



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

JUNE 2012

Volume 21 - Issue 6

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



## How to Identify Birds—and Have Fun Doing It

by Kevin Poague, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center

LeConte's sparrow

**B**irdwatching is a hobby enjoyed by people all over the world. The benefits are many: one gets exercise outdoors, it's inexpensive, and people can visit faraway places or their own backyard to see beautiful birds.

With the many different kinds of birds that can be seen (Nebraska's state list alone stands at 455 species), it can be intimidating to go beyond the robins and blue jays one sees every day. But learning how to recognize any sparrow other than a house sparrow can open up a whole new world of birds to enjoy.

This presentation will be an introduction to birdwatching, giving tips and techniques that will help you distinguish similar birds from each other. It will promote various ways birders can help researchers learn more about bird populations and migration patterns by taking part in national bird counts.

Because I work at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, located three miles south of Denton, I will also present photos of birds seen at our sanctuary. This 808-acre tallgrass prairie preserve has native prairie, woodland, pond, and wetland habitats that so far have attracted 216 bird species. Birders and photographers from near and far have found Spring Creek Prairie to be a must-see destination to observe special prairie birds such as Henslow's and LeConte's sparrows, bobolinks, upland sandpipers, and Sprague's pipits.

*Editor's Note:*  
Kevin Poague is currently operations manager at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, where he has worked since 1998. He is a former president of Wachiska in addition to serving as newsletter layout person, treasurer, and member of the Birdathon committee. In 2002, Kevin received the chapter's President's Award. He is secretary of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union and has previously worked for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and Pioneers Park Nature Center.



Kevin Poague

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, June 14, at 7:00 p.m.** for this free public presentation in the Dick Administration auditorium on Union College campus. Due to current construction of a new math and science building on campus, alternate directions and parking will be necessary. You will not be able to approach the campus from Bancroft Avenue (northwest side of campus). Here are possibilities for parking which may have to be followed for several months:

- 1.) Approach campus from the south or east. Come in off 48th Street onto Prescott by the church. There is parking behind the church.
- 2.) You can come in this same route and go past the church to the boys' dorm and the gym areas where there is parking.
- 3.) There is street parking on either side of 48th Street and use the campus walks to the Dick Building. You'll be able to come in the west doors or go around to the doors we usually use on the east side.
- 4.) You should be able to come in from Calvert Street at about 50th Street where there is parking. It is farther to walk from this parking lot to the Dick Building.

### Calendar

#### June

- 2 Field trip to Fontenelle Forest, 8:00 a.m. (page 2)
- 5 P/E Committee, 4435 Pioneers Blvd., 7:00 p.m.
- 7 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 4:00 p.m.
- 14 Board Meeting, Union College Library, 5:15 p.m.
- 14 General Meeting, "How to Identify Birds—and Have Fun Doing It," by Kevin Poague, Union College Dick Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
- 17 **Backyard Habitat Tour, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** (page 3)
- 18 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.



## Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

### Fontenelle Forest Survives the Flood

A year ago it was hard to imagine that the massive old lowlands of Fontenelle Forest were about to be engulfed by the Missouri River. Today the river is back in its designated channel, and the forest is once again thriving and full of bird song.

Expert birder Justin Rink will guide our exploration of the lowlands as well as the uplands on a treasure hunt for Fontenelle specialties. Justin has birded this forest extensively and knows where we can try our luck at seeing unique species like pileated woodpecker, cerulean warbler, and Kentucky warbler. He also reports such trees as sycamores, cottonwoods, and elms survived the flood while species like box elder and ash perished. Our hike will allow us a chance to see the previously flooded area.

Meet **Saturday, June 2, at 8:00 a.m.** in the parking lot at the east end of Gifford Road. From I-80, take exit 439 and Highway 370 east to Bellevue (in this Omaha area). Turn north on Fort Crook Road and travel to Child's Road where you will turn and drive east until it turns into Gifford Road. A self-pay station to fund forest preservation is located in the parking lot. Bring a water bottle, insect repellent, and binoculars if you have them. The public is welcome. Contact John or Shari at 402-475-7275 if you have questions.

### Prairie Maintenance Day

by Sam Truax, Conservation Committee

A group of dedicated volunteers spent some of their day on March 31 at Wachiska's Klapka prairie and farm working to reduce the invasive musk thistle and non-native tree encroachments. Marilyn McNabb, Arnold Mendenhall, Tim Knott, Bob DenHartog, Stu Luttich, and I accomplished much, but more work days and volunteers would be beneficial in the future, especially with the additional cleanup that may be required as a result of wind destruction of one of the buildings since the work group was there.

Update: Additional workdays were scheduled April 28 and May 5, but weather conditions caused them to be canceled. On May 9, an impromptu workday was initiated and attended by Arnold Mendenhall and Stu Luttich, so at least some work got done before summer conditions limited what work would be effective. More workdays may be scheduled in the future.

If you are interested in this type of activity, contact me at 402-325-9012 or the Wachiska office. (See related workgroup announcement in WARBLER column on page 6.)



## From the Board ...

by Bob DenHartog

### The Homesteader

What do you think is the greatest manmade environmental catastrophe that has visited the United States in its history? Was it the Gulf oil spill, the Exxon Valdez, Three-mile Island, the dust bowl, or what comes to mind for you?



**Bob DenHartog on the lookout tower at Mahoney State Park**

During the Gulf oil spill in 2010, my family and I visited Homestead National

Monument near Beatrice. For those who have not been there, what you see as you approach the entrance to the main visitor center are plaques along a wall in the shape of each homesteaded state with a cut-out representing the relative acreage given up for that purpose in each state. As I looked at the plaques, I wondered what thoughts scrolled in people's minds as they passed by.

Being raised in the black deserts of the Midwest and having an ecological conscience, my thoughts immediately raced to the conclusion that the Homestead Act was indeed the precursor to the greatest environmental catastrophe in American history. While this may be true, my thoughts would then mellow to a memory of my great-grandfather whom I knew as a boy.

Like many of you, I have family that homesteaded. My great-grandfather, a German immigrant who homesteaded as a boy in South Dakota, told me a story about how once a Native American's horse accidentally trampled his dog to death. I imagined my great-grandpa was distraught. But the story continued. The next day the Indian returned. He dismounted his horse and without a word, handed my great-grandfather a new puppy. What an amazing story! It's a reminder the Homestead Act is not some abstract thing—it's about real people, struggles, fears, and hope for a better life. It's about the American dream.

In this, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Homestead Act, it's fitting that we honor those who have come before us and be grateful for the life and country my great-grandfather and others have given us; but equally, I hope we use this anniversary as a moment to reflect on the great tragedy of the things we've lost as a consequence.

I am a new member of the Wachiska Board, serving in an at-large position this year and am also active with the conservation committee. Growing up in southwest Minnesota, I graduated from South Dakota State University and am employed by Pfizer Animal Health in Lincoln. My wife and sons also enjoy watching the wildlife near our acreage north of town. My great-grandfather, of whom I write above, was an Iowa County Conservation board member. Like the trees he planted while holding that position, he planted the conservation seed in me.

## Wachiska's 23rd Annual Backyard Habitat Tour

by Anne Senkbeil, Chair

Join Wachiska Audubon on **Father's Day, Sunday, June 17**, for our 23rd Backyard Wildlife Habitat Tour. We are primarily concentrating on northeast Lincoln this year. Yards will be open from **11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.** at which time all gardens will close. Visit the gardens in any order.



You will receive a sticker wherever you begin that will admit you to all locations. Maps and descriptive brochures will be available at all sites. Adults are asked for a \$5 donation with kids under 12 admitted free with an adult.

If you would like to volunteer at any of the sites, please call Anne at 402-423-06524. Volunteers receive a free pass to see all of the 11 gardens.

Featured gardens on the Tour this year are:

- Brian Herting - 6920 Havelock Avenue
- Judy & Kevin Welch - 1100 North 80th Street
- Resa & Doug Wiltse - 821 North 81st Street
- Marlys & Marv Beuning - 7730 West Avon Lane
- Game & Parks (public space) - 2200 North 33rd Street
- Cathy & John McQuinn - 1100 North 37th Street
- Lora Black - 1221 North 37th Street
- Lynn Frankowski - 1231 North 37th Street
- Susan Nichols - 1245 North 37th Street
- Mary Eisenhart - 1420 North 37th Street
- Denny Macomber - 1444 North 37th Street

## Endangered Species Act a Success

by Chuck and Barb Francis  
Population & Environment Committee

With the growing clamor from some political factions to shrink the government and reduce budgets of key agencies, the impacts of numerous federal programs that directly affect wildlife come into question. These include protection of habitat, regulation and monitoring of natural resources, and maintaining vigilance on the populations of endangered species. A recent critique by the chair of the House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources concluded that the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is a failure because few of the 1,500 species on the list have been removed over the past four decades. This is a short-sighted and inaccurate interpretation of what has been accomplished, as pointed out in a recent article, "110 Success Stories for Endangered Species Day 2012" [www.esasuccess.org/report\\_2012.html](http://www.esasuccess.org/report_2012.html).

The bottom line of this report is "the ESA has a remarkably successful recovery rate: 90 percent of species are recovering at the rate specified by their federal recovery plan." To cite one more statistic, those species that have recovered in 25 years and been removed from the list were expected to recover in 23 years, according to the original plan—a 91 percent success rate.

One of the reasons why there are misinterpretations of the federal data is that the planned recovery period for most species is quite long—nearly five decades—and most species on the list have not yet been listed that long. Many species will reach their population goals within the next two decades and will then be delisted. It is this longer-term perspective that is essential when dealing with the complexity of biological phenomena, such as reproduction that requires adequate habitat. Preventing hunting relieves pressure on endangered populations. All this must be considered in a time of notable climate change.

Several species of interest to Audubon members are included in the data presented in this report. For example, the California least tern has seen a 30-times increase in nesting pairs since placed on the list. The Aleutian Canada goose listed in 1967 was expected to recover in 34 years, and it was actually delisted seven years ahead of prediction. Listed in 1973 with an expected time of recovery of 34 years was the bald eagle in the continental U.S., and it was removed from the list in 29 years—five years ahead of schedule. Many would confirm this result, thanks to numerous observations in Nebraska. The Atlantic piping plover was almost eliminated due to hunting and harvesting feathers for hats and later due to habitat destruction and predation by introduced species. After protection in 1985, the populations have gradually increased to three times the number of breeding pairs over two decades, and the goals for sustainable populations have almost been reached.

Interested readers can access the entire report online and study these success stories for bird species as well as for mammals, reptiles, and plants. The conclusion we draw is that the ESA has been an unquestioned success, and we should do all in our power to maintain the funding for this important legislation. Those who propose cutting budgets of successful programs take a short-sighted view of the importance of natural systems and ecosystem services; among these are biodiversity and species richness that sustain an intact natural environment, one that we continually erode through human destruction of habitat for other species. As Wendell Berry said in one of his books, "Often we don't know what we are doing because we don't know what we are undoing." His perspective on how we deal with the environment and the complex and interrelated life systems is essential as we move toward a more enlightened and sustainable course for development. We depend on this global ecosystem, and we ignore any undoing of crucial support systems at our own peril.

### *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](mailto: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.

## Birdathon 2012 Gets Boost from Give to Lincoln Day

by Tim Knott, Birdathon Chair

Our members and friends have given us a big push toward our Birdathon goal during the last month, thanks, in part, to online donations during the 24-hour blitz of Give to Lincoln Day. Over 100 members, friends, and supporters participated by either making an online donation or by writing a check during this one-day event. These donors deserve a special thank you. The Give to Lincoln Day donations should mean that Wachiska will gain a significant amount of matching money from the Give to Lincoln Day fund sponsored by the Lincoln Community Foundation.

**Wachiska still needs your donation.** If you are a member or supporter of our activities and programs, please consider a donation this year. A contribution from each Wachiskan is important in reaching our goal. We rely on these gifts to fund our activities each year. If you would like to do your part but cannot find your Birdathon return envelope, just send your check to Wachiska and put "Birdathon" on the memo line. Mail it to Wachiska Audubon, 4547 Calvert St Ste 10, Lincoln NE 68506. Your donation will be put to good use.

A list of bird species seen on the successful birdwatching trips May 12 and 13 will be printed next month. We had great luck in seeing warblers this year.

Birdathon donations received between April 27 and May 31 are listed below along with those giving on Give to Lincoln Day. Thank you, supporters of Wachiska Audubon!!

Randy & Terri Bangert	Peg & Larry Fletcher	Gail Lockard	Carol Stewart
Diane Bartels	Jane & Bob Fredrickson	Paul & Irene Marcussen	Ken Stofferahn
Ann Boisclair & Jeffrey Jens	Rachel Garver	Pete & Linda Maslowski	Kristal & Kevin Stoner
Al & Margaret Brown	David & Kathy Gates	Lillian & William Mesner	Clare & Bobbie Sward
Anne & Joe Bruce	Mary Gordon	Roger & Margaret Miller	Shirley Taylor
Dena Ann & Eston Clarke	Nancy Hall	Don & Joanne Pepperl	Delmar & Alice Timm
Carole Closter	Letha Hamm	Kristen & Tom Powers	Don & Diane Weldon
Dave & Cindy Cochran	Deb Hauswald	Eileen Rock & Tom Stalder	Richard Westling
Craig Connolly	Steve & Rosemarie Heinisch	Annabelle & Melvin Rumbaugh	Robert White
Lynn Darling	Rod & Pat Hier	Mary Russel	Tony White & Lindsey Smith
Jan Deeds	Judy & Charles Homolka	Ruthanna Russel	Melvin Wieben
Mark & Elizabeth Dietz	Betty Jackson	Fred & Virginia Schelert	Dorothy Wise
Doug & Krista Dittman	Thomas Kiefer	Starla & Scott Schleicher	Karel & Linda Znamenacek
Thomas Douglas	Derald Kohles	Marjorie & Arnold Schmidt	
Larry Einemann	Alice Lane	Ruthelen Sittler	

### Gifts received on May 17 during Give to Lincoln Day are as follows:

Nancy Aden	Laurence Falk	Bruce Mellberg	Terry & Shirley Sims
Irene & George Alexander	Gary Fehr & Shannon Moncure	Elaine Monnier	Ruth Snyder
Frank & Jeanne Andelt	Steve Ferris	Robert & Phyllis Narveson	Chris & Vicki Sommerich
Anonymous	Nicole Fleck-Tooze	Elizabeth & Daniel Nelson	Patricia Spitzer
Britton & Barbara Bailey	Chuck & Barb Francis	Richard Odgers	Danny Staehr
Ingrid Bangers	Maureen Franklin	Carol Olson	Mort Stelling
Susan Bauer	Linnea Fredrickson	Chris & Maggie Olson	April Stevenson
Jennifer Becwar	Charles & Wanda Gardner	Nancy Packard	Barbara Straus & Scott Stanfield
Lynne Brehm	Bill Garthright	David Palmer	Linda Sullivan
David Brendle	Linda Geisert	Gene & Patricia Petersen	Deborah Swearingen
Mark & Anessa Brohman	Alyce Green	Duane Polzien	Chris & Tyler Thody
Linda R. Brown	Dale Gubbels	Neva & Ken Pruess	Jessi Umberger
Terri Brown	Carolyn Hall	Loris Purtzer	Laurel Van Ham
Jan & Jim Burch	Twyla & Tom Hansen	Kathie Putensen	Joyce Vannier
Mary Burrow	Phyllis & Gary Hergenrader	Susan Quinn	Lyle Vannier
John Carlini	Nancy & Dan Hinnah	Claudia & John Reinhardt	Verjean Vannier
Eunice Cernohlavek	Carri Honz	Ken & Arlys Reitan	Anne Vidaver
David Corbin	Ron Johnson & Mary Beck	Ted Rethmeier	Dennis & Betty Vodehnal
Betty Cummings	Sharon Johnson	Juanita Rice	Patricia Warner
Anne DeVries & Andrew Pitcher	Jeanne & Rich Kern	Carolyn & Bruce Riddell	David & Nancy Wedin
Barbara DiBernard	Mary & Jim King	Carolyn & Bernie Rieke	Jerry & Mitzi Wiggle
Christie & Pete Dionisopoulos	Ingrid Kirst	Ann Ringlein	Rob & Pat Wikel
Dennis & Stephanie Dohner	Tim Knott	Ernie & Audrey Rousek	Merlin & Darlene Wright
Susan & Matthew Dwyer	Lucy Lien	Cindy Rutan & Dean Cole	
Dika Eckersley	Jon MacDowell	Becky Seth	
Roger Ehlers	Marilyn McNabb	Rachel Simpson & Dan Umstadter	

## New Members

by Joyce Vannier, Membership Chair

Since last month's newsletter, these folks have joined National Audubon and have been assigned to their nearest chapter. Wachiska welcomes each one!

Dean Baughman	Steven Hadley	Tom & Gretchen
Lilly Blase	Jailyn Hagaman	Pesek
Charles Chase	Gordon Harrod	Jerome Polacek
Thomas Chase	Bob Irvin	Ron Sack
James Crouse	Nora Keith	Lorvey Stark
Dean Dumler	Kate Kneeland	Barbara Sullivan
Elizabeth Forman	Erin Masada	Barbara Thomas
Kindra Fox	Nathan Morris	

The following individuals have recently become Friends of Wachiska members:

Lora Black	Denny Macomber	Judy & Kevin
Mary Eisenhart	Cathy & John	Welch
Lynn Frankowski	McQuinn	Resa & Doug Wiltse
Brian Herting	Susan Nichols	

Some people choose to join both groups. We thank all of them and welcome them to Wachiska. If you know somebody in these lists, give them a welcome call!

## Kids' Nature Club of Interest?

by Chris Thody, Chair, Education Committee

Hello, Wachiska Audubon members! Do you have children, grandchildren, or know other children who are interested in nature and birds? Would they like to get more involved with nature activities? If so, we want to know about it! Several area elementary and middle schools have after-school nature clubs, and we would like to offer another opportunity for getting kids outdoors. Target ages for the club might be 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grade, but that could vary depending on what we learn from this inquiry. If there is interest for younger kids to participate or middle-school ages, let us know that, too.

If you have thoughts about this, or would like to help with starting a Wachiska Audubon nature club, please contact me at 402-499-0133 or [christhody@hotmail.com](mailto:christhody@hotmail.com). Once we compile information, we will announce whether we have the interest to start a club and go from there.

## Memorials Received

Wachiska has received the following memorials recently:

In loving memory of our oldest friend, **Lucena Churchill Hendrix**, born May 28, 1922, died January 6, 2012, from the Russel sisters—Ruthanna, Shirley, and Mary.

In memory of my father, **Clyde Stickney**, by Jeanette Tobkin. Jeanette gave undesignated memorials for her father to Wachiska Audubon. Mr. Stickney was a Wachiska member.

## New Communication Center

by Gary Fehr

Wachiska is sporting some new computers these days. Our old computers were purchased in 2004, an eternity in computer years. So it was time for an upgrade and Linda R. Brown came through with a generous donation that was right on target, allowing us to purchase two new Dell computers along with two printers. The laser printer prints faster than the old one and has the option of two-sided printing to cut paper use. The color printer is a scanner/printer combo.

The computers came installed with the latest Windows 7 operating system and have plenty of memory and hard drive space to keep up with the ever-increasing horsepower that today's software packages require. We were able to leverage our donation dollars even further by registering with TechSoup, an online organization that negotiates with software companies to make their software available to nonprofits for a nominal fee. By going this route, we were able to get two copies of Microsoft Office for \$62 compared to the market price of over \$1,500!

Arlys has already prepared several newsletters with her new computer and puts her email through its paces daily. The membership committee makes extensive use of the board room computer to keep the membership database up to date. Also, Tim Knott always has several projects in the works that make good use of that computer. Last month we upgraded our Internet connection. By bundling the faster service with a new phone plan, we will come out ahead in value for the money spent.

To protect our technology investment, Wachiska is seeking a technically-inclined volunteer who can take the reins and guide us where we need to go. The world is becoming more reliant on technology, so the need is greater than ever to have a knowledgeable and skilled person (or persons) who can assist with this task. The ideal volunteer would be comfortable with Windows, Microsoft Office products, setting up a simple office network, and managing Wachiska's broadband connection. We would also look to our technology volunteer to oversee regular backups and to help office users with occasional "how-to" questions. We estimate such a position would require about 5-10 hours per month. If this sounds like a good fit for you, please call Arlys at the Wachiska office, and we will arrange the next steps!

A member has purchased one of the old computers and a printer. We are offering the other computer and printer for sale to interested members. The specifications are as follows:

### Computer

Processor: AMD 1.8GHz

RAM: 1 GB

Operating System: Windows XP, Service Pack 3

Software: Microsoft Office 2003

Printer: HP PSC 500 - color inkjet/scanner/copier

We are offering the above for sale as a combo. Asking price is \$50. Contact Arlys if you wish to purchase or have questions.

*Editor's Note: Gary didn't mention that he purchased the color printer/scanner himself and donated it to the chapter!*

## Learning the Birds

by Bob Boyce

I long to be able to name the birds I see! It delights me to no end to be able to see or hear a bird and say "Hello, cardinal!" or "Where have you been, wren?"

I wanted to take George and Irene Alexander's famed bird ID class but missed my chance. I've been working on learning the common Nebraska birds, and on my daily neighborhood walks I see and hear cardinals, grackles, mourning doves, robins, sparrows, and starlings. Occasionally I hear or see a black-capped chickadee, crow, blue jay, hawk, house finch, wren, or nuthatch.

Maybe you see and hear all of these every day, especially if you have bird feeders, and you may see or hear others as well. I had a wonderful day recently, out in the country on the Oak Creek Valley Trail riding my bike. I saw the usual suspects, but also several exciting ones—exciting for me! I saw lark buntings, a rose-breasted grosbeak (my first!), an American goldfinch, red-winged blackbirds, a bluebird, brown thrashers, and a red-headed woodpecker.

But there were several bird calls I didn't recognize, and I wasn't sure of the lark bunting or the American goldfinch until I came home and looked at my *Birds of Nebraska* book. I'm trying to figure out how to broaden my knowledge and have finally discovered the Cornell University website! I recommend it highly. The home URL is [www.birds.cornell.edu](http://www.birds.cornell.edu), and this will get you into several excellent resources, including a video library. For bird ID how-to information, you can click on "All about Birds" at the top of that page, and then in the "Birding Basics" drop-down menu, choose "Building Skills." Or go directly to the "Building Skills" page at [www.allaboutbirds.org/page.aspx?pid=1053](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/page.aspx?pid=1053). This presents a set of keys to identification which can help the beginner learn what to look for and how to use her/his time most effectively. The keys are Size & Shape, Color Pattern, Behavior, Habitat, Field Marks, and Songs and Calls. Each of these keys has a brief, easy to understand explanation of the key and several examples to show how the key helps you. Some of these examples are photos, others are videos with sound, and a couple are drawings.

There are links to the Cornell online bird guide with over 600 sounds to listen to. Thousands of sounds are available in a searchable format at their Macauley Library. I'm going to be spending quite some time on this website, listening and learning!

## Spring Housecleaning Question

"What should I do with cans of dried up latex paint?"

Laurel Erickson with Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful replies: "If the latex paint is dry, it can be placed with one's regular trash, with the lid removed, so the hauler can see that it's dry (it's not hazardous). They don't want liquid paint in the trucks since the trash gets compressed—and no one wants to be behind a garbage truck going down the street and flinging paint out the back!"

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

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

### Waterfest June 9 – Wachiska Needs Your Participation

Wachiska Audubon will have two booths at the upcoming Waterfest at Holmes Lake Park in Lincoln on Saturday, June 9. We will be playing a game with participants called "Wetland Metaphors." If you can help with the game or talk to attendees about our activities, please contact Chris Thody at 402-499-0133 or the Wachiska office right away. Helpers will receive a free lunch and t-shirt.

### Wachiska's Workgroup Needs You

Heidi Hillhouse, chair of the conservation committee, is inviting you to join the Wachiska Audubon Workgroup. This group will receive emails when work is planned for Wachiska's prairie properties. Those who sign up to be on the list are welcome to come out and help as often or as rarely as they like. You can accept this invitation by clicking this URL:

<http://groups.google.com/group/wachiska-audubon-workgroup/subs=PPNP3hQAAABDEdPTaEQWjCfjC3HGcYnl8HeGIPwBx2br2DTZ9rF-9g&hl=en>

Heidi's e-address if you have questions is [asalufa@gmail.com](mailto:asalufa@gmail.com).

### Note from Union College

Dear members of the Wachiska Audubon Society:

We wish to thank you for the generous gift of \$300 which you recently sent for the Union College Library. Gifts like these allow us to work on special projects which greatly benefit our students and even the local community. We are currently working on scanning many of the historic photographs in our Heritage Room collection, quite a few of which show the College View community as it appeared in years past. We hope to make this new database public [this spring]. Although I know you are "birders," I hope a few of you also have an interest in our community's history and will appreciate the photographs we have to share. Thank you for helping make this special project possible.

Sincerely,  
Sabrina Riley  
Library Director, Union College  
Lincoln, NE

*Editor's Note: For over 25 years Wachiska has held our general meetings in Union College's auditorium. Presently our Board meetings are held in their library, also. We appreciate the generosity and hospitality the college has extended to the chapter all this time.*

## 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/](http://whitehouse.gov/contact/)

### **Senator Ben Nelson**

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

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

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

### **Congressman Lee Terry** (2<sup>nd</sup> 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://leetterry.house.gov/>

### **Congressman Adrian Smith** (3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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 10<sup>th</sup> St Rm 110, Lincoln NE 68508  
Phone: (402) 441-7447 Fax: (402) 441-6301  
E-mail: [commish@lancaster.ne.gov](mailto:commish@lancaster.ne.gov)

### **Mayor Chris Beutler**

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10<sup>th</sup> St Rm 208, Lincoln NE 68508-2828  
Phone: (402) 441-7511 Fax: (402) 441-7120  
E-mail: [mayor@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:mayor@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lincoln City Council**

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

### **Lincoln Journal Star**

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

## **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](mailto: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**

## STOP BIG OIL from Drilling Away the Future of Arctic Birds

BIG OIL is poised to begin a two-year drilling program in Alaska's Arctic Ocean. Every day exploration drill ships move closer to a potential disaster in the sensitive Arctic bird habitat that could eclipse the 2010 tragedy in the Gulf of Mexico. Learn about the wild Arctic ecosystems at risk in Alaska. Hear details about oil development proposals that threaten birds and other wildlife. Discover what you can do to halt plans for increased oil drilling in Arctic bird habitats.

RSVP now for this free 45-minute web-based seminar set for Monday, June 18, at 2:00 p.m. (central time). Reserve your spot by June 8 at [leadershipcircle@audubon.org](mailto:leadershipcircle@audubon.org). Be sure to use subject line "Save Arctic Birds." Space is limited to 150 responders.

*The Babbling Brook* (ISSN #1068-2104) is published monthly for \$20 per year by Wachiska Audubon Society. The known office of publication is 4547 Calvert St Ste 10, Lincoln NE 68506-5643. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, Nebraska.

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



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



Wachiska Audubon Society  
4547 Calvert St Ste 10  
Lincoln NE 68506-5643  
402-486-4846  
[wachiskaoffice@inebraska.com](mailto:wachiskaoffice@inebraska.com)  
[www.wachiskaaudubon.org](http://www.wachiskaaudubon.org)

## WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2012

### OFFICERS

President .....	*Anne Vidaver .....	402-435-0832
Vice-President .....	*Arnold Mendenhall (Hickman) .....	402-525-4884
Recording Secretary .....	*Bob Boyce .....	402-770-6865
Corresponding Secretary .....	*Marge Shriver .....	402-423-9287
Treasurer .....	*Gary Fehr .....	402-570-4382
Immediate Past President .....	*Chuck Francis .....	402-483-6727

### STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large .....	*Bob DenHartog (Raymond) .....	402-937-3872
Director at Large .....	*Barbara DiBernard .....	402-466-0117
Director at Large .....	*Jessi Umberger .....	402-580-3057
Conservation .....	*Heidi Hillhouse .....	402-470-7350
Education .....	*Chris Thody (Martell) .....	402-499-0133
Field Trips .....	John Carlini .....	402-475-7275
	*Ken Reitan .....	402-423-3540
Fundraising .....	Vacant .....	
Hospitality .....	Cheryl Moncure .....	402-488-0036
Legislation .....	Bruce Kennedy (Malcolm) .....	402-796-2114
	*Bruce Mellberg .....	402-570-3681
Membership .....	Joyce Vannier .....	402-489-4611
	*Barb Francis .....	402-483-6727
Monthly Programs/General Meetings .....	Arlys Reitan .....	WAS office 402-486-4846
Newsletter Editor .....	Arlys Reitan .....	WAS office 402-486-4846
Population/Environment .....	*Chuck Francis .....	402-483-6727
Program Coordinator .....	Tim Knott .....	402-483-5656
Publicity/Public Relations .....	Jeanne Kern .....	402-423-0428

### \*Denotes Board member

### OTHER ASSOCIATES

Bird Questions .....	Irene Alexander .....	402-423-9495
NAS Regional Board Member .....	Pete Cannon (Madison, WI) .....	608-251-1276
Newsletter Layout .....	Deb Sabata .....	402-730-1344
Raptor Recovery Nebraska .....	Betsy Finch (Elmwood) .....	402-994-2009
Executive Director Audubon Nebraska .....	Marian Langan .....	402-797-2301
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Director .....	Kevin Sander .....	402-797-2301
Webmaster .....	Dan Staehr .....	402-440-5869

## 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**.