

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

NOVEMBER 2012

Volume 21 - Issue 11

Annual Meeting—Thursday, November 8, 7:00 p.m., Dick Administration Building, Union College, Lincoln

“Not Ordinary – Extraordinary!” Nature Education on the Niobrara National Scenic River

by Michelle Garwood, Programs Assistant, Niobrara Council

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” This quote from Nelson Mandela hangs above my desk at the Niobrara Council office in Valentine.

I took this position in April 2010 and have been coordinating outdoor education with this mantra in mind from day one. Walking into a well-established summer camp program, I have had the opportunity to secure grants, expand partnerships, and grow Niobrara Council education.

Themes follow the concept “Outstandingly Remarkable Values” that make the Niobrara River qualify for National Scenic River status. All programs start with an introduction to Leave No Trace ethics, followed by a myriad of experiences pertaining to topics such as wildlife, trees/plants, water, history, geology, technology, recreation, conservation, outdoor skills, entomology, and more. All camps and programs are offered free of charge, and there is often a waiting list. A grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust in 2010 allowed the Council to purchase a canoe trailer, fleet of canoes, paddling equipment, tents, and basic camping

equipment which was a huge step in expanding our program.

Since coming to the Niobrara Council, I have been gradually adding year-round components to our education program. In addition to summer camps, we have begun a semester-long weekly after-school program, increased the number of school contacts, begun a preschool program, and started an outdoor classroom in Valentine. I have also revived and now chair the Niobrara Valley Outdoor Education Partnership.



Michelle Garwood

Michelle grew up on a ranch near Valentine, enjoying the Niobrara and the Sandhills. In high school, she took part in a pilot year-long science course revolving around the Niobrara National Scenic River. At UNL Michelle earned a B.S. in Family & Consumer Sciences and Health Education and a M.S. in Youth Development. Her rural roots and family brought her back to Valentine in 2010. With fond memories of her childhood on the Niobrara, she jumped at the opportunity when a part-time outdoor education position opened at the Niobrara Council.

In addition to her job, Michelle coordinates education and outreach for her church, raises two young children, and helps her grandparents on their ranches. When she finds a little free time, she enjoys camping, canoeing, hiking, gardening, and reading.

Join Wachiskans on **Thursday, November 8, 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 the north end of campus. Due to construction on campus, parking can be found along 48th Street, near the church on Prescott Avenue, or at the campus gym. At the Dick Building, there is a handicap ramp and an elevator. Look for Audubon signs on the doors. Refreshments will be served following the program.

The November gathering is also Wachiska’s annual meeting with election of officers (see page 2).

Calendar

November

- 1 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 4 Hawks field trip, 11:00 a.m. (page 2)
- 6 Population/Environment Committee, 4435 Pioneers Blvd., 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Board Meeting, Union College Library, 5:15 p.m.
- 8 Annual Meeting, “Niobrara Council Outdoor Education Program,” by Michelle Garwood, Union College Dick Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
- 12 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 19 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 29 Legislation Committee, DaVinci’s at 11th & G streets, 6:00 p.m.

December

- 13 Holiday Potluck Party, “Writing with a Camera,” by Jeff Kurrus, *NEBRASKAland* magazine, Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 6:15 p.m.
- 15 Christmas Bird Count (page 6)



Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Hawks in the Hills

As migrants ride the rising warm air currents and north winds to their winter destinations, dedicated Hawkwatch volunteers brave the elements to carefully scan the Missouri Valley for hawks cruising past the observation tower at Hitchcock Nature Center. Hawkwatch sites record many fall migrants from strategic locations, and we're lucky to have an excellent site like the Hitchcock Hawkwatch in our area where an average of 13,000 raptors are tracked annually. Visitors to the observation tower can search the sky with the Hawkwatch experts, and we'll spend some time watching the valley from the overlook to see who flies by. After hawkwatching, we'll hike the Loess Hills and Missouri Valley area in search of even more birds in the vistas characteristic of that region.

Meet at **11:00 a.m.** on **Sunday, November 4**, on the south side of the State Capitol, 15th and H streets, in Lincoln, to carpool or caravan to Hitchcock Nature Center located about 10 miles north of Council Bluffs. Participants preferring to meet the group at Hitchcock can join us at 12:30 p.m. on the observation tower. There is a \$2 fee/vehicle. Bring binoculars and scope if you have them, a sack lunch or snack, and a water bottle if you plan on hiking. The public is welcome. If you have questions, call John at 402-475-7275.

Annual Meeting this Month

At Wachiska's annual meeting November 8, the following slate of officers will be presented for 2013:

President - Arnold Mendenhall
Vice President - Jessi Umberger
Recording Secretary - Bob Boyce
Corresponding Secretary - Elizabeth Nelson
Treasurer - Gary Fehr

Nominations will be accepted from the floor with the condition that each nominee is currently a member and has given prior consent to be nominated.

If you are interested in running for one of the above positions, chairing a standing committee, or serving as a director at large, call President Anne Vidaver at 402-435-0832 or the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846. Officers serve a one-year term which may be extended two times.



Once touch of nature makes the whole world kin.
-William Shakespeare

New Members Recognized

by Joyce Vannier, Membership Chair

Wachiska has received many new members in September and October. The first list includes folks who have joined National Audubon and have been assigned to our chapter.

Shirley Bohling	E. Kemble
Leah Buckbee	Cathy Kieffe
Penny Cariotto	Sara Kovanda
Tammy Chase	Marilyn Lockwood
Bobbie Colgan	Craig Loeck
Lashai Delone	Peggy Menze
Inga Geren	Marian Nuernberger
Harvey Gooding	Shirley Nyberg
Kristin Grosskopf	Jocelyn Olney
Deb Haack	Nancy Sowl
John & Karen Hansen	Marlene Thomas
Helen Harwager	

Transferring into Wachiska from other chapters are Alan Bonebrake, Caitlyn Gillespie, and Terence Kite.

These people have recently become Friends of Wachiska (local) members:

Ruth Elwell
Eloise & Randy Hiatt
Mary Jo & Ron Lahners
Chris & Maggie Olson
Eric Saxon
Mary Taylor

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

Gayfeather Seed Harvest

by Ernie Rousek

The 16th annual seed harvest took place on Sunday, October 21, on my field near Pleasant Dale. Each year after harvest, I take this seed to the Stock Seed Farm near Murdock. We are paid a year later at a higher rate than if we received payment at delivery. This gives them time to dry, prepare, and sell the seed.

In 2011, we harvested 361 pounds of a combination of seeds and chaff. About 1/3 of this weight was gayfeather seeds. Two weeks ago Wachiska received a check for \$5,275 for the 2011 crop at \$50/pound, which was \$10/pound more than the year before.

This fall, due to the extremely dry summer, the harvested yield was only 70 pounds of seed and chaff, so the income will be considerably reduced.

Each year I very much appreciate the efforts of Wachiska volunteers in this seed harvest. Those taking part last month were Arnold Mendenhall; Sam Truax; Emily Levine; Carole Closter; April Stevenson; Bruce Mellberg; Jim Ashenbach; Linda Brown; Loris Purtzer; Ken and Diane Rousek; Paul Johnsgard; Lyle and Joyce Vannier; Barbara DiBernard; and Frank, Jeanne, and Tyler Andelt.

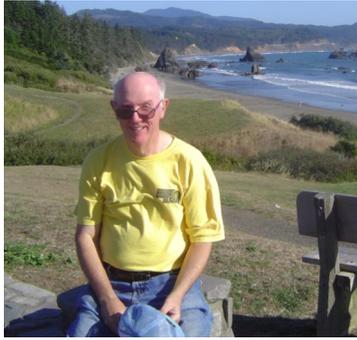


From the Board ...

by Bob Boyce, Recording Secretary

How Did Your Garden Grow?

Wachiska Audubon has as its vision, “sharing the experience and love of nature—that life may flourish in all its natural diversity.” In the face of global warming, or climate change, what does that mean for each of us? What are the implications for all of us—humans, birds, animals, insects, plants?



Bob Boyce

This year’s drought and wildfires—and last year’s flooding—make us think more seriously about the effect of the climate on all of our lives. Ranchers had to sell off cattle with no forage for them. Some crops failed with attendant higher prices. Perhaps we haven’t yet seen a huge impact at the grocery store, but that may be coming.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are pumping water into the wetlands in south central Nebraska where migrating birds stop to refuel and rest—because those “wetlands” are not wet, they’re dry!

How did your garden do this summer? Did you have to pump more water than usual to keep it alive and producing? Did you feel you had to keep your lawn alive? Have you asked yourself, Why? Is there an alternative to that green grass? Yes, there is!

Tim Rinne wrote an interesting article for the September/October 2012 *Nebraska Report*, the Nebraskans for Peace newsletter. It’s available on the NFP website, but I want to share some highlights with Wachiskans, and point out how what Tim and his neighbors have done relates to our interests in the natural world.

Tim is concerned about climate change, and when he realized the implications for himself—his food supply—it hit him in the stomach, as he says! Like many of us, he had no idea where his food came from, other than the grocery store, even though his folks were farm kids—as my mother was, many years ago.

But he and his wife, Kay Walter, started a neighborhood garden and converted their front and back yards into vegetable plantings. They had discovered the book *Edible Landscaping* by Rosalind Creasy who asked, “Why do we always plant things we can’t eat?” When you plant vegetables in your front yard, you get to know your neighbors! When they asked Tim why he planted 150 sets of strawberries, he replied, “Am I the only person on this block who likes strawberries?”

Over the past three years they have gradually drawn in many neighbors to the point they now have 18 families from their block and across the street participating in their half-acre neighborhood garden. They have individual vegetable plots, jointly share the fruit from their neighborhood orchard, and have common patches

of corn, beans, and potatoes which will be rotated annually, with the harvest shared equally among the neighbors.

Wachiskans might likewise ask, “Why do we always plant things birds can’t eat?” Now some of you have already planted for the birds, but I’m sure that we can do more. Do your bushes have berries for the birds? Do you provide water for the birds? Are your flowers, bushes, and trees ones that birds love? Here are a few suggestions: daylilies, serviceberry, mountain ash, crabapples, bachelor’s button, sunflowers, asters, purple coneflower, holly, gooseberry, and black cherry. You can find many more online and in numerous books.

And are we thinking of bees? The flowers and vegetables need bees. When Tim and his neighbors were converting their lawns to vegetables, they planted clover in the shady spots, in root-infested patches, under trees—where vegetables or flowers wouldn’t grow. That’s a good ground cover, and the bees love it! What about butterflies?

The National Wildlife Federation has a program encouraging people to make their yards into attractive places for birds and animals. They have specific suggestions, and if your yard has the right amenities, they will certify it as a Certified Backyard Habitat. There’s a lot of literature available on such issues. And, of course, Wachiska has a Backyard Habitat Tour each year where you can see outstanding examples of attractive habitat.

What does this have to do with climate change, you might ask. **When we eat oranges from South Africa or lettuce from California, we’re contributing to climate change. When we eat anything which has to be brought in from far away, trucking it in puts carbon into the atmosphere heating up the planet. That affects all of us—humans, birds, insects, animals, and plants.** We can mitigate those effects by eating local as much as possible—buying our food at farmers’ markets, participating in community gardens, converting our lawns to gardens, participating in a CSA—community supported agriculture, where you buy a share in a local farm’s produce and receive weekly deliveries of what they harvest.

And you can produce local food for our friends, the birds (and maybe even a squirrel or rabbit or two!), by using the land in better ways. As more and more land is taken for development and harsh conditions make it hard to find food, our friends in nature need our help. Mitigating climate change helps all of us—the birds, the animals, the humans, too.

Editor’s Note: Bob is a retired reference librarian who aided many of us for years at Bennett Martin Library. The following quote by John Muir is one of Bob’s contemplative thoughts:

“In nothing does man, with his grand notions of heaven and charity, show forth his innate, low-bred, wild animalism more clearly than in his treatment of his brother beasts. From the shepherd with his lambs to the red-handed hunter, it is the same; no recognition of rights—only murder in one form or another.”
John Muir, naturalist, explorer, and writer (1838-1914)

Audubon of Kansas Relocates 100 Prairie Dogs to Hutton Ranch

by Marge Kennedy

A total of 100 prairie dogs were captured from the Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Valentine and relocated to the Hutton Niobrara Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary between Bassett and Newport in north central Nebraska for the purpose of establishing a new colony at Hutton Ranch. Hutton Ranch is owned and managed by Audubon of Kansas (AOK).

Sixty-five prairie dogs were captured and relocated on July 28, with several USFWS staff, family members, and student volunteers working with Ron Klataske, executive director of Audubon of Kansas, and Robert Bergerson of Manhattan, Kansas AOK headquarters. They encountered a number of challenges in capturing the critters, not the least of which were the wildfires raging during the previous week in the NWR area, since the refuge's fire engines were required for use in the capture as sudsy water was poured from the trucks down into the prairie dog burrows to flood them out. After a long time, a few critters emerged and were captured with gloved hands, rinsed off, and placed in holding cages in the shade, as it was once again over 100 degrees that day. The process took most of the day, after which the captives were loaded in a stock trailer (which will double as a mobile wildlife viewing blind at the sanctuary) and driven 85 miles to the relocation site on the Hutton Niobrara Sanctuary. There Ron and Robert performed delousing and determination of age and sex of each prairie dog before they were released head first in the "starter burrows" dug the month before for this purpose. They were also studied for the next few days to be sure they became conditioned to run to a burrow and disappear underground. In that initial batch of 65 prairie dogs, only six were adults—five females and one male—and the remaining were juveniles split approximately 50-50 between male and female.

An additional 35 prairie dogs were captured and relocated on September 13, with Wachiska members Stu Lutich and Bruce and Marge Kennedy assisting Ron Klataske, Jennifer Hicks (wife of Fort Niobrara NWR manager Steve Hicks), and two USFWS employees who manned the fire trucks. This time, things went smoother and quicker for several reasons, including that the temperature ranged from 55 to 62 degrees and that most of the capture was done in an area loaded with prairie dogs. We learned that prairie dogs bite one's heavy glove and can make teeth marks in one's finger. Several times, entire families of five or six were caught quickly as the critters floated to the top of the hole on soapy water. Early that evening, many of the critters were (again) deloused, determination made as to age and gender, and released head first down the burrows in a small fenced in area on the sanctuary. The others were released the next day. It appeared that this time, a larger percentage of adults were captured than was the case in July, which is a good thing. Ron Klataske reported on Saturday that a burrowing owl was spotted sitting on a mound! Bruce and Marge Kennedy looked over the release area before departing for home Friday morning and saw several prairie dogs cavorting around there. All in all, it was a successful and interesting experience!

Changing Season Tips for Birders

by Dave Titterington, Wild Bird Habitat Stores

- With the nesting season over, our resident birds' attention is drawn to locating food sources for the upcoming winter. They will seek out natural food sources and identify well-stocked bird feeders as a supplemental food supply. Keep your bird feeders filled through the fall months and you'll have plenty of feathered friends visiting your yard this winter.
- Grackles will be forming small flocks in preparation to migrate and they may congregate around bird feeders. They will join larger pre-migratory flocks only to join even larger flocks of blackbirds that will soon pass by. It will only be a temporary inconvenience at the feeders before they are gone for the winter. Be patient.
- Watch for native sparrows passing through: white-crowned and white-throated sparrows, Harris' sparrows, tree and song sparrows, and others. What's the easiest way to tell if that little brown bird is a house sparrow or a native sparrow? Watch their feeding habits. Native sparrows scratch the ground with their feet to turn up seeds; house sparrows sweep with their bill.
- Wild Bird Habitat Stores recommend that everyone have a field guide for birds. Select a field guide that fits your needs—whether you're a backyard bird watcher or avid bird enthusiast venturing out to identify as many birds as you can. Many online bird identification websites are available such as at nebraskabirdlibrary.org but nothing can replace a hard copy field guide where you can compare and ponder the birds you see.
- This time of year some folks may experience a slowdown of birds visiting their feeders. One reason is that when birds are molting they venture out into open areas less often. Their flying ability is hampered making them more susceptible to predation. The second reason is a natural abundance of food that has matured or gone to seed. Birds will take advantage of those renewed food resources. They know where the bird feeders are, so keep them stocked even if activity at the feeder slows down.
- It won't be long before cold nights will lead to iced over bird baths. It is best to check your bird bath heater before winter to make certain it is in working condition. To test your thermostatically-controlled bird bath heater, put it in the freezer of your refrigerator for 40 minutes. Remove it from the freezer and plug it in. You should feel some warmth in just a few minutes. Remove scaling on the heater by soaking it in a solution of vinegar and water and then brush good.
- As the grasses and flowers in your gardens go to seed, don't be too hasty to nip them off. Make those seed heads available for the birds. Coneflowers are particularly a favorite of goldfinches, and the seeds that drop to the ground provide a banquet for the many ground-foraging birds that will be passing through over the next couple of months.
- With autumn comes falling leaves and lawn clean-up. Don't rush to rake every leaf out from under all the bushes. Leave them until spring. The leaves will help protect the roots of your shrubs during the colder months. Birds will also forage through this leaf litter feeding on insects and larvae that are wintering over.

Summer Trip to Nova Scotia

by Russell Duerksen

Eight observers from Arizona's Prescott Audubon and Wachiska Audubon spent slightly more than a week in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island from late June through early July exploring a variety of habitats from saline estuaries to boreal forest. A total of 125 species were observed (see list below). Highlights were searching for Bicknell's thrush and finding a mother moose and her calf (brief looks were later obtained of the thrush), observing all three scoters in one day off Ingonish, many observations of several species of alcid, and as many Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrows as the heart could desire. Warblers were gorgeous although it was difficult as always to get the entire group views.

Cultural activities were also enjoyed, including the Highland Games in Pugwash, farm stands, cheese plants, and the Ann of Green Gables National Historic Site. Not to be forgotten are the 20+ varieties of ice cream sampled by the group which included several Wachiska members.

Number of Species: 125

Common Loon	Ring-necked Pheasant	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Magnolia Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Ruffed Grouse	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Greater Shearwater	Virginia Rail	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Manx Shearwater	Sora	Alder Flycatcher	Black-throated Green Warbler
Northern Gannet	American Coot	Least Flycatcher	Blackburnian Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Killdeer	Blue-headed Vireo	Palm Warbler
Great Cormorant	Lesser Yellowlegs	Red-eyed Vireo	Black-and-white Warbler
American Bittern	Willet	Blue Jay	American Redstart
Great Blue Heron	Spotted Sandpiper	American Crow	Ovenbird
Turkey Vulture	Wilson's Snipe	Purple Martin	Mourning Warbler
Canada Goose	American Woodcock	Tree Swallow	Common Yellowthroat
Gadwall	Bonaparte's Gull	Bank Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
American Wigeon	Ring-billed Gull	Cliff Swallow	Savannah Sparrow
American Black Duck	Herring Gull	Barn Swallow	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Mallard	Great Black-backed Gull	Black-capped Chickadee	Song Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck	Black-legged Kittiwake	Boreal Chickadee	Lincoln's Sparrow
Greater Scaup	Roseate Tern	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Swamp Sparrow
Common Eider	Common Tern	Golden-crowned Kinglet	White-throated Sparrow
Surf Scoter	Common Murre	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Dark-eyed Junco
White-winged Scoter	Razorbill	Bicknell's Thrush	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Black Scoter	Black Guillemot	Swainson's Thrush	Bobolink
Hooded Merganser	Atlantic Puffin	Hermit Thrush	Red-winged Blackbird
Common Merganser	Rock Dove	Wood Thrush	Common Grackle
Red-breasted Merganser	Mourning Dove	American Robin	Baltimore Oriole
Osprey	Common Nighthawk	Gray Catbird	Purple Finch
Bald Eagle	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Northern Mockingbird	Red Crossbill
Northern Harrier	Belted Kingfisher	European Starling	Pine Siskin
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Cedar Waxwing	American Goldfinch
Broad-winged Hawk	Downy Woodpecker	Nashville Warbler	House Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Parula	
American Kestrel	Northern Flicker	Yellow Warbler	
Merlin	Pileated Woodpecker	Chestnut-sided Warbler	



The magnolia warbler is a handsome and familiar warbler of the northern forests. Though it often forages conspicuously and close to the ground, we have relatively scant information on its nesting behavior.

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

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

Birdseed Available

Birdseed is available for sale from the Wachiska office. Prices include sales tax and freight charges. Call or email Arlys ASAP to make arrangements to pick it up if you can use any of these:

6 bags Classic Audubon Mix, 40-lb. bag @ \$30/bag
2 bags Standard Audubon Mix, 40-lb. bag @ \$28/bag
9 bags Safflower Seed, 20-lb. bag @ \$19/bag
6 bags Safflower Seed, 50-lb. bag @ \$41/bag
7 bags Sunflower Seed, black oil 25-lb. bag @ \$16/bag
21 Peanut Treat suet cakes @ \$2/cake
31 High Energy suet cakes @ \$2/cake

Forsberg Presentation

Renowned wildlife photographer and author Michael Forsberg will present "Pulse of the Plains" November 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center. This program, open to everyone, is sponsored by Friends of Wilderness Park. Admission is \$10. For more information, call 402-421-8464, or email friendsofwildernessparkne@yahoo.com.

NET to Feature Forsberg Documentary

Follow acclaimed Nebraska photographer Michael Forsberg as he examines what wildness remains in the 11 states that comprise the Great Plains, exploring the places and creatures that remain after 150 years of settlement. "Great Plains: America's Lingering Wild," airing Sunday, November 25, at 8:30 p.m. CT, repeating Wednesday, November 28, at 7:00 p.m. CT on NET1 and NET-HD, is based on Forsberg's book of the same name.

Despite its size, the Great Plains is a fragile and threatened ecosystem and home to a variety of wildlife and habitats. North Dakota's Missouri Coteau is the breeding ground for more than half of North America's ducks. Playa wetlands in Texas sustain insects, mammals, birds, and reptiles. Large herds of elk and pronghorn live on the C.M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge in Montana. Bison roam on vast tracts of land in South Dakota. In Nebraska, Iowa, and Kansas, native prairies are being restored one small patch at a time. This documentary introduces some of the people who care for and preserve our natural heritage.

Nebraska segments highlight the Platte River Valley in south central Nebraska where over half a million sandhill cranes make their way through a 50-mile stretch on their spring migration. And along the central Platte Valley near Aurora, a group of land stewards have spent decades restoring the prairie.

Lincoln's Christmas Bird Count

Lincoln will again participate in National Audubon's Christmas Bird Count. Our count will be held on Saturday, December 15, and everyone is urged to participate. This will be Audubon's 113th Annual CBC. The 15-mile diameter Lincoln count circle is centered on the intersection of Coddington and West "A" Streets and includes Pioneers Park, Wilderness Park, Nine-Mile Prairie, Salt Creek, and Holmes, Pawnee, Oak and Conestoga lakes. You can count birds out in the field (alone or in a group) or you can count birds at your feeders. There are counts being planned all across the state this year, so to find a count circle near you, visit www.christmasbirdcount.org. There is no charge to take part in a count. Contact the Wachiska office for details.

Because Conservation Doesn't Have a Party

We know birds don't have a political party and that they don't vote. For Audubon members, protecting birds, their habitats, and our natural resources isn't about politics—it's just plain common sense, and something Audubon chapters understand very well.

While it's true that bird lovers come in all political flavors, many politicians and their media messengers have polarized the debate, pitting everyday people against each other. It's causing gridlock that makes progress nearly impossible. The clear losers are our children and what Auduboners strive to protect—clean water, clean air, abundant wildlife, and the habitat they need to thrive.

We hope you will help send our political leaders a message: conservation is too important to be held hostage by partisan politics. Join me in signing the American Eagle Compact.

Audubon has joined forces with ConservAmerica, a leading conservative pro-environment group, on a campaign based on common ground called "Because Conservation Doesn't Have a Party." Our hope is to deliver hundreds of thousands of signatures on the American Eagle Compact to the winners of November's elections.

Your signature will tell legislators that playing politics with our planet and with our children's future isn't the right path forward. You can tell them that there's a better way to move ahead, a way to support smart conservation practices that we agree on in communities across America.

As President of Audubon, I take great pride in the political diversity of our chapter network. Audubon has always been about shared goals and a commitment to conservation, not party or political affiliation. Sharing a commitment to conservation isn't progressive or conservative—it's American. I hope you will sign the American Eagle Compact: www.eaglecompactusa.org.

David Yarnold, President & CEO, Audubon

Public Officials

President Barack Obama

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

Senator 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 at website: <http://bennelson.senate.gov/contact.me.cfm>

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 wachiskaoffice@inebraska.com or 402-486-4846.

OR

National Membership in National Audubon Society

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ___ Zip _____

Phone _____ Recruited by _____

E-mail _____

Enclose introductory membership fee of \$20.

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

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

C2ZP040Z

Members Recycle Cans for Wachiska

Thanks to all Wachiska members and friends who are recycling aluminum cans at A-Can Recycling Center, 3255 South 10th Street, in Lincoln.

Owners Ben and Connie Dahlberg have set up an account for Wachiska whereby anyone can bring in their cans and specify that the proceeds should be credited to the Wachiska Audubon account.

Stop in Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Please call the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846 if you have questions.

Recycling aluminum cans saves 95 percent of the energy used to make aluminum cans from virgin materials. Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for over two hours.

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
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.....	vacant	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**.