



*Wachiska*  
Audubon Society

Wachiska Audubon Society's vision: To share the experience  
and love of nature—that life may flourish in all its natural diversity

# The Babbling Brook

Our 46th Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2019

**JULY 2019**

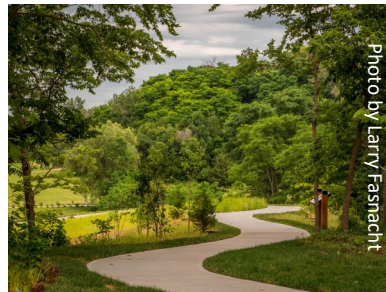
**Volume 28 - Issue 7**

**Program and General Meeting — Thursday, July 11, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, Lincoln**

## More than a Pretty Place: Celebrating Ten Years of Conservation at Lauritzen Gardens

by Jim Locklear

Omaha's Lauritzen Gardens was created to provide a place of beauty and enrichment for the community. But we also aspire to address the environmental challenges of our times. Launched in 2010, our Conservation Program is committed to saving endangered plants and conserving the grasslands of the Great Plains. We also work at the gardens to support pollinators, practice ecological stewardship, and inspire a conservation ethic in our visitors. This illustrated presentation celebrates a decade of dedication to conservation at Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha.



**Conservation Garden**

Lauritzen Gardens encompasses 100 acres of riverfront hills just minutes from downtown Omaha and welcomes more than 240,000 guests each year. Renowned for beautiful gardens and plant displays, people are often surprised to learn about the garden's conservation efforts.

**Seed Banking** - Lauritzen Gardens is part of the Center for Plant Conservation, a coalition of botanical institutions working to save America's most imperiled plants from extinction. One way this is accomplished is by establishing seed banks of endangered plants. Lauritzen recently launched a seed-banking effort for the blowout penstemon (*Penstemon haydenii*), a critically imperiled wildflower native to the Nebraska Sandhills.

**Saving Sandsage** - Sandsage prairie is a unique type of Great Plains grassland that is of conservation concern in Nebraska and several other states. Locklear has been studying the ecology of this plant community in Nebraska for several years and in 2018 expanded his research to encompass the entire range of sandsage prairie. This project involved nearly 5,000 miles of travel from Wyoming to New Mexico and yielded insights that will hopefully support conservation of this imperiled plant community.

**Stewardship** - An effort has been underway for several years to gain an understanding of the biological diversity supported by Lauritzen Gardens, with the aim of practicing the best possible ecological stewardship on site. This involves ongoing surveys to document the wildlife that utilize the 100-acre property. To date, 143 birds, 57 butterfly species, and over 50 species of bees have been observed.

**Jim Locklear** has been director of conservation at Lauritzen Gardens since 2010. His illustrated presentation will highlight conservation work at the gardens and beyond. While Jim works in Omaha, he lives in Lincoln. He was formerly director of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. He's a Wachiska member.

Join us on **Thursday, July 11, at 7:00 p.m.** at Lincoln's Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street. Free parking is available in the church lot with overflow parking in the Pius High School lot across the street to the west. There is easy access to the church with no steps and plenty of space for visiting with the speaker and mingling with friends while enjoying refreshments afterwards.

### Calendar

#### July

- 6 Field Trip to Pioneers Park Nature Center for butterfly count, 9:00 a.m. (page 2)
- 8 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 11 General Meeting, Lauritzen Gardens program by Jim Locklear, Unitarian Church, 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 16 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.

NO Education Committee meeting in July  
NO Legislation Committee meeting in July



## Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

### Annual Butterfly Count

Many Wachiskans are aware of citizen science opportunities for birders (e.g., Christmas Bird Counts, eBird) but did you know there are citizen science opportunities for "butterflyers" such as Monarch Watch and eButterfly that allow observers to enter their sightings onto database maps? Another way citizen scientists can



Pearl Crescent

contribute crucial data is by participating in the North American Butterfly Association's count program. We'll join in this annual count for our July field trip. The Pioneers Park Nature Center (PPNC) has been hosting this count for 15+ years and will be the starting point for the event. After a slide presentation, participants will disperse to count areas with a butterfly expert.

Meet at **9:00 a.m.** on **Saturday, July 6**, at the PPNC's Prairie Building on the west side of Pioneers Park located just southwest of West Van Dorn Street and South Coddington Avenue. NABA charges a \$6/person fee and pre-registration is required. Personnel will not be available the morning of this event to handle change for payments, so please register in advance and pay by July 5 either in person at the PPNC, by phone at that office at 402-441-7895, online at [parks.lincoln.ne.gov](http://parks.lincoln.ne.gov), or bring exact change to the event. Sun protection, insect repellent, and water bottle are recommended and bring binoculars if you have them. The public is welcome. If you have questions, call John at 402-475-7275.

### Fall 2018's Gayfeather Harvest

by Ernie Rousek

I received a check for \$8,312.50 from the Stock Seed Farms for the gayfeather seed that Wachiska members harvested last fall. There was an additional check for \$500 for the lease of the property. There were 126 pounds of seed before germination and purity were figured. Many thanks to Wachiska volunteers who made this harvest possible.

This payment/donation was given during the Give to Lincoln program. Wachiska received \$9,102.19 for this seed harvest, including the portion of matching funds. This was a portion of the total amount Wachiska received from the Lincoln Community Foundation's Give to Lincoln campaign. (A full report of the entire fundraiser will be reported after June 27.)

### Dieken Prairie Seed Harvest

by Beth Coufal, Conservation Committee

I would like to thank everyone who helped collect prairie seed from Dieken Prairie in 2018. Early this year we received a payment for nearly \$600. (This does not include the harvest of Ernie Rousek's gayfeather seed.) The seed that is collected from the virgin prairies owned by Wachiska is sold to Kay Kottas of Prairie Legacy, Inc. which helps landowners plant species-rich prairie restorations. Kay appreciates our seed because it is appropriate to the area. It has been grown here in Southeast Nebraska and is adapted to our environment; it is local ecotype seed. In this way, our little prairies are a preserve of unique genes which are spread when our seed is used to replant a bit of tallgrass prairie. This means a little more habitat is restored for our native birds, bees, and butterflies.

Harvesting seeds is also a great way to get out and appreciate the prairies. The necessity of looking closely at the plants and walking over more ground than you would on a hike means noticing things you would not otherwise. Wild strawberry plants, bobolink nests, the tangerine smell of prairie clover leaves, and ladies' tresses orchids are all treats I would not have seen. It is also a great way to learn to identify prairie plants and appreciate the differences in our various habitats. If you would like to join me, email [bethngaryc@windstream.net](mailto:bethngaryc@windstream.net), and I will let you know when and where I will be collecting.

### Garage/Yard Sale

by Arlys Reitan

Are your closets and shelves bulging to the point where you only dream of being able to close the doors? Could it be your car is not welcome in the garage? Do you find yourself maneuvering around clutter on the stairs?

Hopefully, all the above is foreign to you. But if you have been thinking of cleaning out the cupboards and shelves of unwanted household items, consider gathering these items, putting a price on each, and boxing everything up for a couple more months to donate to the next Wachiska yard sale. Details are firming up to have a chapter sale later this summer. Remember that clothes don't sell at these sales; kitchen, sports, furniture, and camping items go fast. Pictures, knickknacks, and memorabilia are popular items, too. Watch this newsletter for further details. **DO NOT BRING ANYTHING TO THE WACHISKA OFFICE ANYTIME SOON!** Thanks for your help. More later.



# Birdathon 2019 Species Count

by Ken Reitan, Compiler

The cool, rainy spring weather negatively affected this year's overall species count during Birdathon Weekend, May 11 and 12. Wachiska's 31st annual Birdathon went into the books with a total of **124 species identified**. Ironically, 148 species were seen in both 2017 and 2018.

Below is the Birdathon species list that includes sightings submitted by John Carlini, Shari Schwartz, Jeff Meyer, Larry Einemann, and Ken Reitan. Additional birders took part in the two weekend field trips but were not identified.

Common Loon	Rock Dove	Black-and-white Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Mourning Dove	American Redstart
Eared Grebe	Chimney Swift	Ovenbird
American White Pelican	Red-headed Woodpecker	Louisiana Waterthrush
Double-crested Cormorant	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Common Yellowthroat
Great Blue Heron	Downy Woodpecker	Summer Tanager
Canada Goose	Northern Flicker	Northern Cardinal
Wood Duck	Pileated Woodpecker	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Mallard	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Indigo Bunting
Blue-winged Teal	Willow Flycatcher	Dickcissel
Northern Shoveler	Least Flycatcher	Eastern Towhee
Gadwall	Eastern Phoebe	Chipping Sparrow
Redhead	Great Crested Flycatcher	Clay-colored Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck	Western Kingbird	Field Sparrow
Greater Scaup	Eastern Kingbird	Lark Sparrow
Lesser Scaup	Horned Lark	Savannah Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Purple Martin	Lincoln's Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Tree Swallow	White-throated Sparrow
Osprey	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	White-crowned Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Bank Swallow	Harris' Sparrow
Broad-winged Hawk	Cliff Swallow	Bobolink
Red-tailed Hawk	Barn Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
American Kestrel	Blue Jay	Eastern Meadowlark
Peregrine Falcon	American Crow	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Ringed-necked Pheasant	Black-capped Chickadee	Great-tailed Grackle
Wild Turkey	Tufted Titmouse	Common Grackle
Virginia Rail	White-breasted Nuthatch	Brown-headed Cowbird
Sora	House Wren	Orchard Oriole
American Coot	Sedge Wren	Baltimore Oriole
Killdeer	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	House Finch
American Avocet	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	American Goldfinch
Lesser Yellowlegs	Eastern Bluebird	House Sparrow
Solitary Sandpiper	Swainson's Thrush	
Spotted Sandpiper	Wood Thrush	
Sanderling	American Robin	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Gray Catbird	
Least Sandpiper	Brown Thrasher	
White-rumped Sandpiper	European Starling	
Wilson's Phalarope	Yellow-throated Vireo	
Franklin's Gull	Warbling Vireo	
Bonaparte's Gull	Red-eyed Vireo	
Ring-billed Gull	Tennessee Warbler	
Caspian Tern	Orange-crowned Warbler	
Forster's Tern	Northern Parula	
Black Tern	Yellow Warbler	
Eurasian collared-Dove	Yellow-rumped Warbler	



Northern Parula



Olive-sided Flycatcher

## Interested in Wachiska's Leadership Team?

by Theresa Pella, Vice President

The time is approaching for the annual election of chapter officer and director positions. Current officer positions include president, vice-president, recording secretary, and treasurer. In addition, there are three director-at-large positions. The list of the current Board members can be found on the back page of *The Babbling Brook*. The nominating committee should be in place by early July, and information about how to nominate individuals will be included in the August newsletter. In the meantime, you can nominate someone (including yourself) or others, provided each candidate is currently a Wachiska member and has given consent to be nominated. Email names and why you think the person would be an asset to the Wachiska Audubon leadership team to President Stu Luttich at [rangifer@windstream.net](mailto:rangifer@windstream.net). The general membership will vote on a slate of officers and directors during the November general meeting. Board terms begin in January.

## Backyard Garden Tour

by Arlys Reitan

With the long, rainy spring this year, would you ever think we could be so fortunate as to have a Top 10 Day for Wachiska's 30th Backyard Garden Tour? We did—and it was just delightful!

The six garden sites were graced with approximately 360 visitors on Father's Day. Perusing the crowd at any location found large groups of good-natured onlookers taking photos of a particular species they wanted to consider planting in their own gardens. One lady snapped a photo, took it to the front yard where the homeowner was situated, and asked for information on that species (hurray for cell phones). Because of all the rain and cool weather there wasn't a brown patch of grass in sight. Birds were chirping at Aldersgate Church near the pollinator garden; the bug hotel and bat house were "at the ready" across the street at another garden location on the tour.

At day's end, \$2,600 was collected from this fundraiser towards Wachiska Audubon's ongoing activities.

Many thanks to the host homeowners and the many volunteers who facilitated this event. A special acknowledgement goes to Anne and Lynn Senkbeil who once again chaired this year's tour. Wachiska's appreciation is also extended to Sue and Walt Gardner for hosting the wrap-up picnic the next week.

**"A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song."**

— John Walsh Anglund,  
children's author

## Could You Use a Computer?

Wachiska has a computer to sell. If the specs below are something you could use, call Arlys in the office (402-486-4846) and make a bid by July 15. The highest bidder will be able to pick it up with payment.

- Model: Dell Inspiron 620 Desktop Computer
- Processor: Intel Core i3-2100 CPU, 3.1GHz
- RAM: 6.00 GB
- Hard Drive: 916 GB
- OS: Windows 7 Home Premium SP1, 64-bit
- Installed Software: Microsoft 2010 Excel, Word, Outlook
- Peripherals:
  - \* AGM Flat Screen Monitor, 1280 x 1024 pixels
  - \* Keyboard
  - \* Mouse

## July Programs at Spring Creek Prairie

### Audubon Center

by Kevin Poague

Nebraska Birds and Climate Change – Monday, July 8,  
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Jason "The Birdnerd" St. Sauver will present a program about 10 iconic Nebraska birds, the habitats they need, and what you can do to help them as they deal with habitat loss and climate change. Free, open to all ages. Food by Pepe's Kitchen available for purchase. Sponsored by Common Ground and Audubon Nebraska.

Bioblitz – Saturday, July 13, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Join us at Denton Prairie (corner of Cass Avenue and West 2nd Street in Denton) for a Bioblitz where participants record all living things in a designated area. No experience necessary for this family-fun event. Free admission, water and snacks available; bring your own water bottle to refill. Bird-banding demonstration from 7:00 - 8:30 a.m. Thanks to partners Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and Lincoln Parks and Recreation.

Third Tuesday Bird Walk – Tuesday, July 16, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Take a leisurely stroll through the prairie with an expert bird guide. Tuesdays are always free admission! Registration preferred. (Free bird walks each third Tuesday through October.)

Summer Serenity – July 17, 24, & 31, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Brianne Bayer (RYT-200) will guide an all-levels yoga flow to deepen one's connection to the prairie. Bring a yoga mat, water bottle, and wear comfortable clothes. Sessions held three consecutive Wednesday evenings. Donation-based class (\$10/ evening or \$20/series).

Full details at [springcreek.audubon.org](http://springcreek.audubon.org).

Register at 402-797-2301 or [scp@audubon.org](mailto:scp@audubon.org).

## Ecological Responses to Climate Change Much More Ordered and Predictable than Previously Thought

(from *Nature Climate Change*, June 2019)

Whole ecosystems are shifting dramatically north in the Great Plains, a phenomenon likely linked to human influences such as climate change, says new University of Nebraska-Lincoln research that analyzed nearly 50 years' worth of data on bird distributions.

The northernmost ecosystem boundary shifted more than 365 miles north, with the southernmost boundary moving about 160 miles from the 1970 baseline.

The findings could inform the development of an early-warning system that would give land managers decades to prepare for ecosystem shift or collapse, allowing them to accommodate or foster the change rather than simply reacting, researchers said.

Early warning, long the siren song for extreme weather events such as tornadoes, is likewise an emerging goal in ecology. Ecologists long thought that ecosystems respond to external pressures—climate changes, invasive species—in idiosyncratic, largely unpredictable ways.

But the team's new study, published June 24 in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, managed to quantify the spatial component of that change for the first time. In doing so, it suggests that ecological responses are much more ordered and predictable than previously thought.

"If we can work toward prevention (of changes), we're going to save ourselves so much money and time," said Caleb Roberts, lead author and postdoctoral researcher at Nebraska. "We won't have to worry about specific endangered species, perhaps, because we will be protecting the system they require."

To arrive at their conclusions, the researchers analyzed 46 years' worth of avian data collected for the North American Breeding Bird Survey, a U.S. Geological Survey program designed to track bird populations. That survey included more than 400 bird species found within a 250-mile-wide transect stretching from Texas to North Dakota.

The team then separated bird species into groups based on their body masses and searched for gaps in the distribution of the groups. Those gaps effectively act like the DNA signature of an ecosystem, said co-author Craig Allen, allowing the team to identify where one ecosystem ends and another begins.

By analyzing the geographic movement of the distinct body-mass signatures over the 46-year period, the team managed to measure how much and how fast each ecosystem shifted north.

"All (these breaks) are saying is that there are a lot of animals with the small body size; then there's a gap with nothing in this middle body size; then you have another group and another group," said Allen, director of the university's Center for Resilience in Working Agricultural Landscapes. "And since these reflect the domains of scale in an ecosystem, it's like a signature—the DNA—of a given ecosystem."

Over their study area, and over time, the researchers identified three distinct ecosystem boundaries, with a fourth—and thus a fourth ecosystem regime—appearing in the final decade.

The fact that the northernmost boundary shifted more than its southernmost counterpart reflects a well-documented phenomenon known as Arctic amplification, suggesting that climate change is at play, the researchers said. But the movement also aligns with other global change drivers that include wildfire trends, the invasion of woody plants such as eastern red cedar trees, energy development, agricultural land conversion, and urbanization.

"Like most things in ecology, (these shifts) likely have multiple causations," Allen said. "And I think it's fairly intractable to try to separate, say, tree invasion from climate change, because it has to do with fire but also with changing climate. All of these things are highly related."

Grasslands are the most endangered ecosystem in the world, Roberts said, partially due to woody-plant encroachment. That encroachment is something people can work to control by increasing burning, increasing tree removal, and decreasing planting.

"Those are all things we can do and use the early warning to say, 'We're coming to the edge of this grassland's resilience. It's about to collapse, especially in our area. What can we do to stop that?' That's the kind of power this tool would have," he said. "You don't have to wait until it gets to you. You can see it coming and act pre-emptively."

When land managers do wait until the problem arrives at their backdoor, Allen said, it's often too late to alter the outcome. Given that urgency, the researchers plan to expand the range of their ecosystem analysis both east and west, potentially picking up forestlands and mountain ranges, while further clarifying how neighboring ecosystems move in relation to one another and in relation to global drivers.

Eventually the researchers intend to develop tools usable by land managers and conservationists ranging from private industry to the military.

"We are working closely with a long list of partners to understand how to navigate these types of transitions and increase the performance of conservation investments," said Dirac Twidwell, associate professor of agronomy and horticulture. "Large-scale transitions should not be underestimated. Restoring what has been lost has proven extraordinarily difficult when the challenge spans large geographic regions."

The research was conducted with support from the Department of Defense Strategic Environmental Research Development Program, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. David Angeler, adjunct professor with the School of Natural Resources and also of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, contributed to the study.

# Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

National Audubon stepped up to thank our Congressman, Jeff Fortenberry, and Rep. Dan Lipinski from Illinois for taking the initiative to again introduce a bill calling for funding of prizes for innovations in key areas critical to combating climate change. The senior director of government affairs at National Audubon, Jesse Walls, said, "Clean energy competitions and prizes have a record of transforming industries and markets, and we are hopeful this one will yield some major advances and inspire public-private partnerships to jumpstart real clean energy innovation. We are grateful to Representatives Lipinski and Fortenberry for spearheading this effort."

The bill is HR 3100, the Challenges and Prizes for Climate Act of 2019. Prize competitions would be organized around five topics: carbon capture, energy efficiency, energy storage, climate resilience, and data analytics to better understand the changing climate and weather patterns.

Of course, it takes some courage for a House member to call for solutions to a problem that the leader of his political party denies even exists. If you could take a few minutes and write a short note to Congressman Fortenberry thanking him for moving ahead with this bill, it can encourage him to take a next step, and the one after that.

Earlier, on May 2, Congressman Fortenberry voted "yes" twice for legislative findings that may seem noncontroversial: one recognized the importance of clean energy in meeting the requirements of the Paris Climate Accord. The other recognized the importance of averting loss and damage associated with climate change. Yet out of 198 House Republicans, only 30 on the first vote and 27 on the second voted "yes." Fortenberry and just a few others in the House are marking out the way toward bipartisan agreement. That ability to reach agreement across party lines is essential for any significant action on climate, which must come from Congress.

In the press release announcing reintroduction of the Challenges and Prizes for Climate Act, Congressman Fortenberry is quoted as saying he is interested in "solutions to environmental security." What a good term. In June, environmental security and climate change was the subject of hearings before the House Intelligence Committee. A senior analyst with the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Dr. Rod Schoonover, testified that "The Earth's climate is unequivocally undergoing a long-term warming trend (which could) undermine important international systems on which the U.S. is critically dependent, such as trade routes, food and energy supplies, the global economy and domestic stability abroad." Absent mitigating factors, the committee was told, there are "few plausible scenarios" where "significant—possibly catastrophic—harm does not arise from the compounded effects of climate

change." My translation of that last sentence is that unless fossil fuel emissions are sharply and quickly reduced, the foreseeable results fall somewhere between significant and catastrophic. This is essentially the same message delivered by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change last October. The Administration's response to this expert's warning was to refuse to allow Dr. Schoonover's written testimony to be printed in the Congressional Record.

## Floodplains are for the Birds

Floodplains are habitats for birds, fish, reptiles, insects, and mammals. They are places where wildlife make their homes and raise their young. Floodplains are for floods. Our rivers, lakes, and wetlands depend on them. By protecting and restoring floodplains, we can preserve their important ecological functions. Please don't fill floodplains, ditch them, cut the trees, choke them with more levees, or build new structures and roads in them. To learn more about why floodplains are for the birds, contact the Northwest Regional Floodplain Management Association (NORFMA). Visit [www.norfma.org](http://www.norfma.org) for updates, news releases, and annual conference details.

## Seen a Fox or Coyote Lately?

Become a part of a citizen science project and help facilitate research on foxes and coyotes in Lincoln. Report your sightings to [go.unl.edu/Lincoln-fox-project](http://go.unl.edu/Lincoln-fox-project). When adding a new observation, you will have to create an iNaturalist account. Please add a photo to your observation whenever possible. If you do not want to create an account, email the locations of the sightings and a photo to this address: [lincolnfaxproject@gmail.com](mailto:lincolnfaxproject@gmail.com).



## Bird of Prey Watch the Award-winning Documentary Now

Fourteen stories high in a rainforest tree, a pair of Great Philippine Eagles struggles to raise their chick. Watch as this new life grows from gawky chick to powerful eaglet—one of fewer than 800 remaining. This stunning film tells the moving tale of a small but devoted group of people who refuse to believe in anything less than this magnificent bird's recovery.

Watch the full movie now; *Bird of Prey* is now streaming on iTunes, Amazon, and Vimeo.

Proceeds from this film will further The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's commitment to help protect endangered species.

## Public Officials

### **President Donald Trump**

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 Sasse**

1128 Lincoln Mall Ste 305, Lincoln NE 68508  
Lincoln phone: 402-476-1400 Fax: 402-476-0605  
Wash. DC phone: 202-224-4224 Fax: 202-224-5213  
E-mail at website: <http://sasse.senate.gov>

### **Senator Deb Fischer**

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 at website: <http://fischer.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 Don Bacon (2<sup>nd</sup> District)**

13906 Gold Cir Ste 101, Omaha NE 68144  
Omaha phone: 888-221-7452  
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4155 Fax: 202-226-5452  
E-mail at website: <https://bacon.house.gov>

### **Congressman Adrian Smith (3<sup>rd</sup> District)**

416 Valley View Dr Ste 600, Scottsbluff NE 69361  
Scottsbluff phone: 308-633-6333 Fax: 308-633-6335  
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 Pete Ricketts**

Capitol Bldg, PO Box 94848, Lincoln NE 68509-4848  
Phone: 402-471-2244 Fax: 402-471-6031  
E-mail at website: <http://governor.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 Leirion Gaylor Baird**

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10<sup>th</sup> St Rm 301, 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)

## **Join now! Become a Friend of Wachiska Audubon Society!**

This local chapter membership provides you with voting privileges and access to all our events, programs, and committees, **plus 100 percent of your membership donation goes directly to the Wachiska chapter. In addition, Friend members receive our monthly newsletter, *The Babbling Brook*, in their choice of print or electronic form.**

### **Friends of Wachiska (local membership)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_ \$25 Individual/Friend
- \_\_\_ \$35 Family Friend
- \_\_\_ \$50 Black-capped Chickadee Friend
- \_\_\_ \$100 Northern Cardinal Friend
- \_\_\_ \$250 Western Meadowlark Friend
- \_\_\_ \$500 Bald Eagle Friend
- \_\_\_ \$1000 Peregrine Falcon Friend

Select the level of support that is right for you and make your check payable to **Wachiska Audubon Society**. All funds will remain with our local chapter and are tax deductible. Mail to:

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

\_\_\_ **I prefer to receive my newsletter by email.**

Please note: If you are already a member of National Audubon Society (NAS) you automatically become a member of Wachiska, but not a Wachiska Friend member. Only Wachiska Friends receive the printed newsletter each month. If you wish to join NAS or receive *Audubon* magazine, please contact the National Audubon Society directly.



**American goldfinch family**

## Mind the Web

(reprinted from an Internet site)

One morning as I walked down the path to my car, I ran into a huge spiderweb that had appeared overnight. I felt foolish for not having seen it, rid myself of the web tendrils, and went on my way. The next morning the same occurrence happened, and I felt even more sheepish. On the third day I was careful to look for the web; the spider had rewoven it but this time off the path in the bushes. How humbling to realize the spider and I had learned the exact same lesson in the exact same amount of time!



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www.WachiskaAudubon.org

## WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2019

### OFFICERS

President.....	*Stu Lutlich (Geneva).....	402-759-3597
Vice President.....	*Theresa Pella.....	512-585-1511
Recording Secretary.....	*Cathy Shaner.....	402-421-1652
Treasurer.....	*Mary Rogge.....	402-488-1342
Immediate Past President.....	*Gary Fehr.....	402-570-4382

### STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large.....	*vacant.....	
Director at Large.....	*Terry Stentz.....	402-202-8819
Director at Large.....	*Melinda Varley.....	402-416-4111
Conservation.....	*Ross Scott (Roca).....	402-202-1523
Education.....	*Tim Knott.....	402-483-5656
Field Trips.....	John Carlini.....	402-475-7275
	*Lana Novak.....	402-475-8693
Hospitality.....	Cheryl Moncure.....	402-488-0036
Legislation.....	Bruce Kennedy (Malcolm).....	402-796-2114
	*Sam Truax.....	402-325-9012
Membership.....	*Jami Nelson.....	402-488-1598
Monthly Programs/General Meetings.....	Arlys Reitan..... WAS office	402-486-4846
Newsletter Editor.....	Arlys Reitan..... WAS office	402-486-4846
Population/Environment.....	*Mary King.....	402-570-3295
Publicity/Public Relations.....	Judith Gibson.....	402-466-0117

\*Denotes Board member

### OTHER ASSOCIATES

Bird Questions.....	Kevin Poague.....	402-797-2301
Facebook Coordinator.....	Benjamin Vogt.....	402-499-5851
Raptor Recovery.....	Betsy Finch (Elmwood).....	402-994-2009
Executive Director Audubon Nebraska.....	*Kristal Stoner.....	402-797-2301
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Director.....	Meghan Sittler.....	402-797-2301
Webmaster.....	Roxanne Smith.....	402-477-1319
Wachiska Computer Issues/Questions.....	Linda Sullivan.....	402-580-8515

## Remember Wachiska Audubon When Shopping Online

Every time you order from Amazon, please consider logging into [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Make Wachiska Audubon Society your permanent designee for a 5 percent discount on whatever you purchase at no extra cost to you.

***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**.