



Wachiska
Audubon Society

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

The Babbling Brook

Our 51st Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2024

OCTOBER 2024

Volume 33 - Issue 10

Wachiska Program and General Meeting — Thursday, October 10, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also via YouTube link: <https://youtube.com/live/yCOjZnmhvRs?feature=share>

Lincoln Water System: Planning for the Future

by Steve Owen, Lincoln Water System General Manager

The Lincoln Water System was established in 1876 as a municipal water system that has provided water supply to the City of Lincoln for 148 years. As Lincoln has grown to its present-day population of nearly 300,000, so has the need for additional water supply. In fact, 100 years ago, with the local water supply running low and having questionable quality, Lincoln's leaders made a strategic decision to develop an additional water source near Ashland, along the Platte River. The Platte River wellfields continue to be Lincoln's current source of water supply. Now, 100 years later, Lincoln's leaders are again embarking on another strategic step, aka Water 2.0, to fully develop the Platte River source as well as secure a second water source near the Missouri River. From the history of the Lincoln Water System, through future planning efforts, this talk will provide the audience with an understanding of the complexities involved in operating a public water supply and providing safe and reliable water to a large community like Lincoln.



Steve Owen was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, where both his grandfather and great-grandfather made their careers at the Council Bluffs Waterworks. Steve earned a B.S. in civil

engineering from UNL. He is a licensed civil engineer and Grade I water operator. Steve has worked in various management capacities in Lincoln's public utilities divisions during his nearly 40-year career, and he currently serves as the Lincoln Water System Division Manager. He enjoys the outdoors spending time fishing, hunting, and motorcycling.

Join Wachiska Audubon on **Thursday, October 10, at 7:00 p.m.** at Lincoln's Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, to learn more about Lincoln's water future. This free, public, in-person presentation will also be live-streamed on YouTube at

<https://youtube.com/live/yCOjZnmhvRs?feature=share>

No registration is needed. This presentation can also be viewed at a later time. Check Wachiska's website for links to past programs.

Climate Signs Still Available from Wachiska Audubon

Join friends and neighbors to show your concern about our climate and our elected officials. Stop by the Wachiska office and pick up your Climate yard sign.



Signs that say "VOTE with CLIMATE in Mind" are available for \$10 each. They are made of material that will hold up well to the elements and come with a metal holder to push into the ground. Put your signs out now for the fall elections. Since they are so durable, they could easily last three or four years even if kept out all year.

Calendar

October

- 3 Fall Birdseed Sale orders due – postmarked by today
- 4 Deadline for ordering 2025 Audubon calendars
- 6 **Prairie Pines open house, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.** (page 3)
- 7 Education/Outreach Committee via Zoom, 6:00 p.m.
- 10 General Meeting, "Lincoln Water System: Planning for the Future," by Steve Owen, 7:00 p.m., in-person meeting at the Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also live-streamed; no registration needed (see link above)
- 11-12 **Birdseed pick up** (see times/location on page 2)
- 15 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman



Birds are migrating, Husker football and volleyball are well underway, and we are starting to get some cooler temperatures. It is officially fall, and the trees will slowly begin turning from green to brown, red, and golden.

Thank you to everyone who ordered birdseed or an Audubon calendar. The deadline for birdseed orders is October 3, and calendars must be

ordered by October 4. The birdseed pick up will be at the Wachiska office at the garage at the south end of the building along the alley. Pick-up times will be Friday, October 11, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 12, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Are you looking for other ways to donate to Wachiska? Alter Metal Recycling at 6100 North 70th Street will take your scrap metals and give the proceeds to Wachiska. They accept aluminum cans, tin, brass, iron, copper (including wire with plastic coating), extension cords, vehicle batteries, and all types of steel and iron. They are open Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. When you take your metal items in, have them credit "Wachiska Audubon" or "WAS000" and every month or two, we will receive a check from Alters. It is surprising how a few dollars here and there can add up, and it always feels great to recycle material and keep it out of the landfill. You simply drive to the north side of their building where there is an area to unload your items. They weigh your metal and give you a ticket that you take into their office and tell them to credit it to account WAS000. They will ask for your driver's license when they weigh up your material. This is for their security if someone is selling stolen materials.

I had an enjoyable weekend with the Otoe-Missouria Tribe that visited Lincoln last month from Oklahoma. They were the original inhabitants of the Lincoln area before being removed and sent to Oklahoma in the 1850s. They enjoy coming home to their ancestral lands. Going out on prairies around Lincoln gives them a connection with their forefathers. Several members told me they look forward to their annual visit, and being able to collect plants for ceremonial and medicinal purposes is a highlight of the trip. Tribal members were recognized during the Husker football game against Illinois.

Tim Knott and his volunteers have begun their Prairie Discovery Days on Wachiska prairies and Nature Nights at local elementary schools. These programs give the chapter exposure and an opportunity to provide conservation education. If you would like to volunteer for future programs, contact Tim Knott or myself.

In this issue you will see an article about Prairie Pines. If you are able, we would love to have you attend the open house on **Sunday, October 6**, from **1:00 - 3:00 p.m.** at **Prairie Pines**, located at **112th and Adams streets (northeast of Lincoln)**. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call or email me anytime.

Reptiles of Nebraska Night

In celebration of October being Nebraska Reptile Month, Nebraska Game and Parks and UNL's School of Natural Resources will host a large-scale, family-friendly reptile fun night! Join us at Hardin Hall on East Campus (33rd and Holdrege streets) from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 24, for a night to celebrate reptiles. Dennis Ferraro, UNL herpetologist, will have an exhibit of snakes, lizards, and turtles of Nebraska. Along with live animals, there will be touch stations, coloring stations, turtle and snake activities, and many educational booths dedicated to educating Nebraskans on the importance and awesomeness of native reptiles in our state.

This is a FREE event that includes FREE parking! The first 200 families will take home a reptile swag bag! Several food trucks will be onsite where you can purchase dinner.

Center for Grassland Studies Fall Seminars

The CGS seminar series continues through the fall semester. The theme is "Wildlife and Grasslands" and is co-sponsored by Platte Basin Timelapse (<https://plattebasintimelapse.com>) and the School of Natural Resources (<https://snr.unl.edu>). These free lectures begin at 3:30 p.m. on Mondays in UNL's Hardin Hall Auditorium on East Campus. Seminars will be live-streamed over Zoom. Video recordings of recent years' lectures can be viewed at <https://grassland.unl.edu/grassland-systems/fall-seminars-leu-lectures>.

This month's topics and presenters will be:

October 7 – Katie Lamke, Xerces Society

October 14 – Ann Dvorak, Sustainable Ranching Initiative, World Wildlife Fund

October 28 – Scott Stephens, LEU Speaker, Prairie and Boreal Conservation, Ducks Unlimited

November 4 – Travis Livieri, Prairie Wildlife Research

Memorials Received

Long-time Wachiska member Bob "Gus" Fredrickson passed away in August. The family included Wachiska Audubon in designating memorials. Donations in Bob's memory were received from Joann Artz, Steve & Kathy Masters, Margaret & John Traudt, Susan & Dick Bottorff, Delfs Linder & Becky Roberts, Ellen Gillett, Tracy & Dean Way, Eric Seagren, Jim & Karen Schurr, Julie & Mike Huffman, Lonnie Mostek, Emily & Tom Lemmon, Linda Weyers, Michaela & John Erixson, Tim Knott, Mary Odell, Ken & Arlys Reitan, Eliza Sams, and Mark Wortman. Thank you to all for remembering Bob in this way.

Wachiska Being Offered Prairie Pines

by Mark Brohman

Wachiska has been presented with a tremendous opportunity. The University of Nebraska Foundation (Foundation) is offering Prairie Pines to Wachiska. This 145-acre site at 112th and Adams streets, just two miles outside northeast Lincoln, was owned by Professor Walter and Virginia Bagley. They were charter members of Wachiska and co-founded the chapter in 1973. The Bagleys offered Prairie Pines to Wachiska before gifting it to the Foundation in 1992, but at that time it was more than the chapter thought they could handle. The Bagleys included a provision in the gift that if the Foundation ever decided to divest themselves of the site, they must offer it to Wachiska at no cost.

Walt's wish was that Prairie Pines be "protected forever as a place that would provide a pleasant habitat for all beings—plant and animal." The Bagleys placed a conservation easement on the property in 1982 with the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, to protect the site from being developed. This was the first conservation easement established in Nebraska. Walt worked with Senator Jerome Warner to get the easement law established in Nebraska. Prairie Pines was also the first home to what is known today as Raptor Conservation Alliance.

Prairie Pines Partners (PPP) is a nonprofit established in 2009 to facilitate the Bagley's vision and develop Prairie Pines as a site of natural resource conservation for education, research, and recreation for all. As the landowner, Wachiska would partner with PPP, giving both organizations more opportunities to engage in nature with schools and the public.

Prairie Pines contains a 10-acre native prairie, a 15-acre and 5-acre high diversity reestablished prairies, several shelter belts of trees, an arboretum, tree research plots, wetlands, trails, two houses, a barn, and two sheds. In addition, Community Crops has about five acres they cultivate with immigrant families. One of the houses is currently used for offices and a nature center.

On **Sunday, October 6, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**, Wachiska will hold an **open house at Prairie Pines**. This will be an opportunity for members, friends, and the public to walk around the property, ask questions, and provide input to the Wachiska Board of Directors as it moves toward a decision whether to accept the property.

Wachiska's mission is "to bring people together to preserve and restore tallgrass prairies and other natural ecosystems, promote birding, support native wildlife, provide nature education, and advocate for the sustainability of our natural community." This site could provide a tangible identification for Wachiska to local residents with an office and connected nature center. A site like this could allow us to have events, including educational and fundraising opportunities.

We understand there will be added expenses, e.g., maintenance of the buildings, trails, and the site; insurance; and utilities. While revenue options will certainly increase with new fundraising and revenue opportunities, we are seeking pledges to help bridge a potential near-term gap and defray initial expenses. If you would like to make a pledge at this time, be assured we will not move forward with those pledges unless we accept Prairie Pines. If the Board does approve acceptance, we can then honor your pledge. Please contact Mark Brohman or the office for additional information.

Birdseed and Audubon Calendar Orders

Orders for the Fall Birdseed Sale and 2025 Audubon calendars are v-e-r-y s-l-o-w-l-y coming in. These are two fundraisers that Wachiska has successfully carried out for over 20 years. If you intend to order either/both, it must be done in the next few days. See Mark's Message on page 2 for deadlines. HURRY!

Animal Group Names

by Arlys Reitan

A recent discussion led to an investigation of different names for groups of animals. We began talking about birds, and it continued from there. It was astonishing to discover there are multiple names for some groups. Here are some of the most interesting (I did not make these up! Google "animal group names" to find others). When space permits, we might list more groups in future newsletters.

Birds—flock, flight, pod
Bitterns—Sedge or sege
Apes—shrewdness
Fish—school
Cattle—mob
Swans—bank, bevy, flight, game, herd, wedge
Ferrets—business, busyness, fesynes, feamyng
Squirrels—dray, scurry
Badgers—cete
Kittens—kindle, litter
Cats—clowder, pounce, destruction
Dogs—pack
Magpies—charm, gulp, murder, tiding
Toads—knot, nest
Jellyfish—fluther, smack
Turtles—bale, dole or dule, nest
Bats—colony
Moles—labour
Finches—charm
Mallards—sord, suit
Orangutans—buffoonery
Turkeys—gang, rafter
Barracuda—battery
Martens—richness
Doves—dole or dule, flight
Hyenas—cackle

Otoe-Missouria Celebration

by Mark Brohman

Several dozen members of the Otoe-Missouria Tribe drove from their homes in Red Rock, Oklahoma, to Lincoln to celebrate September 20 - 22. I had the privilege of having lunch with the chairman of the Tribe, John Shotton, along with tribal members Corey DeRoin and Christina Goodson, in addition to Margaret Jacobs, director of the UNL Center for Great Plains Studies.

Friday night many members of the Tribe attended the UNL football game against Illinois. At half-time, Chairman Shotton and tribal members received a game ball from UNL Chancellor Jeffery Gold on the field and shown on the big screens. A 90-second video was played on the big screens telling the Otoe-Missouria story and talking about the reconciliation project.

Saturday started with a tour of the recently acquired 27th Street and Arbor Road property by the City of Lincoln. There are plans for the Lower Platte South NRD to build an office on this site, create a new city park, and potentially have a site where the Otoe-Missouria can hold celebrations. Wachiska provided doughnuts, coffee, juice, granola bars, and fruit on-site.

Lunch was served for the group at Spring Creek Prairie, followed by activities. A dinner and program was attended by more than 150 guests that evening. Sandra Washington, Lincoln City Council member, presented an Otoe-Missouria Proclamation from the City Council and the mayor, naming every September 21st to permanently be Otoe-Missouria Day in Lincoln. Previously the City of Lincoln had made proclamations for the past two years. Councilman Tom Beckius was also present.

During the celebration at Spring Creek Prairie, there were games, drumming, dancing, and elders speaking. Tribal members were interviewed, and many photos were taken, especially of tribal members dressed in traditional clothes.

On Sunday the Tribe stopped in Beatrice to visit Homestead National Monument and visited the Otoe-Missouria display at the Gage County Museum before heading back to Oklahoma. Many times I was thanked by tribal members for Wachiska's hospitality the past three years of this project and for sharing our prairies with them. Next year they hope to visit our prairies again, especially Knott Prairie because it lies two miles north of where an Otoe-Missouria village was located for over 200 years.

If you would like to learn more, Google "Walking in the Footsteps of our Ancestors: Re-Indigenizing Southeast Nebraska Project." The project is being funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.



"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."

-- Albert Camus, French philosopher



Otoe-Missouria drumming and dancing at Spring Creek Prairie



Otoe-Missouria members learning about North 27th and Arbor Road future City of Lincoln park from Park and Recreation staff

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Upcoming Programs

by Kevin Poague, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center

More details on these and other events can be found at <https://springcreek.audubon.org/events>; 402-797-2301.

Hoot 'n' Howl Fall Fest

Saturday, October 12, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Save the date for our annual fall festival with a live bird show, booths, and lots of family-fun activities. Check our website for more information as details are announced.

Third Tuesday Bird Outing

Tuesday, October 15, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

A knowledgeable bird guide will lead this outing along the prairie trails. For beginners to experts. Free admission, registration requested.

Birdability Outing

Tuesday, October 22, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Celebrate Birdability Week with Cassandra Dean, Nebraska's Birdability captain. This guided bird outing is for all birders, beginners to experts, of all abilities and mobilities. You don't have to stay for the entire time, come and go as you please. Free admission, registration requested.

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

National Audubon's website recently included a quotation from a speech by Rachel Carson defending *Silent Spring*. Her science-based book explained the damage that pesticides were doing to birds and the whole natural world. Of attacks on the book, she said, "It is characteristic of this material that it deals in generalities, unsupported by documentation. In its claims for safety to human beings, it ignores the fact that we are engaged in a grim experiment never before attempted."

Increasing the heat of global climate year by year might also be called a grim experiment. The effort to control pesticides was in many ways like today's effort to stabilize climate. Here is Carson's challenge in *Audubon* magazine 61 years ago:

"Not often is it given to a generation to be able to change the course of events in ways that may significantly affect the future. Yet this is at once the privilege and the responsibility of us who live today. We live in a time of challenge, which is also a time of opportunity. We live in a time when it is easy to despair, but which is also a time of great hope. We live in a time when it is necessary to know for what we stand, and to take that stand with courage. . . . We must be able to separate the trivia of today from the enduring realities of the long tomorrow."

In June, for the first time, we are likely seeing a turning point for climate as to ozone-depleting, cancer-causing man-made gases chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). The journal *Nature Climate Change* reported a reduction of three-quarters of a percentage point—not much, but in the right direction for the first time.

It has been more than half a century since scientists first identified the hole in the ozone layer caused by CFCs. An international agreement has banned CFCs globally since 2010 and another for HFCs since 1992. What has worked to achieve a reduction, even this small one? A scientist consulted by *The Washington Post* (6/11/24) credited [the power of international cooperation](#). Of course, it is a smaller challenge to ban substances used as refrigerants and propellants compared to reducing our uses of oil and gas. But Rachel Carson never promised us that defending the natural world would be easy.

For almost ten years, the Environmental Voter Project (EVP) has targeted environmentalists to get them out to vote. "Them?" That's us! Volunteers for EVP can make phone calls, send text messages, write postcards, canvas door-to-door with just one message: VOTE! You can volunteer with EVP at <https://www.environmentalvoter.org/> or you can just talk to your family and friends who are climate-aware and urge them to get out and vote in the big November election.

In August, the Assistant Secretary General of the UN observed that fossil fuel companies are running "a massive misinformation and disinformation campaign to slow down the transition to a clean energy economy" (*The Guardian* 8/8/24). They are doing this despite the uncertainty we live with about "tipping points," climate changes that become irreversible. Check out <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/08/11/climate/earth-warming-climate-tipping-points.html>.

Rachel Carson would recognize this challenge/opportunity. She might remind us to keep watch for the long tomorrow.

Prairie Discovery Days

by Tim Knott, Chair, Education/Outreach Committee

Wachiska's education and outreach committee presented two Prairie Discovery Day events in September. Prairie Discovery Days are only half-day events, but we think they give fourth graders a good introduction to Nebraska's tallgrass prairie. The first was held on September 24, when 88 enthusiastic students and teachers from DC West Elementary School in Valley visited Knott Prairie near Yutan. Nolan Johnson, an anthropologist with the Nebraska State Historical Society, gave a good introduction to the lives of the earliest Nebraskans. The kids learned how the pioneers lived, hunted bison, and tools they used. Johnson mentioned that his team recently found a Clovis spear point in western Nebraska that was over 13,000 years old.

The DC West students also got an idea of the great variety of plants and insects on a native prairie thanks to Wachiska volunteers. They were also able to practice their writing skills. During break time they munched on grapes, apple slices, and banana halves. It was a fun experience for all.

A few days later, two busloads of fourth graders from Syracuse Public School visited Dieken Prairie south of Unadilla. Rain showers limited activities, but kids enjoyed learning about the prairie, wildlife, and local history. They enjoyed catching various insects and finding out what lives in the prairie.



Ethan Freese leading students on an insect-collecting venture during Prairie Discovery Day in September

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Stewart Udall

by Richard Peterson

Stewart Udall (b 1920 - d 2010), after serving three terms as a congressman from Arizona, served as Secretary of the Interior from 1961 - 1969, under presidents John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson.

Born in Saint Johns, Arizona, Stewart Udall worked on the family farm while growing up. He served four years with the U.S. Army Air Force in Italy and Western Europe as a gunner on a B-24 Liberator. He returned to law school, graduating in 1947. He married Ermalee Webb, and they would have six children. Udall began his law practice in 1948 and became increasingly active in public service. In 1954, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for three terms where he served on the Interior, and Education and Labor committees.

From 1961 - 1969 Udall served as U.S. Secretary of the Interior during which time the department aggressively promoted an expansion of federal public lands and assisted with the enactment of major environmental legislation. Udall oversaw the addition of four national parks, six national monuments, eight national seashores and lakeshores, nine national recreation areas, 20 national historic sites, and 56 national wildlife refuges. These included Canyonlands National Park in Utah, North Cascades National Park in Washington, Redwood National Park in California, the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey, and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail stretching from Georgia to Maine.

In his book *The Quiet Crisis* (1963) Udall wrote of the dangers of pollution, overuse of natural resources, and dwindling open spaces. Along with Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, Udall's book helped create a consciousness that led to the environmental movement.

Udall played a key role in the enactment of environmental laws such as the Clean Air Act, the Water Quality and Clean Water Restoration Act, the Wilderness Act of 1964, the Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1966, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, the Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1965, the National Trail System Act of 1968, and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. He spearheaded the use of NASA satellites to produce images of Earth for scientific research, leading to the Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) center at the U.S. Geological Survey.

Udall also helped spark a cultural renaissance in America by setting in motion initiatives that led to the Kennedy Center, Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the revived Ford's Theater.

In 1967, Udall received the National Audubon Society's highest honor, the Audubon Medal. Stewart Udall died in 2010 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and is buried in Saint John's Cemetery in Saint Johns (Apache County), Arizona.

Public Officials

President Joe Biden

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 Deb Fischer

1248 O St Ste 1111, 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>

Senator Pete Ricketts

1248 O St Ste 1000, 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://ricketts.senate.gov>

Congressman Mike Flood (1st District)

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

Congressman Don Bacon (2nd District)

13906 Gold Cir Ste 101, Omaha NE 68144
Omaha phone: 888-221-7452
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E-mail at website: <https://bacon.house.gov>

Congressman Adrian Smith (3rd 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 Jim Pillen

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 10th St Rm 110, Lincoln NE 68508
Phone: 402-441-7447 Fax: 402-441-6301
E-mail: commish@lancaster.ne.gov

Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10th St Rm 301, 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: councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln Journal Star

Letters to the Editor, 21st and N St, Lincoln NE 68508
E-mail: 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 _____

Email _____

- ___ \$25 Individual/Friend
- ___ \$35 Family Friend
- ___ \$50 Black-capped Chickadee Friend
- ___ \$100 Northern Cardinal Friend
- ___ \$250 Western Meadowlark Friend
- ___ \$500 Bald Eagle Friend
- ___ \$1,000 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



American Goldfinches

___ **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.

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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.

REMEMBERING WACHISKA'S HISTORY

Wachiska means “stream” or “creek” in the languages of Indigenous people of eastern Nebraska, the Omaha and Ponca.

The environmental stewardship efforts of the Wachiska Audubon Society take place on the past, present, and future homelands of the Pawnee, Ponca, Otoe-Missouria, and Omaha Peoples, as well as those of the relocated Ho-Chunk, Sac and Fox, and Ioway. We humbly join our efforts with theirs in honoring and stewarding this land of prairies, rivers, and streams.

Wachiska Audubon Society

4547 Calvert St Ste 10

Lincoln NE 68506-5643

402-486-4846

office@WachiskaAudubon.org

www.WachiskaAudubon.org

WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2024

Executive DirectorMark Brohman
Office Administrator.....Arlys Reitan

OFFICERS

President*Theresa Pella
Vice President*Andrea Faas
Secretary*April Stevenson
Treasurer/Finance*Carol Bodeen

STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large*Dakota Altman
Director at Large*Ann Briggs
Director at Large*Doug Campbell
Director at Large*Ethan Freese
Director at Large*Stu Luttich
Director at Large*Tom Lynch
Director at Large*Mercy Manzanares
Director at Large*Kris Powers
Conservation*Ross Scott
Education/Outreach.....*Tim Knott
Membership.....Linda Brown

*Denotes voting Board member

For contact information of officers and committee chairs, call the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846.

If you missed a monthly program or want to view one again, Wachiska Audubon’s monthly programs are available on YouTube via the homepage at www.WachiskaAudubon.org.

Wachiska is participating with Give Nebraska. Through a payroll deduction system, your donations will be automatically withdrawn from your paycheck. There are 75 nonprofit agencies that are beneficiaries, and more than 100 worksites participate. You can give a little each paycheck, and your contributions can add up. Your donations through Give Nebraska are tax deductible. Check with your employer to see if they are part of Give Nebraska.

Wachiska Audubon Society’s financial records are available for examination in the office.

Mission Statement of the Wachiska Audubon Society

The mission of the Wachiska Audubon Society is to bring people together to preserve and restore tallgrass prairies and other natural ecosystems, promote birding, support native wildlife, provide nature education, and advocate for the sustainability of our natural community.

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**.

