

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

JANUARY 2012

Volume 21 - Issue 1

General Meeting — Thursday, January 12, 7:00 p.m., Dick Administration Building, Union College



Pine siskin

Nebraska's Winter Birds

with Dr. Paul A. Johnsgard
by Arlys Reitan



Spotted towhee

For many die-hard Audubon members the holiday season is marked by the annual Christmas Bird Count which has taken place across North America and the Caribbean for 112 years. Friends join together to spend a day finding as many species as possible and even count the number of individual birds in each species from dawn until dusk (or later?) that are seen or recognizably heard and identified on a given day. For the Lincoln area, this was Saturday, December 17, in 2011.

At our January general meeting, our good friend Paul Johnsgard has agreed to recall his experiences with the CBC and winter birding, in general. According to Paul in his December 2011 article, "The Feathers of Winter," published in *Prairie Fire* newspaper, he has been testing the idea that warmer winter temperatures have caused birds to move northward during this time. He chose 200 bird species known to spend winters in our area and studied their behavior for 40 years from the winters of 1967-68 to 2006-07.

Come to Wachiska's January 12 program to learn the highlights of Dr. Johnsgard's study; a small portion of his results reporting: ". . .it is worth noting that a large proportion of the species studied exhibited a significant northward winter movement in their abundance peaks, which often shifted one state northward and sometimes moved even farther north. These results support the increasingly accepted position that significant climatic warming has been occurring in the Great Plains since at least the 1960s."

Paul A. Johnsgard is a Foundation Professor of Biological Science Emeritus of the University of Nebraska, retiring in 2001 after 40 years at UNL. His research has concentrated on the comparative biologies of several major bird groups of the world, having published 10 world monographs and 10 monographs on various North American bird groups. Besides writing, nearly all of Johnsgard's books have been personally illustrated by him, using either line drawings or photographs. His drawings, photographs, and wood sculptures are represented in several private art collections and museums. He has published 53 books and is by far the most prolific writer of non-fiction or fiction books in Nebraska's history, and also correspondingly the world's most prolific author of ornithological literature. Among his many awards and achievements, in 2008 he was honored by the National Audubon Society with their Charles H. Callison Award. He was the first University of Nebraska faculty member to win all three major faculty awards, the Distinguished Teaching Award, the Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award, and a Regent's Professorship. In 2001 he received an Honorary D.Sc. degree from the University of Nebraska.

Join Dr. Paul Johnsgard and other Wachiskans on **Thursday, January 12, 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

January 2012

- 3 Population/Environment Committee, Gere Library, 6:30 p.m.
- 5 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 4:00 p.m.
- 12 Board Meeting, Union College Library, 5:15 p.m.
- 12 General Meeting, "Nebraska's Winter Birds," by Dr. Paul Johnsgard, Union College Dick Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
- 16 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Newsletter submission deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 22 Field trip to Rock Creek, 10:30 a.m. (page 2)
- 26 Legislation Committee, DaVinci's, 11th & G streets, 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming Highlights (mark your calendars)

February 9 – General Meeting, "Sustainability of Water Resources in Nebraska," by Jeff Beuttner

March 8 – General Meeting, "On Fire for Phlox," by Jim Locklear

Wachiska Audubon Office: 402-486-4846

Email: wachiskaoffice@inebraska.com



Field Trip

Winter Hike around Rock Creek

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Are you ready for a change of scenery? Join Wachiskans for an exploration of public lands in the Rock Creek area near Fairbury, about 67 miles southwest of Lincoln. Several hundred acres of virgin and restored tallgrass prairie are intersected by woody ravines eroded to expose Dakota sandstone in places. Historic trail ruts can be seen where wagons on the Oregon-California Trail, Overland stages, and Pony Express riders left their mark on the prairie. We'll be on the lookout for birds and signs of other wildlife during our wintry hike.

We'll meet at **10:30 a.m.** on **Sunday, January 22**, in the Wachiska office parking lot at 4547 Calvert Street to caravan or carpool. Dress warm for winter temperatures and wear footwear appropriate for uneven terrain. Participants may want to bring water and a sack lunch or purchase snacks at a pit stop. Bring binoculars if you have them. The public is welcome. If you have questions or want to meet up with the group at Rock Creek Station, call John at 402-475-7275.



From the Board ...

by Jessi Umberger

Winter Birding

As the cold weather pushes us indoors it is important to remember not all of our outdoor friends fly south for the winter. Sometimes it is easy to sit inside by the fire until spring returns, but we felt it was important to remind and inform you of ways to keep the birds coming, and your enthusiasm going, throughout the chilly months.



Jessi Umberger with boyfriend Jeremy

Just as our diet changes from summer to winter, so does the birds'. With insects becoming less available through nature, we should remember to keep our feeders full of the more popular seeds. Your mix should include black oil sunflower seeds, nyger, safflower seeds, white millet, suet, along with plenty of water. Red-breasted nuthatches, dark-eyed juncos, Harris's and white-crowned sparrows, pine siskins, purple finches, American tree sparrows, and cedar waxwings are a few of the birds you are sure to attract this winter. And when the big storm hits, they will be there hungry and chirpy, and fun to look at on a cold winter day.

Another wonderful activity to keep the birds coming is to make pine cone birdfeeders. This is a creative way to get younger children involved in birding. You'll need these items: pine cone, paper plate, butter knife, smooth peanut butter, birdseed, ribbon or yarn, and scissors. First, cut a long length of yarn or ribbon to hang the feeder. Tie the ribbon in a knot around the pine cone near the top, and tie a knot in the end of the ribbon. Place some birdseed on a paper plate, and use the knife to put a large clump of peanut butter on the plate. Then spread the peanut butter inside the pine cone and around the edges, roll the pine cone in the birdseed, hang the bird feeder on a tree, and Enjoy! I recommend creating your own birdseed mix, as many premixed bags contain fillers not appealing or nutritional to birds. (Remember Wachiska is having a birdseed sale next month!)

After you have made your feeders and hung them for the birds to enjoy, it may be nice to cozy up with a good book from the local library. A great one for children is *Birds in Your Backyard (Sharing Nature with Children)* by Barbara Herkert. It not only has wonderful illustrations but is mostly about winter birds and can be enjoyed by all ages.

Another easy activity to pass time on cold afternoons is to check out some of the great websites about birds. Keep your local library in mind for this, especially if you do not have a home computer. A few of my favorite websites are projectbeak.org and www.nebraskabirdlibrary.org. Both include games, birding tips, and identification guides. For more local activities, check out lincolnsafari.org/. This site encourages healthy families to play outside. It includes locations throughout Lincoln and surrounding areas such as parks, wetlands, gardens, lakes, and monuments that are great places for birding or just enjoying nature.

At Pioneers Park Nature Center, there is the Chet Ager Building and the Prairie Building. Both have exhibits including information and hands-on activities about wetlands and woodlands, live animals including snakes, turtles, American kestrels, screech owls and a barn owl, and windows overlooking a garden with feeders to attract a variety of birds.

Be sure not to forget about the Great Backyard Bird Count to be held in February. It's a good time to stock your birdfeeders with winter favorites to attract as many different birds as you can!

As a nature lover, I thought it was important to get involved locally which is why I joined Wachiska in 2011. I am an active member of the population and environment committee and an at-large member of the Board. It has been a busy year with the Backyard Wildlife Habitat Tour, Earth Day activities, and monthly meetings which always prove to be entertaining and informative. Along with being new to Wachiska, I am very new to birding and look forward to learning from those who have been members and bird enthusiasts for years.

Call for Volunteers

Contact one of Wachiska's Board members (see back of newsletter) or leave a message at the office at 402-486-4846 if you wish to volunteer or if you can help in some way. It really is satisfying—and the friends you'll meet are the best.

Wachiska Audubon Against Pipeline

Joining many other voices in the environmental community, Wachiska Audubon passed a resolution at the October 13 Board meeting in opposition to the construction of a pipeline across the state to carry tar sands crude oil from Canada to Texas.

Citing the potential for oil spills in areas above the fragile Ogallala Aquifer and many unknowns about the safety of the venture, Wachiska President Dr. Chuck Francis stated concerns about lack of adequate safeguards for pipeline security and possible long-term impacts on water quality. He underlined the importance of following the precautionary principle when there are multiple unknown factors involved in assuring environmental integrity of the valuable Sandhills ecosystem, and diversion of attention from the more important issue of energy conservation in our society.

Introducing another dimension of the question of damages from an oil spill, microbiologist and Wachiska Vice President Dr. Anne Vidaver noted that little is known about the biological activity in the aquifer. "Most bioremediation of petroleum products is carried out by specific microorganisms, and we know close to nothing about the biological community in the aquifer. Whereas organisms in our oceans, rivers, and lakes have long been exposed to different levels of fossil fuels and developed a capacity to help detoxify them, the pristine waters of the Ogallala have never faced this challenge. It is highly unlikely that such microbes are present and would be effective in remediation. Experience has shown that introduced microorganisms from other sites are rarely effective in a new environment."

For these reasons, the Wachiska Audubon Board voted to oppose construction of the pipeline, and especially warned of the potential dangers of building across this precious aquifer that is unique to Nebraska. It is a natural legacy on which we depend for drinking water, for irrigation, and for recreation, and a renewable resource that we must pass on to our children and future generations.

(Editor's Note: The link below is to an excellent article about how there is a glut of crude oil in Cushing, Oklahoma, which happens to be the south end of TransCanada's Keystone I Pipeline that passes through eastern Nebraska and went into service in July 2010. To eliminate the glut and move the surplus crude to Gulf Coast refineries, TransCanada is proposing to build the Cushing/Gulf Coast segment of the Keystone XL Pipeline. This is an interesting article at <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Canada-pipeline-firms-sprint-rb-3979264381.html?x=0&l=1>.)

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.

Conservation Easements are Valuable

(Reprinted with permission of the Lincoln Journal Star, Friday, December 23, 2011, Page B5)

The impending attempt to weaken permanent conservation easements in Nebraska is disturbing. If successful, the effort could take away one of the few tools available in Nebraska for private land conservation.

Preservation of natural resources on private land is particularly important in Nebraska. About 97 percent of the land in Nebraska is privately owned. By comparison, in the nation as a whole, only about 70 percent of the land is in private hands. In simple terms, a conservation easement is a set of restrictions to which a private owner voluntarily agrees on the use of the land. They allow a farmer or rancher to continue owning the property, and the property owner continues to pay taxes.

An easement might require that property be left in its natural state, or it could allow for the land to be farmed, or for grasslands to be used for grazing.

Spearheading the effort to place limits on conservation easements in the 2012 legislative session is Sen. Tom Carlson of Holdrege. His bill, LB529, was held over last year by the Natural Resources Committee.

Carlson's bill would strip property owners of significant rights. For example, a property owner no longer would be able to grant easements to private conservation organizations for longer than 10 years without government approval from local county boards.

The bill also would prevent the Nebraska Environmental Trust, which disburses lottery proceeds to environmental projects in accordance with a constitutional amendment approved by voters, from making grants to private groups for easements or land acquisition.

In reality, conservation easements don't even amount to much of a trend in Nebraska. According to the 2010 National Land Trust Census Report, Nebraska ranks only 43rd in the nation in acres protected through conservation easements. Mace Hack of The Nature Conservancy said that the 11 conservation groups hold 78 conservation easements in the state that cover about 46,000 acres, or less than one, one-thousandth of the state's land area.

Some opposition to conservation easements comes from outside the state's borders. Washington-based think tanks are working overtime on a disinformation campaign to portray conservation easements as an attack on property rights.

In reality, the opposite is true.

Fortunately, Nebraska's conservation groups are working to create a unified front against the effort to weaken conservation easements.

But, as Mark Twain reportedly said, a lie can make it halfway around the world while truth is getting its boots on. Let's hope that truth gets its boots on in Nebraska before the legislative session gets under way.

Create Your Own Bird Habitat

by Chuck Francis, Population & Environment Committee

Many good things can start right at home, including enhanced habitat for birds. The Winter 2011 bulletin from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum is focused on *Beneficial Landscapes* and has several great articles about what you can do on your own property to increase food supply and safe space for wildlife, and most changes involve little or no cost—just creative planning and some elbow grease. Justin Evertson calls this “bringing nature home” by creating biodiversity, healthy soil, and desirable habitat. Here are some specific ideas.

Christina Hoyt provides nine low-cost ideas to improve your landscape:

- Reduce maintenance with less inputs on lawn, collecting and saving water, creating compost, and mulching with your own materials.
- Add some organic matter every time you start a new landscape bed in the yard, as this helps improve soil quality and water-holding capacity.
- Add native shrubs and grasses to your home site landscape, and be sure that this is a diverse array of species.
- Plant shade trees for habitat and environmental impact, and especially native trees; purchase small trees that grow quickly; plant another tree.
- Put clover in the lawn instead of creating a grass monoculture, as this provides nitrogen fixed from the atmosphere and makes the lawn more biodiverse.
- Plant perennial shrubs and grasses to make great habitat for insects and provide cover and safe space for small birds and other animals.
- Construct a rain garden to use water from the roof and driveway, and plant deep-rooted native perennials.
- Do all of the above and then keep adding native and beneficial plants while you are cutting down on turf.

Speaking of turf, we now have more than 40 million acres in the U.S. Kendall Weyers points out that reducing this area by 25 percent and planting biodiverse mixtures of native plants would create 10 million acres of additional habitat or productive vegetable and fruit gardens, also home to many beneficial organisms if managed without pesticides. Just mowing our lawns consumes 800 million gallons of fuel per year, and this could also be cut by one-fourth with permanent plantings, a move to reduce noise and air pollution as well.

When should we start on these projects? Karma Larsen recommends adding a new planting bed every year where we now have turf. She suggests covering the new area with layers of soaked newspaper followed by multiple layers of leaves, compost, and organic kitchen waste. This can be a foot or more high since it will be digested by soil critters to half that height by spring and all the additions will contribute to soil organic matter. Avoid using wood chips or other concentrated carbon source and

don't apply chemicals. By spring this should be ready, even if we start a bit late, although it is better to start in fall before things begin to freeze.

This bulletin has a wealth of references as well as creative ideas. I am ready to cover up some more lawn and provide additional habitat in our own yard. You can get more information on their website: <http://arboretum.unl.edu/pubsandwritings.html>.

Is Climate Change for the Birds?

by Chuck Francis, Population & Environment Committee

In the ongoing debate about impacts of global climate change, there are many uncertainties and predicted winners and losers. Rainfall and temperature patterns change, frequencies of unpredictable and severe weather events increase, and climate in some regions becomes more favorable for agriculture, in others less desirable. Sea levels rise, displacing millions of people who live in low-lying areas, causing substantial social unrest that impacts us all. Perhaps what is suffering most in the short term is the credibility of science?

In a recent issue of *Eos*, the journal of the American Geophysical Union, results from a survey of 10,000 earth scientists indicated that nine out of 10 “agree that the climate is warming and human activity is a significant contributing factor” [Center for Rural Affairs, December 2011]. If we were to find this same level of technical confidence to support personal decisions—decide on a critical medical procedure, choose a job according to a test of our personal competence and qualifications, or even opt for a hybrid car as our next step in transportation—the choice would probably be obvious. Then why do so many follow the unfounded political rhetoric that discounts the evidence of science, that insists on selectively choosing data to support supposed short-term economic gains, and that pursues a far-fetched argument that somehow accepting climate change as reality will diminish our status as a world power? Do we fear the reality that we are not always in control and the certainty that “nature really bats last?”

According to Chuck Hassebrook writing in this same newsletter, “Could the minority be right? They could be, but how much are we willing to bet on the skeptical minority? By the time every doubt is erased it will be too late to take action to control the risks. And is it moral for us to refuse to sacrifice, knowing that our children and grandchildren will suffer the consequences if the overwhelming majority of scientists are proven right?”

We pursue a risky path if we ignore the precautionary principle. Our future and that of current ecosystems and all their inhabitants is especially at risk if we choose to ignore the best science available in favor of short-term greed and economic gain. As a local business man told me recently, “Maybe global warming will open the Northwest Passage and give us cheaper trade routes around the globe? Polar bears going extinct? No problem—we have some in the Henry Doorly Zoo right here in Omaha.” I suspect those of like minds would say the same about disappearing bird species. We have a moral obligation to seek higher ground than to pursue present creature comforts and economic advantage at the expense of the long-term future of our entire ecosystem.

Snowy Owl Invasion

The following was submitted by Shari Schwartz and John Carlini, Wachiska's field trip committee leaders. They compiled this information from several birding listservs during December.

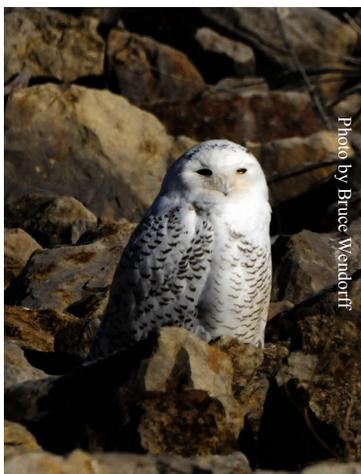
Snowy owls are irrupting this winter in northern states from Washington to Maine. There have been a handful of reports in Nebraska, and one bird near Alvo posed cooperatively for local birders December 2.

Woodbury County in northwest Iowa has hosted 12 individuals so far, based on location and plumage differences that birders in that area have documented. In a normal year, about 10 snowy owls are found in Wisconsin, but at least 80 individuals have already been documented in that state. One snowy owl even made a trans-oceanic flight to the Honolulu, Hawaii airport only to be shot and killed when it wouldn't leave the runway area. Many of the sightings have been immature birds whose displacement and lack of hunting experience can contribute to starvation unless raptor rehabilitators are able to intervene and save these magnificent creatures. Arctic researchers reported near-record lemming numbers this year which means excellent reproduction conditions for snowy owls that may breed mainly when food is abundant. This has led to speculation that the birds being reported are some of those youngsters that were pushed south due to competition for food and winter territories further north. An interesting Google map created by Madison, Wisconsin birder Jesse Ellis tracks many of the sightings and can be viewed on the Internet by searching the phrase "Snowy owls in the upper US and Canada 2011-12."

Pictured here is the snowy owl photographed by Wachiskan Bruce Wendorff at Smithville Lake north of Kearney, Missouri, which is a large recreation area. Bruce captured about 185 shots of this owl on Friday, December 16. Smithville Lake is about 170 miles south of Lincoln. On the way, Bruce drove through Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge where he saw a golden eagle, 18 bald eagles (mostly immatures), about 50 trumpeter swans, and many ducks, in addition to approximately 200,000 snow geese. The water was not frozen over, so there was lots of activity.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this unusual and interesting report.

Some of you may want to give memorial gifts to Wachiska Audubon to remember loved ones who have passed away. If you wish to contribute in this way, we will gratefully accept your gift and send a personal acknowledgement to the loved one's family. You may designate a particular area you would like your gift to go toward, or specify that it be included in the general fund. Contact Arlys if you have questions or mail your gifts directly to the office.



Snowy owl

2012 Wachiska Board Announced

by Chuck Francis, Outgoing President

As this January 2012 edition of *The Babbling Brook* goes to the printer, I am happy to report that most Board positions and committee chairs have been elected, appointed, or coerced (?) at this point.

Anne Vidaver has graciously agreed to serve as Wachiska's president for 2012. Now that Anne has retired from UNL where she was a professor of plant pathology, we are ready to put her to work fulltime!

Returning to complete their second or third year as a Board member and officer are Bob Boyce as recording secretary, Marge Shriver as corresponding secretary, and Treasurer Gary Fehr. Along with the vice president and immediate past president, these positions make up the executive committee.

Wachiska is still in need of a member to serve as vice president for this coming year. The duties of this position are to work with the president, represent the chapter, and cover for the president when she is unable to attend or chair a meeting. Unlike many other Audubon chapters, the vice president has no other specific duties. There is always the hope that after having become acquainted with the chapter and work of the Board, the vice president will consider moving up to the helm in the future; but this is not a prerequisite for serving as VP.

Those members serving as directors at large and committee representatives to the Board are as follows:

Director at Large - Bob DenHartog (new)
Director at Large - Barbara DiBernard (new)
Director at Large - Jessi Umberger
Conservation - Heidi Hillhouse
Education - Chris Thody
Field Trips - Ken Reitan
Legislation - Bruce Mellberg
Membership - Barb Francis
Population/Environment - Chuck Francis

See the back page of any issue of this newsletter for committee chairs and telephone numbers for all chapter leaders.

You are Appreciated!



We want to recognize with heartfelt thanks and appreciation the three Board members who have fulfilled their term and are going off the Board: Joe Francis of the population & environment committee; Bruce Wendorff, director at large; and Carol Rustad as director at large.

W.A.R.B.L.E.R

(Wachiska Audubon Readers' Bulletins, Letters, and Environmental Reports)

Vice President Needed

Work with dedicated people devoted to birds, nature, and the environment for current and future generations. Enjoy stimulating challenges and conversations. Help with the continuation of a long line of active Wachiska participants. Talk with a current officer or Board member (see list on page 8). We need your skills and time in 2012. Contact Anne Vidaver, Chuck Francis, any Board member, or the Wachiska office for more information.

Cookie Donors Recognized

It must be stated again that Wachiska has some of the best (and most faithful) bakers around. Our general meetings adjourn to sample homemade cookies, brownies, quick breads, cupcakes, and other treats washed down with gourmet coffees and teas.

Shannon Moncure headed up the committee for a few years. She is now working on an advanced degree, so her mother, Cheryl Moncure, has stepped up as team leader. Meanwhile, those phone calls for cookies are coming all the way from Iowa as Brittany Dabestani lives in Council Bluffs and makes the calls from there. We genuinely appreciate your contributions by serving as our hospitality team.

Thank you to those members who furnished baked goods for general meetings, candidate forums, and other functions this past year (with many contributing several times):

Mitzi Wiggle	Joe Francis	Carolyn Rieke
Shannon Moncure	Karen Case	Camy Svoboda
Loris Purtzer	Rosina Paolini	Joyce Vannier
Bob Boyce	Elaine Monnier	Starla Schleicher
Carol Rustad	Lois Poppe	Betty Dasenbrock
Vera Mae Lutz	Clare Sward	Judi Cook
Pat Stephen	Marge Shriver	Elaine Rose
Lynn Darling	Betty Safranek	Peg Fletcher
Marlene Cupp	Leona Braziel	Joanne Pepperl

We apologize if anyone's name was omitted and would appreciate knowing this information. Also, if you would be able to furnish three dozen goodies for a meeting in 2012, please contact Brittany at brittanydabestani@gmail.com or the Wachiska office.

From our Members

Dear Friends, I will not longer be living in Nebraska, so remove my name from any mailing lists . . . I thank you for the wonderful informative programs and bird outings I attended. I will now be living in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Irene M.

Want Birdseed this Winter/Spring??

For over 20 years, Wachiska has held two birdseed sales each year, in February and again in October. The purpose of this venture has been two-fold: to provide our members and customers with quality seed and to raise funds to maintain the chapter's activities.

This year we do not have a chairperson to head up this event. Last fall the office manager handled it, and this spring a committee with a leader is necessary. If you can help with any of the many tasks of ordering the seed, developing the invoices, helping with recordkeeping, unloading the semi and/or loading product into customers' vehicles, writing the press release, composing a final newsletter report, etc. please let Arlys know right away. According to past years, the spring sale should take place in mid-February. But lead time is necessary to contact the supplier for price lists, revise the order form and mailing list, and get the word out. Call or email Arlys in the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846 or wachiskaoffice@inebraska.com. Hopefully this service will continue as long as our customers are feeding birds!

Nova Scotia Birding Trip Still Open— June 25-July 3

See the Maritimes with a local resident. Audubon member Russell Duerksen will lead and Barbara Mason of Wallace, NS will host a trip covering the many habitats of the Maritimes. Bird and stay at a working farm where 100+ species have been observed. Enjoy the food and produce of Prince Edward Island and the shearwaters, puffins, auks, and whales of Cape Breton. Experience Canada Day and the Highland Games in a Scottish community. Swim in the warmest water north of the Carolinas at the Northumberland Strait. Visit the Maritimes at the height of breeding season as we look for 25+ warblers. Enjoy the majestic views and beauty of Cape Breton National Park. 150+ species expected. Three spaces remain.

Three cost options: (1) Package deal with transportation in Nova Scotia and motels, 2 boat trips, \$1,450 double occupancy. Most meals not included. You are responsible for your own travel to Nova Scotia; (2) Same as 1, but at working farm for 4 nights. \$1,250; (3) Drive your own RV or trailer or drive your car and camp. Drive your own vehicle in Nova Scotia. Guide services, camping fees, all park admissions, puffin boat, whale boat, ferries, and tolls. \$500/person.

A \$125 deposit is required to hold your space. Of this amount \$100/person will be donated to Wachiska Audubon. If interested contact Russell at 928-925-5567 or duerksen@msn.com.

Birding the Net Screensaver

An exclusive *Birding the Net* screensaver captures the fun and beauty of the game's virtual birds. You can download the screensaver: <http://www.audubon.org/birdingthenetscreensaver>.

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 _____

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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.

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Enclose introductory membership fee of \$20.

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Lincoln NE 68506-5643 COZP040Z

Have a Bird ID Question?

National Audubon offers a free and searchable Audubon Online Bird Guide. This interactive guide to North American birds features 750 species of birds, covering all of North America's regular breeding birds plus an additional 180 species from south of the border. Just click on the Bird Guide button located on the Audubon homepage slideshow or go to <http://birds.audubon.org>.

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 is a proud member of Community Services Fund, a federation of nonprofit agencies improving the quality of life throughout Nebraska by preserving resources, expanding knowledge, encouraging creativity, and protecting rights. Learn more at www.communityservicesfund.org.

Serving Donors. Serving Causes.
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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**.