dam north of Sioux City, Iowa, and extends to the confluence with the Mississippi River at St. Louis. It has been completely channelized and straightened for the purpose of barge traffic, the result of the Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project (BSNP). The upper basin extends north to its headwaters in Montana and is not a free-flowing river but rather a series of large lakes—or more accurately—reservoirs behind six of the largest dams in the country. Aside from several short segments, such as two free-flowing reaches which comprise the 100-mile Missouri National Recreational River, the river has been completely modified by direction of the Pick-Sloan Flood Control Act of 1944.

The 1944 act also designated that the river was to be used for eight authorized purposes: navigation, flood control, irrigation, hydropower, water supply, water quality, recreation, and fish and wildlife. Large business interests of Kansas City and St. Louis pushed for the legislation. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers carried out the law's direction and continue to be responsible for management of the river. Although fish and wildlife and recreation exist as authorized purposes, they receive considerably less importance in management of the river.

In the process of straightening and channelizing the river, approximately 130 river miles were eliminated, and an estimated 522,000 acres of wetlands, backwaters, and shallow chutes were drained and destroyed. With these went the habitat for fish, amphibians, birds, mammals, riparian vegetation, and many other species whose life cycle depended on a natural river and these adjoining wet areas. Fewer migrating waterfowl use the river corridor, and adjacent floodplain land has been converted from pasture to corn and soybeans. Forty-one of the 59 native fish species are now considered rare or declining in numbers. The interior least tern and the pallid sturgeon are listed as endangered, and the piping plover is threatened. The riverbed is degrading at Sioux City and Kansas City due to a sediment-hungry river because the naturally occurring sediment is being retained behind the six dams. The pallid sturgeon is declining to such a degree that experts believe all native individuals will be extinct in 20 years.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2000 and 2003 Amended Biological Opinion, as well as several other laws, requires the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to mitigate the BSNP in several ways. One major goal in the Missouri River Recovery Program is to re-establish 20-30 acres of shallow water habitat (SWH) per mile on the lower river. This involves land acquisition (they don't use eminent domain because there have been many willing sellers) and the building of chutes and habitat of diverse depths to replicate what was destroyed. Unfounded opposition by agricultural interests to any SWH has blocked the Corps' efforts in Iowa and some in Nebraska. The barge, ag, and power companies lobbying in Washington, D.C. has resulted in the Corps' decision to stop mitigation projects and to limit the Recovery Program's work. If Congressional reduction in funding for land acquisition is not changed, it will take until **2060** for SWH projects to be completed!

Banded Bird Found

"I was over in the prairie of Doii and Forrest Halvorsen north of Syracuse in Otoe County, taking photos this morning. When looking closer on my computer, I noticed this bird was banded. I already enlarged [it] so don't think there is any way to tell more about it. Since I'm not a birder, I don't even know what kind of bird it is. I also don't know if it is valuable for anyone to know about this little banded critter. Just thought I'd send you the photo. I didn't know I took two photos of the same bird—in one you can see some of the numbers on the band. Who would have banded it and would it be helpful for someone to know where it is?" ~ Dottie Halvorsen, Syracuse

"Dottie, the banded bird in the photos you sent looks like a female common yellowthroat. This is a common species of warbler found usually around ponds, wetlands—anywhere there is water.

"Putting lightweight aluminum bands around birds' legs has been a common practice of researchers for decades. Each band has a different number, and when the bird is banded this number is recorded. If the bird is caught again, the number can tell researchers about how long birds live and what their migration or movement patterns are.



Common Yellowthroat—female

"Check out this website for more info: <http://birding.about.com/od/birdconservation/a/Bird-Banding.htm>. Thanks for sending the photo!" ~ Kevin Poague, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Denton

Public Officials

President Barack Obama

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

Senator Mike Johanns

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E-mail at website: <http://leetterry.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/>

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PO Box 94604

Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

State Capitol Switchboard 402-471-2311

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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

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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, 926 P St, Lincoln NE 68508
E-mail: oped@journalstar.com

Membership

Wachiska offers two choices of membership. Local membership, called Friends of Wachiska, includes receiving *The Babbling Brook*, our chapter's monthly newsletter. It also includes voting privileges and attendance at monthly meetings, programs, and field trips. All membership dues from a local membership stay with Wachiska to support chapter activities such as prairie preservation and education.

Membership in the National Audubon Society also includes membership in our local chapter, Wachiska. You will receive *Audubon* magazine from National Audubon along with *The Babbling Brook*.

Friends of Wachiska (local membership)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Recruited by _____

E-mail _____

_____ \$20 Individual/Friend

_____ \$50 Sustainer

_____ \$30 Families

_____ \$100 Patron

Make checks payable to **Wachiska Audubon Society**. All funds remain with our local chapter. Mail to:

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

As a conservation organization, our goal is to use our natural resources wisely. Materials and postage are considerable, and we do not want to waste them. When your address changes or if you are receiving *The Babbling Brook* and would rather not get it, please notify us at office@wachiskaaudubon.org or 402-486-4846.

OR

National Membership in National Audubon Society

Dues from new (introductory) memberships and for first-time gifts will be returned to Wachiska if this coupon is used:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Recruited by _____

E-mail _____

Enclose introductory membership fee of \$20.

Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society** and mail to:

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

C4ZP040Z

Birdathon Donations

Please remember to return your Birdathon envelopes and donations as soon as you can. We have a long way to go to reach our goal or to match last year's gifts. Every dollar counts. Your consideration and support are always appreciated. Thank you!

Fresh Herbal Food

The Pioneers Park Nature Center is hosting an herbal event August 2 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in their Prairie Building. The fee is \$10/person. Middle Eastern cuisine has fantastic vegetarian dishes that are healthy and very flavorful. Learn how easy it is to prepare delicious recipes using fresh herbs and a few key ingredients. Recipes to sample will include falafel, hummus, tzatziki, and more.



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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. Information changes 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**.