



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

NOVEMBER 2024

Volume 33 - Issue 11

Wachiska Program and General Meeting — Thursday, November 14, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also via YouTube link: <https://youtube.com/live/F2XE0dO9EYo?feature=share>

## Birds and Other Wildlife in Southern Africa

by Dr. John Carroll, Professor of Wildlife Ecology and Management,  
School of Natural Resources, UNL

**M**any Americans dream of going on an African safari once in their lives. I have had the opportunity to take students to either Botswana or South Africa for 25 years. We generally spend almost a month camping out in the bush. Although students are there to do a class, fun stuff like distance sampling, camera trapping, and natural history are also crucial. Yes, charismatic megafauna is pretty spectacular, but as a result, over the years a number of young birders have come out of the course. Last summer our group tallied 230 species in the bushveld of the northern tip of Kruger National Park—of course, those were all life listers for the students. What is better is they bring that passion home with them. I will talk about our experiences and also some suggestions for those who might be considering a trip to the “dark continent.”

**Dr. John Carroll** is a wildlife biologist who has focused on avian biology over the last 30+ years. Having been at UNL for many years, he previously served on the faculty at the University of Georgia and PennWest University and was also a research scientist with the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust in England. Dr. Carroll has worked on bird conservation issues globally. Because of his interest in African wildlife, John has researched charismatic megafauna there, including lions and hyenas. When not working, he enjoys gardening, woodworking,



Students and Dr. John Carroll (far right).

fishing, snowboarding, sailing, scuba diving, and especially cycling.

Join Wachiska Audubon **Thursday, November 14**, at **7:00 p.m.** at Lincoln's Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, to learn more about Africa's birds and other wildlife from an expert of many years. This free, public, in-person presentation will be live-streamed on YouTube at

<https://youtube.com/live/F2XE0dO9EYo?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.

**NOTE: The annual meeting will be held prior to the speaker's presentation. The meeting will include a vote for the 2025 Board positions that expire at the end of 2024. There will also be a short annual report presentation, highlighting the organization's accomplishments during this calendar year to date.**

### Calendar

#### November

- 5 Election Day – VOTE
- 11 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 14 Annual Meeting/Election of Officers, Program “Birds and Other Wildlife in Southern Africa,” by Dr. John Carroll, 7:00 p.m., in-person, Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also live-streamed; no registration needed (see link above)
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 19 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

# Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman



The big news for Wachiska is our acceptance of Prairie Pines! Be sure and read the article on Prairie Pines in this issue. I think the opportunities to get kids out into nature and educate the public are unlimited at this site so close to Lincoln.

We have had the first hard frost across the state, and I'm sure we will see flurries one of these days. Most of the migration has occurred, but there are some lingering birds still passing through eastern Nebraska. At least the ticks will be slowing up and present less of a problem in coming days if you decide to venture into the woods or prairies.

Our speaker last month was Steve Owen, Lincoln Water System general manager who updated the audience on Lincoln's planned second source of water that will come from the Platte River south of Plattsmouth. He had lots of interesting facts about Lincoln's water use and historical information. This month Dr. John Carroll will be our speaker on November 14. John is always entertaining. Last time he spoke on flying squirrels in Lincoln and this time he will be speaking about Africa's birds and other wildlife.

I want to thank everyone who ordered birdseed or an Audubon calendar last month. I also want to thank folks for the early pledges we have received for Prairie Pines. A big thank you to the families that honored their loved ones by designating Wachiska as the recipients of memorials. Wachiska has great members who are generous with their time and funds. We may have a late season seed collection or two, so if you want to be put on our call list when we do seed harvests, let me know. There is a chance we might do a late season cedar tree cutting before the snow flies.

Enjoy the cooler temperatures as you get ready for the holiday season.

## Memorials Received

Recently the following memorial gifts have been received. We wish to thank the following donors:

Jane Fredrickson and Linnea Fredrickson for remembering Suzy Taylor.

Stu Luttich for his gifts in memory of Arnold Mendenhall and Dick Gray.

## Recycle for Wachiska

by Mark Brohman

Alter Metal Recycling at 6100 North 70th Street will accept your scrap metals and give the proceeds to Wachiska. We now have an account and last month received our first check from Alter. They accept aluminum cans, tin, brass, iron, copper (including wire with plastic coating and extension cords), vehicle batteries, and all kinds of steel and iron.

Alter is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. When you turn in your metal items, have them credit "Wachiska Audubon WAS000" and Wachiska will receive a check for the donations. Even if you only have a small amount, the donations can add up, and it keeps items out of the landfill.

When you pull up to their building, enter their recycling area on the north side of the building. Drive through an open gate into the fenced area, and you will see where they are taking items inside the metal building just inside the gate to the south. Take your items in, they weigh them and print a ticket off with all the items on it. Drive back out to the front of the building and go in the front doors marked "office" and present your printed ticket and tell them it is for "Wachiska WAS000." When turning in your metals, they will ask for your driver's license. This is for security in case someone brings in stolen items. I recently had a bag of pop cans and a few iron pipes that were laying around my garage that I took out to Alter, and we just received a check. Thank you for thinking of Wachiska.

## Fall Birdseed Sale Report

by Cathy Shaner, Coordinator

Thanks to Dean Cole, Dave Barnhouse, Mark Brohman, Jeff Meyer, and Dwayne Wilson for assisting me to unload, sort, and load seed into customers' vehicles during the October 11-12 Fall Birdseed Sale. Thanks to Jeff Meyer for coordinating the volunteers for this event. I want to give a shout out to Nancy Hamer, Linda Sullivan, Roxanne Smith, and Arlys Reitan for assistance with the website and emails. Thanks to all! A total of \$3,601 of seed was sold which included 72 bags and 11 cases of suet. A total of \$106 in donations were received.

## 25 Best Bird Podcasts

Immerse yourself in the rich soundscapes and fascinating stories of avian life with these top bird podcasts. From humorous takes and laid-back banter to serious conservation efforts and scientific exploration, there's something for every bird enthusiast. Discover rare sightings, engage with expert discussions, and enjoy heartwarming birding experiences through this curated collection, perfect for both novice birders and seasoned ornithologists seeking to deepen their connection with nature. You can access these podcasts via Apple, Spotify, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram using the link at [podcasts.feedspot.com/bird\\_podcasts/](https://podcasts.feedspot.com/bird_podcasts/).

## Wachiska Board Votes to Accept Prairie Pines from NU Foundation

by Mark Brohman, Executive Director

During its October meeting, the Wachiska Board voted to accept the University of Nebraska Foundation's (Foundation) offer to give the chapter ownership of Prairie Pines Nature Preserve. The 145-acre property in northeast Lincoln near 112<sup>th</sup> and Adams streets was owned by Walt and Virginia Bagley who were charter members of Wachiska. Walt spent his career as a forestry professor at UNL. To preserve Prairie Pines' natural



**Walt and Virginia Bagley**

areas of woodlands, wetlands, and prairie, the Bagleys initially offered the property to Wachiska in the early 1990s, but at that time, the chapter wasn't ready to manage lands. The Bagleys eventually gifted the property to the Foundation. Earlier this year, the Foundation decided to divest from the property and made the donation offer to Wachiska who had right of first refusal according to Walt's wishes.

Since the offer in early August, many conversations and data gathering have taken place to detail the pros and cons of taking ownership of the Preserve. An open house on October 6<sup>th</sup> brought over 75 interested members, friends, and the public to check out the site. Enthusiasm from that day, along with some early pledges, led the Board to decide to move forward. Management of the property will be by a group of Wachiskans and partners already operating at the Preserve to allow the conservation committee to continue its focus on the other prairies that the chapter owns or holds easements on. Wachiska will be able to move its office to Prairie Pines, and other buildings are on site that can eventually be utilized for education, fundraising, rentals, and other ways to introduce people to and experience Wachiska.

Prairie Pines includes a 10-acre native prairie, 5-acre and 15-acre restored prairies, an arboretum, shelterbelts, several



**Prairie Pines Prairie**

forested areas, and wetlands. In addition, Community Crops has a 5-acre plot of land where they grow vegetables for local consumption. The Nebraska Forest Service has been managing the site for the Foundation. When they leave, most of the equipment, implements, and tools will go with them. If you have some equipment or tools that you would like to donate, please contact the office.



**Prairie Pines Woodlands**

If you would like to join those who have already pledged to help bridge a potential near-term gap as this exciting transition takes place, you can mail or bring a check to the current office or donate online (enter Prairie Pines in the comment box). If you are interested in donating stock, a required minimum distribution (RMD), or a gift from your Lincoln Community Foundation Donor Advised Fund, please visit with Executive Director Mark Brohman (402-525-1504) for details.

Stay tuned for updates as this exciting adventure builds! However you continue to support the Wachiska Audubon Society in the near-term or long-term, you are helping to preserve, educate, and advocate for diverse natural areas necessary for a healthy ecosystem. Thank you!

## 2025 Wachiska Audubon Society Board Nominees

by Theresa Pella, President

This year's election is focused on the president, vice president, and four directors-at-large positions. The bylaws state that the November general meeting will serve as the annual meeting where election of officers and Board positions will take place. At the November 14<sup>th</sup> general meeting, Wachiska members and friends will be asked to approve the following 2025 slate of candidates presented by the nominating committee, Lisa Sutton, Carol Hinkle, Theresa Pella, and Executive Director Mark Brohman. The process included announcements seeking candidates during the August and September general meetings and notices in *The Babbling Brook*.

### Theresa Pella – President (2-year term)

This would be Theresa's third 2-year term. She believes the organization has made targeted progress using the latest strategic plan, including strengthening internal operations and finding ways to manage lands without total volunteer burn out. The new plan will be a helpful guide as large decisions need to be made and new resources found as land offers and new opportunities to engage the public and advocate for birds and other wildlife increase. Theresa holds a BA in management and an MA in legal studies. She retired in 2017 after 30 years in the public sector working in air quality policy and program areas. She is a certified Nebraska Master Naturalist, growing up on a farm in Johnson County where her 94-year-old mother still lives. She is also a National Audubon Society board director and a Nebraska chapter representative on the Audubon Great Plains Board.

### Ann Briggs – Vice President (2-year term)

Ann would be transitioning from a director position to begin a 2-year term as vice president. Ann's experience and knowledge helped with technology needs for the 50th anniversary celebration. As she's becoming more familiar with Wachiska, her talents can be utilized to increase the reach of Wachiska's work. As a native Nebraskan, she has a deep appreciation of our unique prairie ecosystems. She holds a BS in fisheries and wildlife and an MS in human dimensions of natural resources, both from UNL. Ann works at the Nebraska Water Center as public relations and engagement coordinator, focusing on communicating research and projects through digital and traditional media and coordinating events and outreach opportunities.

### Andrea Faas – Director (1-year term)

Andrea would be transitioning from vice president to a director and completing the second year of Ann's director term. Andrea is the division administrator at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission where she oversees the fish and wildlife education division. Previously she was the coordinator of Pioneers Park Nature Center. She's worked in environmental and outdoor education for over 20 years and is currently the board chair of the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program. Her passion is to preserve natural landscapes and provide educational and recreational opportunities for people to explore and learn. In her free time, Andrea spends time with her family, cycling, bird watching, and gardening.

### Ethan Freese – Director (2-year term)

This would be Ethan's second 2-year term on the Board. He was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska. He graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2018 with degrees in fisheries and wildlife and grassland ecology and management and completed a Master of Applied Science degree at UNL in 2020. Currently, Ethan is working for the Platte Basin Timelapse project in the School of Natural Resources at UNL. He has been an active member of Wachiska's conservation committee since 2019. Ethan has developed a deep appreciation for the prairies of Nebraska and he enjoys helping others learn about these undervalued ecosystems.

### Dakota Altman – Director (2-year term)

This would be Dakota's second 2-year term on the Board. He's been a member of the conservation committee, contributing through field work and website updates providing concise directions to Wachiska's prairies. He is hopeful that more involvement by a younger crowd can provide new perspectives while gaining knowledge from the wise prairie stewards at the forefront of what Wachiska stands for. Dakota earned a BS degree in fisheries and wildlife and a Master of Applied Science in the field of conservation storytelling. He currently works for the Platte Basin Timelapse project to elevate the stories of people around our watershed and the beauty and importance of prairies and wetland ecosystems.

### Tom Lynch – Director (2-year term)

Tom was elected in 2023 to fill the last year of a vacant director position. He is a retired UNL English professor with specialization in nature writing and regional literature. He previously served on Wachiska's Board from 2007-2009, during which time he organized six literary reading events as fundraising benefits for Wachiska. Tom also organized a "Nature Notes" column in the monthly paper, *Prairie Fire*. Many were later published in the collection *Natural Treasures of the Great Plains: An Ecological Perspective*, which he co-edited with Paul Johnsgard and Jack Phillips. Tom has been closely involved with the Otoe-Missouria Day events in Lincoln, including the visits to the Wachiska prairies with an Otoe-Missouria delegation. He would like to continue working to link the Otoe-Missouria people with their ancestral landscapes.

### Roxanne Smith – Director (2-year term)

Roxanne previously served as a Board director from 2016-2017. She's been involved with environmental issues since college when she was active in recycling efforts and lobbied for Lincoln to facilitate public and private recycling. Her degree in community and regional planning helped her understand land use issues and how human development affects the natural world and all that live in it. She served on the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District board for 12 years. For several years she has been supervisor of tours at the State Capitol. Roxanne has been a Wachiska member for many years helping in numerous areas, including serving as the chapter's first and only webmaster from 2019 to the present.

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."*

-- Margaret Mead

# Climate Change Update

by Chuck Francis

Education & Outreach Committee

## Norway's Debate on Climate Change

In September 2023, John Dagsvik and Sigmund Moen, Norwegian climate scientists, published a paper on the official website of Statistics Norway questioning the human causes of global warming. The agency quickly clarified that these were personal opinions of the scientists and not an official statement from the government; in fact, the two scientists' opinions conflict with a general awareness in the public. A technical article in the journal *Public Understanding of Science* describes the results of ten focus groups, where the overwhelming majority of Norwegians believed that human-induced climate warming is underway. Yet there is a remaining 'undercurrent of doubt and uncertainty' about how serious this issue really is.

Norway is a large exporter of petroleum and natural gas, and their supply for domestic energy generation is supplemented by an extensive hydropower resource well distributed across the country. In an example of local economic advantage, until recently Norway exported electrical power from the south to nearby Denmark, while at the same time importing nuclear-plant-generated energy from Russia in the north. Even with political conflicts, economics rules national decisions. In a cold Nordic climate, people appreciate abundant energy from petroleum mined in the North Sea and renewable energy from widely-used hydropower.

Sceptics about global warming in Norway are overwhelmed by evidence from research institutes and universities that this threat is real and is generated by human activities. The journal article evaluates the impact of public media. Seeking a 'balanced view' on controversial issues, the media is looking for arguments on both sides and could be accused of creating more credibility in denier theories than warranted based on popular opinion.

There is variation among countries in how the media presents arguments about global warming. Although science and its results are almost universally accepted, few people really grasp the reality of the scientific process, where additional data and interpretation are always part of the search for reality. Vested financial interests weigh in with a narrative often supporting the status quo in matters impacting their short-term bottom lines. Serious researchers recognize that debates are open-ended, and the search will continue to create new realities based on objective study and analysis.

Thus, the debate goes on in Norway and around the globe. When we consider the consequences of denying climate change and continuing the exploitation of petroleum and

other non-renewable resources, it seems clear to me that we must take a strong position against the nay-sayers of climate change. The world's human and other populations face an existential threat from climbing global temperature. These are threats that cannot be solved by human cleverness and new technology.

Threats to agriculture and food production, to transportation and commerce, and to well-being of the planet's ecosystem put us all in danger. We need action now.

Note: Author Chuck Francis recently spent a month in Norway teaching agroecology and gathering opinions from students, educators, and the media. Critical reviews by Barb Francis and Marilyn McNabb are gratefully acknowledged.

## 125 Years for Audubon's Christmas Bird Count

by Jason "the Birdnerd" St. Sauver  
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center

It's a little over a month until the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) takes place. Sunday, December 15, is set aside to participate in the Lincoln Circle Count. We are hoping many of you can participate; I'm hoping to reach 100 as the number of birders taking part in this year's CBC. If you have a favorite spot that you want to be assigned to, please contact me ASAP before someone beats you to it! Contact me at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, [jstsauver@audubon.org](mailto:jstsauver@audubon.org) or 402-797-2301.

## Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Upcoming Programs

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

### Third Tuesday Bird Outing

Tuesday, November 19, 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.

### Holiday Open House

Sunday, December 1, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Our annual holiday open house features family craft stations, live music, holiday treats, and open trails for a brisk winter outing. Check website for more details as they become finalized. Free admission, no registration is needed.

## Taxonomy Changes Impact Names of Species

from Project FeederWatch eNews, October 16, 2024



**Northern House Wren, formerly called House Wren, by Gary Mueller/Project FeederWatch**

Periodically, the American Ornithological Society updates bird names and bird species lists to reflect the latest research.

Several changes were recently announced that will impact some birders. The house wren and the herring gull have both been split into multiple species. The house wren we see in the U.S. and Canada is now called American house wren and the herring gull in the Americas is now called

American herring gull. Several redpoll species, on the other hand, have been lumped together into a single species called redpoll. That means there is no longer a common redpoll, hoary redpoll, or a lesser redpoll—good news for those lucky enough to see redpolls but have had trouble telling them apart! Programmers are currently working on getting these name updates into the FeederWatch system.

One additional change doesn't involve species names but is interesting nonetheless: Cooper's hawk and northern goshawk have moved from the genus *Accipiter* to the genus *Astur* because genetic research has shown that they are not closely related to other accipiters, like the sharp-shinned hawk. It's hard to believe that the nearly identical Cooper's hawks and the sharp-shinned hawks aren't closely related, but the same is true of downy and hairy woodpeckers. In the case of the woodpeckers, researchers believe the smaller downy evolved to look like the hairy to take advantage of the size advantage the hairy has in interactions with other birds competing for resources. Perhaps some similar advantage impacted the evolution of Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks. Tips for distinguishing Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks can be found on the Project FeederWatch website.

## 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. Since they are so durable, they could easily last three or four years even if kept out all year.

## Molting

by Richard Peterson

Feathers are analogous to hair or nails in humans. They are all made of keratin, and all continually grow. Molting in birds is the periodic shedding and regrowth of their feathers.

Molts are variable and patterns vary by species. Molt occurs in response to hormonal and seasonal changes. There is a difference between feather wear and feather fading. 'Wear' is mechanical damage from flapping and environmental factors that cause feather tips to fray. Paler-colored feathers wear more quickly because they lack enough melanin, a pigment that strengthens cells. 'Fading' is primarily caused by UV radiation that breaks down the feather. Lice and bacteria also contribute to feather loss.

It takes a lot of energy to produce a new set of feathers. The larger the bird the more difficult this becomes. For example, eagles and pelicans restore individual primary and secondary wing feathers in a staggered manner, taking multiple years to complete the overhaul.



Basic plumage is the 'normal' feathers they wear, as depicted in a field guide. They will wear this for most of the year, but even this plumage will need to be replaced.

Breeding plumage develops in the spring, prior to the breeding season. Once mates are secured, they will molt into their basic plumage, sometimes less colorful and distinctive, but still field guide correct.

Almost all birds fall into one of the following three categories:

- One complete molt a year includes chickadees, flycatchers, hawks, owls, hummingbirds, jays, swallows, thrushes, vireos, and woodpeckers. All feathers are replaced with a fresh healthy set.
- One complete molt and one partial molt before the breeding season. Those in this group include buntings, tanagers, American goldfinches, and warblers.
- Those birds with two complete molts a year are very few. Most live where their environment, e.g., navigating dense vegetation, etc., causes significant feather wear and damage. Marsh wrens and bobolinks are two species in this group.

The casual birdwatcher must distinguish between winter (nonbreeding) plumage and summer (breeding) plumage. This usually works fine, but there are a lot of 'except for the exceptions.' And remember, it takes a while for young birds to fully develop their adult plumage. The key is for birders to learn all they can about the species of bird they are seeing. Are you seeing them during the breeding season, during migration, or during the overwintering season? Remember how the male scarlet tanager can switch to olive-green for the winter and back to brilliant red for spring and summer.

## 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 (1<sup>st</sup> District)**

301 S 13<sup>th</sup> 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 (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 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 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: [councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lincoln Journal Star**

Letters to the Editor, 21<sup>st</sup> and N 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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.

*The Babbling Brook* (ISSN #1068-2104) is published monthly 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.

## 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 Director ..... Mark 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](http://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**.

