



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

FEBRUARY 2012

Volume 21 - Issue 2

General Meeting — Thursday, February 9, 7:00 p.m., Dick Administration Building, Union College

Sustainable Water Management in Nebraska

presented by Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District

This month's speaker will be a representative from the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (CNPPID) headquartered in Holdrege. The focal point of the presentation will be the viewing of a 20-minute video entitled "Inside Nebraska's Water." A discussion and Q&A will follow.

All Nebraskans are keenly aware of the importance of water to our state's economy and social fabric. The video calls attention to the need for sustainability and integrated management of water resources in Nebraska.

CNPPID is a political subdivision of the state organized under public power and irrigation district laws passed in 1933. Central was created to enable the people of south-central Nebraska to develop the state's irrigation and electric power potential.

Central delivers irrigation water to more than 113,000 acres on the south side of the Platte River between North Platte and

Minden and also provides supplemental water from Lake McConaughy to irrigation projects serving more than 110,000 acres along the North Platte River and the Platte River. The district generates electricity for Nebraska's homes, farms, and industry at four hydroplants—one at Kingsley Dam and three on Central's Supply Canal.

Recreation is another benefit of this hydro-irrigation project. Nebraskans and visiting vacationers enjoy the excellent fishing, boating, swimming, camping, and other recreation provided by Lake McConaughy, Lake Ogallala, Johnson Lake, and many other small lakes along the Supply Canal.

Central's system of canals and laterals also provides groundwater recharge that helps stabilize groundwater supplies for irrigation and municipal and industrial uses.

In addition, the project provides habitat for many species of fish and wildlife, a result of Central's active role in creating and preserving habitat in the Platte River Valley.

Additional topics addressed by this project are the eagle-viewing facilities, programs to manage and protect least terns and piping plover populations in the area, birds of the Lake McConaughy vicinity, and clams in Central Nebraska.

Join the CNPPID representative and Wachiska members on **Thursday, February 9, at 7:00 p.m.** in the lower level auditorium of Union College's Dick Administration Building, 3800 South 48th Street, in Lincoln. From 48th and Calvert streets, go one block south to Bancroft Avenue and turn east onto campus. Continue for two blocks and park in the lots on the south. The large building to the south and west is the Dick Building. Look for Audubon signs on the doors. There is an elevator available.

The public is invited to this free presentation. Refreshments will be served after the program.

Calendar

February

- 2 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 4:00 p.m.
- 9 Board Meeting, Union College Dick Auditorium, 5:15 p.m.
- 9 General Meeting, "Sustainable Water Management in Nebraska," by CNPPID, Union College Dick Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Population and Environment Committee/enCOUNTER Committee Meeting, Gere Library, 6:30 p.m.
- 16 Newsletter submission deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 18 **Great Backyard Bird Count enCOUNTER, Gere & Eiseley Libraries, 1:00-3:00 p.m.**
- 20 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 23 Legislation Committee, DaVinci's, 11th & G streets, 6:00 p.m.
- 26 Field Trip to Branched Oak Lake and Pawnee Lake, 1:30 p.m. (page 2)



Field Trip

Regal Bald Eagles

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

There's something about the sight of a live bald eagle that can make birders feel a little more patriotic. Our national bird is making a comeback and can sometimes be seen at area lakes in winter. After being listed under the federal Endangered Species Act in 1976, the bald eagle went on to become a poster child for successful conservation. Approximately 100,000 bald eagles formerly occupied the lower 48 states, but habitat loss, shooting, trapping, and pesticides such as DDT reduced the population to less than 1,000 by the 1960s. After DDT was outlawed, the species began making a comeback in the late 1980s, was down-listed from endangered to threatened in 1996, and removed from the list completely in 2007.

For this month's field trip, we'll drive to different vantage points at Branched Oak Lake State Recreation Area to check for these majestic birds and end our afternoon at Pawnee Lake State Recreation Area with a short hike at dusk where we hope to hear owls calling.

Meet on **Sunday, February 26 at 1:30 p.m.** on the south side of the State Capitol in Lincoln across from the governor's mansion at 15th and H Streets to caravan or carpool to the lake. Bring binoculars and scope if you have them. The public is welcome. If you have questions call John at 402- 475-7275.

Where are my Birds?

A Lincoln woman reported to her daughter in Washington, DC that she was not getting the usual birds to her yard. When it was apparent that it was worrying her mother, the daughter contacted the Wachiska office for advice. Arlys shared possible reasons for this disappointment before referring the question to Kevin Poague, one of the chapter's expert birders. Kevin emailed the DC woman that "I agree with what Arlys mentioned, and I don't have much more to share. When winter temperatures are mild and there is little to no snow cover, food and water are open and available to birds, so they don't have to congregate around feeding stations. That will likely change if and when our normal winter weather pattern returns."

The next email brought this: "I will share with my mother so she will cheer up. She is worried that the birdies were all deceased. She is really down about not having the little guys around her place. She has, in the past, been blessed with lots of chickadees, cardinals, jays, red finches, nut hatches, woodpeckers, and white-throated sparrows. She still has squirrels, though!"

A few days later both received a thank you from the daughter who commented that her mom is in much better spirits now!

New Vice President Joins Board

by Arlys Reitan

Last month a call went out in *The Babbling Brook* that the chapter was in need of a vice president. A few days later we found our man! Arnold Mendenhall stepped up and agreed to be considered, and the Board agreed. At the January general meeting President Anne Vidaver announced the nomination and entertained a vote which passed unanimously.

Arnold has served on Wachiska's Board in the past as the representative for the conservation committee. He was honored with the Earthkeeper Award last April, primarily for his efforts with prairie management. While on staff at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Arnold conducted burns, maintained the land, and was the great "fix-it guy." Coming to SCP after his official retirement, he then retired a couple of times from SCP only to go back to help out. Now he continues to be Wachiska's point person with the Klapka Prairie and farm and is currently busy with an abandoned well-capping project, contending with federal regulations and all the paperwork that entails.

We are absolutely thrilled to have Arnold fill this key leadership position of VP for our chapter. Thank you once again, Arnold, for your willingness to serve in yet another way!

Trumpeter Swan in Otoe County

by Elaine and John DeBoer

This beautiful trumpeter swan was seen from December 29 through January 6 on our 30-acre lake in Otoe County. We've also seen a sandhill crane, great egrets, throngs of snow geese, and myriad other waterfowl at our 300-acre wildlife oasis which also includes restored and virgin prairie.

At a time when prairies and wetlands are being converted to corn production at an alarming rate, it's rewarding to know ours is one place that is thriving and providing habitat for so many species.



Photo by John DeBoer

Trumpeter swan

Bird Notes

by Irene Alexander

A Carolina wren has been an occasional visitor at Clarice Hedrick's feeders this winter, while Lynn Darling reports 13 pairs of cardinals regularly showing up for free food at her place. Lynn also reports having no mourning doves this winter.

If you have questions or interesting sightings to report, call us at 402-423-9495.

Library Event is for the Birds... and for Kids

*submitted by Chuck Francis
Population/Environment Committee*

The future belongs to our children and, for better or worse, the future of bird and other wildlife populations will also depend on human decisions about preserving adequate habitat and helping kids develop positive attitudes toward the environment and health of our ecosystems. In mid-February Wachiska sponsors the annual Great Backyard Bird Count, and this year there is a special event to bring children into the activity.

The Wachiska Population/Environment Committee is working with Lincoln City Libraries, the Wild Bird Habitat Stores, and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to provide a practical and fun family event, **Lincoln Bird EnCOUNTER**, on **Saturday, February 18, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** There will be two locations—the Eiseley Library at 1530 Superior Avenue and the Gere Library, 2400 South 56th Street.

Both libraries will feature child-friendly activities designed to capture imaginations and build excitement about birds. There will be live raptors from Raptor Recovery Nebraska and Pioneers Park Nature Center. Kids will assemble their own bird journals and practice drawing birds they see and hear nearby in the outdoors. They will learn to use binoculars to find feathered friends, and will build their own toy binoculars and use them to help focus attention on details of their natural surroundings. Some will like to build pine cone birdfeeders to take home and hang in a tree in their backyards. There will be many helpers on hand thanks to the Master Naturalist group, Wachiska volunteers, and interested students from Environmental Science and Natural Resources groups at UNL. While the supply lasts, we will provide a high-quality, color bird guide for Nebraska to each family with a child who identifies and draws a bird in their journal and completes other activities.

The Wild Bird Habitat Stores have donated two feeders for each of the two library branches and will be filled regularly by Wachiska members. These feeders will be a permanent reminder of this wonderful event and will be enjoyed for years to come by library customers of all ages.

This February event falls right on the weekend of the Great Backyard Bird Count, and we expect that children who visit the libraries will be enthusiastic about helping to identify and record birds when they get home. If you want to see future young naturalists in action, join us at one of the libraries February 18. Many volunteers are needed. Call me at 402-483-6727.

The Babbling Brook via Email?

Because of increases in printing and postage, Wachiska has decided to offer *The Babbling Brook* by email in the next few months. If you would like to be included in this group, contact the office at wachiskaoffice@inebraska.com or 402-486-4846. It will be awhile before the procedure gets set up and tested, but we would appreciate knowing your wishes at this time. The newsletter will still be offered by snail mail to everyone who wishes to receive it.

Great Backyard Bird Count Perfect for New Birders

15th annual count takes place February 17-20

As movie-goers watch the stars of *The Big Year* in their quest to count birds, some may be motivated to try the hobby for the first time. The annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is the perfect opportunity. The event is hosted by Audubon, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Canadian partner Bird Studies Canada. The results provide a snapshot of the whereabouts of more than 600 bird species. Anyone can participate in this free event and no registration is needed. Watch and count birds for at least 15 minutes on any day of the count, February 17-20. Enter your results at www.birdcount.org where you can watch as the tallies grow in real time across the continent. The four-day count typically records more than 10 million observations.



Cassin's finch

"The Great Backyard Bird Count is a perfect example of Citizen Science," says Audubon Chief Scientist Gary Langham. "Like Audubon's Christmas Bird Count, volunteers help us with data year after year, providing scientific support that is the envy of many institutions. It's also a lot of fun."

The 2011 GBBC brought in more than 92,000 bird checklists submitted by participants from across the United States and Canada. Altogether, birdwatchers identified 596 species with 11.4 million bird observations.

Results from the 2011 GBBC included:

- Increased reports of evening grosbeaks, a species that has been declining
- A modest seasonal movement of winter finches farther south in their search for food
- The Eurasian collared-dove was reported from Alaska for the first time—more evidence of an introduced species rapidly expanding its range.

Although it's called the Great "Backyard" Bird Count, the count extends well beyond backyards. Lots of participants choose to head for national parks, nature centers, urban parks, nature trails, or nearby sanctuaries. For more information, including bird-ID tips, instructions, and past results, visit www.birdcount.org. The count also includes a photo contest and a prize drawing for participants who enter their bird checklists online.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is made possible in part by its sponsor, Wild Birds Unlimited.

(This article was reprinted from a publication of Cornell Lab.)



From the Board ...

by President Anne Vidaver

Wachiska on the Move

New activities, issues, and challenges are on the horizon for Wachiska as a new year begins. As your new president, I've been thinking of how we can best serve our members this year. Here are a few ideas, and your input would be most welcome.

What programs, field trips, and activities would you like to see? Are we providing programs you want? Are there some topics you could suggest? Each of the last two monthly gatherings has brought over 100 people, hopefully as an indication that we are on the move. The same has been the recent trend for field trips. How about a program on the mechanics of birdwatching? Or a demonstration of the best equipment, the varied food sources, and advantages and disadvantages of different seeds?

Would you enjoy a program on building backyard and other habitats for birds? Would you attend a talk on birds worshipped by different cultures, such as the Egyptians or Native Americans? Or a program on bird learning? Who's the dumbest? Who's the smartest? What criteria are used to assess how birds learn? Dr. Kamil gave a fascinating program on this topic three years ago, but we have new members, and the topic is broad.

Would you be interested in hearing about lifetime lists? What is the challenge and how is it met? Are people who have them devotees of birding or just crazy?

Do you find birds of old to be intriguing—those in past geological times and those of recent extinction? Or a talk about birds in art? The challenge of photographing or painting birds?

This month Wachiska is co-sponsoring a project with the Lincoln City Libraries on birds and their habitats. More programming for children and young adults is sought, and we hope to provide it for members and the general community. Communicating with young people is always a priority for Wachiska's future.

The prairies provided for stewardship to Wachiska Audubon may be in jeopardy with the introduction of LB529 by Senator Carlson. We'll keep you posted, but the notion that private property given to a nonprofit entity should be taken away for private purchase seems an overreach of government to us.

We need people with artistic and literary talent to provide input into these and other endeavors.

Give me a call or contact the Wachiska office with your ideas. Thank you for your interest, concern, and support. This should be a productive year!



Anne Vidaver

Snowy Owl Update

by Shari Schwartz and John Carlini

John photographed this snowy owl December 27 as it sat on a power pole at Renquist WMA northwest of York.

The incredible snowy owl invasion continues to make this winter memorable for birders. Hundreds have been reported in our area, and many owls have been seen at some locations. Many birders and photographers have had a chance to see the impressive Arctic visitors sitting on power poles, irrigation pivots, in open fields, and a few were even seen in trees which is unusual for this species.



Snowy owl

Sadly, dead birds from fatal collisions with cars have also been found next to roads, sometimes in an extremely emaciated condition. Although snowy owls primarily eat lemmings on their breeding grounds, they will hunt a variety of prey. Two owls were seen repeatedly targeting a flock of mallards that landed on a sewage pond at dusk, while another was observed diving unsuccessfully into a streaming flock of red-winged blackbirds.

Joel Jorgensen, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's nongame bird program manager, initially received a flurry of Nebraska reports from the eastern part of the state which shifted to the majority of reports coming from central and western Nebraska. He has been mapping the sightings and posted these details for November 24 to January 17:

all reports 170; confirmed reports 133; confirmed by photos 76; collected or picked up dead, injured, or moribund 23; confirmed by credible observer 23; confirmed by description 12

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union is charting sightings in that state and calls the snowy owl irruption of 2011-12 nothing short of spectacular. They reported a total of 121 on January 18:

November - 13, December - 85, January - 23
Mortalities - 25

Kansas birder Chuck Otte reported 81 from November 15 to January 18. He commented that Kansas hasn't seen an irruption like this since the winter of 1974-75.

Birders discovered a treasure trove of snowy owls at Lake Andes NWR in South Dakota, a short drive north of the Nebraska border. Over 30 owls were seen in late December with most of the birds found in a relatively small area of less than 30 miles. One birder saw at least eight different individuals while driving a one-mile section. After two weeks of high counts, numbers declined to only three birds on January 12.

Reports appear to have dropped off significantly, but a few birds continue to visit known locations. Birders can read recent reports at Birdingonthe.net without joining any birding listservs.

Christmas Bird Count Results

by Linda R. Brown, Compiler

Mary Bomberger Brown recruited 36 field observers and seven feeder watchers for the Lincoln Christmas Bird Count on December 17, 2011. A total of 69 species were observed. The day was pleasant with temperatures ranging from 20 to 50 degrees F. The salty creeks were open and bigger lakes such as Pawnee, Holmes, and Conestoga were partially open, allowing Joel Jorgensen, Larry Einemann, Tom Labeledz, and Rick Eades to add several geese and duck species this year. Ned Stringham found a first-ever rose-breasted grosbeak. At Pioneers Park, Elaine Bachel and Ruthie Stearns found a northern mockingbird, and Jake Walker spotted a tufted titmouse. Dan Leger saw a northern shrike at Nine-mile Prairie.

Species reported were as follows:

Snow Goose 7	Ring-billed Gull 6	American Robin 258
Cackling Goose 131	Rock Pigeon 1558	Northern Mockingbird 1
Canada Goose 12,622	Eurasian Collared-dove 27	European Starling 2887
Wood Duck 2	Mourning Dove 142	Cedar Waxwing 111
Gadwall 2	Great Horned Owl 6	Yellow-rumped Warbler 7
Mallard 849	Barred Owl 5	Spotted Towhee 1
Northern Shoveler 5	Belted Kingfisher 16	Eastern Towhee 1
Northern Pintail 5	Red-headed Woodpecker 3	American Tree Sparrow 634
American Green-winged Teal 9	Red-bellied Woodpecker 56	Fox Sparrow 1
Redhead (count week)	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1	Song Sparrow 17
Hooded Merganser 1	Downy Woodpecker 136	White-throated Sparrow 7
Ruddy Duck 7	Hairy Woodpecker 22	Harris's Sparrow 67
Ring-necked Pheasant 14	Northern Flicker 26	White-crowned Sparrow 1
Wild Turkey 6	Northern (red-shafted) Flicker 4	Dark-eyed Junco 526
Great Blue Heron 10	Northern (yellow-shafted) Flicker 26	Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco 1
Bald Eagle 4	Northern Shrike 1	Dark-eyed (slate-colored) Junco 438
Northern Harrier 8	Blue Jay 231	Northern Cardinal 200
Sharp-shinned Hawk 2	American Crow 178	Red-winged Blackbird 43
Cooper's Hawk	Horned Lark 49	Western Meadowlark 7
Accipiter sp. 2	Black-capped Chickadee 281	Meadowlark sp. 2
Red-tailed Hawk 84	Tufted Titmouse 5	Common Grackle 2
Rough-legged Hawk 5	Red-breasted Nuthatch 12	House Finch 184
Buteo sp. 6	White-breasted Nuthatch 146	American Goldfinch 431
American Kestrel 11	Brown Creeper 18	House Sparrow 762
Merlin 2	Golden-crowned Kinglet 11	
American Coot 10	Eastern Bluebird 57	

The Lincoln count circle is a 15-mile radius centered at Coddington Avenue and West A Street. Notable misses this year are northern bobwhite, Carolina wren, and pine siskin. Black-capped chickadees have bounced back to 281 from their low of 25 after West Nile virus in about 2002. Historical data is available on the Christmas Bird Count website. Thanks to the following counters for participating, to Bruce Mellberg and April Stevenson for hosting a count party potluck, and to Mary Bomberger Brown, organizer.

Elaine Bachel	Emily Herrick	Pete Maslowski	Kristal Stoner
Joel Bacon	Ian Hoppe	Linda Maslowski	Ned Stringham
Kelli Bacon	Paula Hoppe	Bruce Mellberg	Jake Walker
Bob Boyce	Julie Huddle	Linda Plock	Dan Wheeler
Anita Breckbill	Paul Johnsgard	Kevin Poague	
Linda R. Brown	Michelle Johnson	John Quinn	
Pat Cole	Joel Jorgensen	Ken Reitan	
Lynn Darling	Tim Knott	Diane Richards	
Barbara DiBernard	Thomas Labeledz	Carol Rustad	
Rick Eades	Amy Larson	Nancy Savery	
Larry Einemann	Jenifer Lautenschlager	Leslie Spath	
Sue Guild	Dan Leger	Ruth Stearns	
Mathew Hansen	Dwain Leonhardt	April Stevenson	

Two Spots Remain for Nova Scotia Trip

If you've been considering taking the Nova Scotia birding trip June 25 to July 3, there are two spots open. Refer to the January newsletter for details or contact the leader, Russell Duerksen, at 928-925-5567 or duerksen@msn.com. Several Wachiskans have taken Russell's trips and comment you can't find a better birding trip for such reasonable costs. Also, Russell rebates Wachiska Audubon with \$100/person if you mention Wachiska.

Water and Global Security

An increasingly precious natural resource, water is essential to improving global health, ensuring social welfare and political stability, and promoting economic development and environmental sustainability. Water can be a source of national and regional conflict, and for centuries civilizations have risen and fallen based on their ability to harness its power. The E.N. Thompson Forum series continues to bring to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus experts on global water issues to explore the challenges of scarcity, security, and sustainability. This is the next lecture:

Mogens Bay and E. Robert Meaney
"Is a Global Water Crisis Avoidable?"

Thursday, February 16, 7:00 p.m.
Lied Center for Performing Arts, Downtown Lincoln
(Lewis E. Harris Lecture on Public Policy)

Remember that admission is free but tickets are required. Contact the Lied box office.

Think Green It's Thursday

Ecostores and Services Center presents a one-hour free public program on green topics every Thursday from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at 530 West P Street in Lincoln. Topics range from recycling to gardening to energy efficiency and beyond. Check their website at www.ecostoresne.org for more information.

February 2 - Beaming Bioneers Nebraska by Adam Hintz
showing a film focusing on environmental justice

February 9 - Indoor Air Quality with Doug Boyd, President of
Green by Design

February 16 - reEnergize Lincoln by Justin Lowndes

February 23 - Milestone Local Surfaces with Jen Carlson

Is February for the Birds?

February is the perfect month to give back to the birds who have given so much to us—the wonder of flight, the beauty of song, the romance of Valentine's Day. Yes, it's true. We can thank our feathered friends for helping to make Valentine's Day a celebration of love and affection.

A Family's Big Year

by Theo Browne

Following a suggestion in *The Babbling Brook*, my mother and I decided to read *The Big Year* by Mark Obmascik rather than see the film by the same name. We did so before we set off on our annual drive to southern Texas. We have always enjoyed seeing Mexican species in the valley, but after reading *The Big Year*, we were determined to identify as many species as possible on this trip and keep a record of them; thus, 2011 became the closest we have come to a family's Big Year.

I had begun to make lists of bird species seen in Texas in January of 2011, but dropped the attempt when we left the state shortly thereafter. Then I began again in early December. By December 31, we had recorded 145 species for 2011. We did remember to add Nebraska sightings, including familiar woodpeckers, nuthatches, and such. Admittedly, our list is only a fifth of the record set more than a decade ago by Komito of *Big Year* fame; nevertheless, for us it seems like quite a lot. After all, we do not fly around the country just in hopes of seeing rare species. Starting the list was motivated by having received a gift booklet from the Audubon Society for exactly that purpose. Birding has become a hobby of ours over the years, but keeping an exact list of species was a new experience we found highly gratifying.

We also enjoyed meeting serious birders at various recommended sites in the valley who were gracious about sharing their bird knowledge and birding skills with amateurs. With their help we positively identified Pyrruloxia (affectionately known as cone heads), green-tailed towhees, lesser goldfinches, and three kinds of orioles. We were blessed at one site to see the elusive brown jay. Old favorites were seen and heard such as chachalacas, carcaras and kiskadees, all named after their raucous cries.

Oranges being abundant in the valley, it has become the custom at wildlife and birding centers to set out half-oranges on branches and in feeders. Some birds come to eat the fruit, others to eat the insects attracted to the fruit. Another stable treat is equal parts of lard (softened in the microwave) and peanut butter mixed with cornmeal, generously slapped on tree limbs and feeders with a spatula! Thanks to this food, we got a good look at colorful locals such as the green jays, Altamira orioles, various warblers, and a black-tufted titmouse.

Familiar birds were white pelicans, sandhill cranes, and turkey vultures. Many species of ducks winter in Texas, as well as shore and water birds. A good part of our daily lists includes species of these birds, some new to us. Other familiar birds spotted from the car or found in parks were robins, bluebirds, woodpeckers, and great-tailed grackles.

We stopped to visit the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on our way home to Nebraska and were thrilled to see two families of whooping cranes there on January 3. This sighting is the highlight of the 2012 list so far! It is fantastic to look back on our travels through the compilation of daily lists of birds seen. We expect a much longer list this year as we will be watching and recording much more seriously now. This activity adds a delightful dimension to the hobby of birding. We recommend that anyone who has not tried this do so in 2012, whether you stay at home or plan to travel.

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: whitehouse.gov/contact/

Senator Ben Nelson

440 N 8th St Ste 120, Lincoln NE 68508
Lincoln phone: (402) 441-4600 Fax: (402) 476-8753
Wash. DC phone: (202) 224-6551 Fax: (202) 228-0012
E-mail: senator@bennelson.senate.gov

Senator Mike Johanns

100 Centennial Mall N Rm 294, Lincoln NE 68508-3803
Lincoln phone: (402) 476-1400 Fax: (402) 476-0605
Wash. DC phone: (202) 224-4224 Fax: (202) 228-0436
E-mail: mike_johanns@johanns.senate.gov

Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (1st District)

301 S 13th 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 Lee Terry (2nd District)

11717 Burt St Ste 106, Omaha NE 68154
Omaha phone: (402) 397-9944
Wash. DC phone: (202) 225-4155 Fax: (202) 226-5452
E-mail at website: <http://leeterry.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 Dave Heineman

Capitol Bldg, PO Box 94848, Lincoln NE 68509-4848
Phone: (402) 471-2244 Fax: (402) 471-6031
E-mail: dave.heineman@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 208, Lincoln NE 68508-2828
Phone: (402) 441-7511 Fax: (402) 441-7120
E-mail: mayor@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln City Council

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

Lincoln Journal Star

Letters to the editor, 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 wachiskaooffice@inebraska.com or (402) 486-4846.

OR

National Membership in National Audubon Society

By using this coupon for new (introductory) memberships and for first-time gifts, a portion will be returned to Wachiska.

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

C2ZP040Z

Empty Bathroom Tissue Tubes Needed NOW

Wachiska Audubon is sponsoring a big event on February 18 (see page 3) where **600 empty toilet paper tubes and 400 pine cones** will be needed, in addition to yarn and string. Begin collecting today and bring to the February 9 general meeting. **Volunteers are also needed.** Call Chuck Francis for details at 402-483-6727 or drop supplies by the Wachiska office.

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. Recent sightings, questions, and new photos are all welcome.

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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**.