



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 52nd Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2025

JANUARY 2025

Volume 34 - Issue 1

Wachiska Program and General Meeting - Thursday, January 9, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, and also via YouTube link: <https://youtube.com/live/vVsa0sas-tk?feature=share>

The Role of Prairie Pines in Improving Tree Diversity and Community Resilience Across Nebraska

with Justin Evertson, Nebraska Forest Service and Nebraska Statewide Arboretum
by Arlys Reitan

At this time, it seems especially appropriate to address the topic of how Prairie Pines is currently and will continue to aid in providing and researching tree diversity in Nebraska. After all, Walt and Virginia Bagley always had trees in mind when they settled Prairie Pines. They started the first Christmas tree farm in the state where people could pick out their trees and have them freshly cut for holiday decorating. Walt was a charter member of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. With assistance from State Senator Jerome Warner and Glenn Johnson of the Lower Platte South NRD, Bagleys established the first conservation easement in Nebraska.

Wachiska's January 9th speaker is amply qualified to address Prairie Pines' trees. **Justin Evertson** will discuss the tree diversity initiatives of the Nebraska Forest Service and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, including the role of Prairie Pines' test plots. In these plots, about 70 unique types of regionally native but uncommon trees and shrubs have been lined out for trial and seed block establishment since 2014.

Justin Evertson is a favorite presenter to Wachiska Audubon. He has been assisting communities across Nebraska with sustainable landscape development since 1990. He is passionate about trees and the native landscape and practices what he preaches by helping in the planting and care of several community landscapes in Waverly where he lives.



Justin Evertson

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, January 9, at 7:00 p.m.** at Lincoln's Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, for this free, public, in-person talk which will also be live-streamed on YouTube at

<https://youtube.com/live/vVsa0sas-tk?feature=share>

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

Wish List for Prairie Pines

As we move to Prairie Pines and get ready for a new year, we will be deciding on essential tools and equipment needed.

If you have hand or power tools, lawn items (sprinklers and hoses), or other equipment you would like to donate, please get in touch with Mark Brohman. We will be looking for a vehicle to transport disabled or elderly visitors as well as for maintaining trails and fences. An electric golf cart would be ideal or a UTV or side-by-side all-terrain vehicle. We will also be in the market for a small- to medium-sized tractor for various duties in the future. If you have a spare area rug, we could use one or two in the visitor's center.

As always, we really appreciate the generosity of our members.

Calendar

January 2025

- 6 Education/Outreach Committee via Zoom, 6:00 p.m.
- 9 General Meeting, "The Role of Prairie Pines in Improving Tree Diversity and Community Resilience Across Nebraska," by Justin Evertson, 7:00 p.m., in-person meeting at the Unitarian Church and also live-streamed; no registration needed (see link above)
- 13 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 21 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman



I can hardly believe it is 2025. Last month we closed on the 145-acre Prairie Pines property, and we are in the process of moving our office out there. (Note we are still working out of our original location at 4547 Calvert Street until further notice on the physical move.) We will be working very closely with Prairie Pines Partners, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that

has been offering onsite nature and educational opportunities for several years. Prairie Pines is currently open Fridays and Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., but I'm sure we will add additional "open" days once we are settled in. Wachiska will continue to have an arrangement with Community Crops, the Mentored Hunting Program with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, the Nebraska Forest Service, and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum.

Another Christmas Bird Count (CBC) has concluded, and I want to thank Jason for his hard work organizing the event and all the volunteers for their time. Be sure and read the CBC report on page 3. It looks like we added a few species, but overall numbers were down.

Our December general meeting was a huge success with over 80 people enjoying a potluck meal before Board Member Dakota Altman gave a wonderful presentation of pictures and video highlighting Wachiska properties and events during the past year. The silent auction netted almost \$1,000. We had several items in our storeroom which we decided to bring out before our move along with donated items from some generous donors. A big thank you to Joanne Pepperl, Lyle Vannier, Bruce Wendorff, Ross Scott, Elizabeth Nelson, and Jeanette Nakada for their donated items. We will definitely hold another silent auction at a future monthly meeting.

Arlys Reitan has decided to step back as we transition to Prairie Pines. I want to thank Arlys for her many years of service to Wachiska. She has been the backbone of our organization. Arlys set up the office when it opened in 1995 and has run the office for 30 years as well as serving as the editor of *The Babbling Brook* since 2000. I hope we can convince her to continue to act as our editor, as that is a skill set held by few people.

I hope you had a great holiday season. As we begin 2025, think about coming out to visit Prairie Pines and walking around on the trails through the trees and along the prairies.

See Wachiska's Wish List on the front page for items you might be able to donate to Prairie Pines. Also consider how you could volunteer out there as we look forward to Spring.

Bird Community Science: Counting for Conservation

by Brady Karg, Education Coordinator
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center

Birdwatching is more than just a beloved hobby—it's also an opportunity to contribute to meaningful conservation efforts through bird community science projects. These programs engage bird enthusiasts of all skill levels to help scientists track bird populations, migration patterns, and habitat health. Here at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, we're excited to share opportunities for you to get involved and provide a glimpse into our own ongoing research efforts.

One of the longest-running community science projects in the world, the Christmas Bird Count (CBC), invites bird lovers to participate in a coordinated effort to tally bird species during the winter months. Organized by the National Audubon Society, the CBC provides critical data about bird populations, which helps scientists track trends over time. Lincoln's CBC took place on December 15 this year. People of all ages spent the day tallying every bird they encountered in their designated area. Some of the species found this year included barred, screech, and great horned owls; purple finch; northern shrike; ruby-crowned kinglet; northern mockingbird; red-shouldered hawk and yellow-bellied sapsucker.

Another excellent project is the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), held annually in February. Unlike the CBC which focuses on designated count circles, the GBBC allows participants to count birds anywhere—from backyards to parks—making it accessible to everyone. The data collected helps scientists understand global bird distribution and abundance. To participate, simply observe and count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the event and submit your sightings to eBird. The Great Backyard Bird Count is from February 14-17 this year.

In addition to promoting community science initiatives, our staff at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center conducts their own research to better understand local bird populations. This winter, our team is focusing on nocturnal surveys to monitor owl species in the areas surrounding the center. These surveys involve listening for and identifying owl calls during the evening hours to assess the presence and distribution of great horned, Eastern screech, barred, and long-eared owls.

You don't have to be a professional ornithologist to make a difference! Consider joining a bird count this season or taking a walk in your neighborhood to observe and record birds. If you're curious about owls, try your hand at an evening walk and listen for their distinctive calls. Don't forget to share your findings through platforms like eBird, where your data contributes to a global understanding of bird populations.

By participating in bird community science or supporting local research, you're helping ensure that future generations will continue to enjoy the wonder of birds. Let's work together to protect our feathered friends!

Lincoln's 2024 Christmas Bird Count Part of Audubon's 125th!

by Jason "the Birdnerd" St. Sauver

Audubon across the country celebrated its 125th Christmas Bird Count (CBC) season, with volunteers all around Lincoln helping count the Lincoln CBC circle on Sunday, December 15. The day started out foggy and mild with owls being heard in the dark but not much sun or bird activity until later in the morning. Counters of all ages and abilities helped count from watching window feeders to UNL students on campus and experienced birders in local parks, prairies, and woodlands.

The diversity of bird species was up this count compared to past years with 84 species of birds detected over the count day, but the overall numbers of individual birds were much lower, especially with waterfowl, game birds, and most markedly, wintering sparrow species. As usual, Canada geese was the most numerous species with European starlings and pigeons coming in a close second and third.

The full list of species is shown below. A huge THANK YOU to the amazing volunteers of all ages and abilities who helped to make the Lincoln CBC a success. This year we had over 90 volunteer counters in the field and at feeders around Lincoln for our 86th Lincoln CBC. To celebrate, several counters met at the Unitarian Church for our post-count social for free pizza and to share stories and sightings from the count. THANK YOU TO ALL OUR COUNTERS!

2024 LINCOLN CBC - BIRD COUNT SUMMARY

Species	Tally	Species	Tally	Species	Tally
Snow Goose	1	Northern Mockingbird	1	Tufted Titmouse	1
Cackling Goose	71	American Kestrel	16	Golden-crowned Kinglet	14
Canada Goose	2941	Merlin	3	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4
Wood Duck	2	American Coot	9	Eastern Bluebird	41
American Wigeon	3	Killdeer	1	American Robin	559
Gadwall	20	Wilson's Snipe	1	European Starling	1805
Mallard	600	Ring-billed Gull	468	Cedar Waxwing	210
Northern Pintail	6	Feral (Rock) Pigeon	1730	Yellow-rumped Warbler	7
Green-winged Teal	57	Eurasian Collared-Dove	437	Spotted/Eastern Towhee	1
Canvasback	3	Mourning Dove	343	American Tree Sparrow	159
Redhead	2	Eastern Screech-Owl	4	Fox Sparrow	6
Ring-necked Duck	22	Great Horned Owl	4	Field Sparrow	2
Lesser Scaup	1	Barred Owl	4	Swamp Sparrow	3
Bufflehead	15	Belted Kingfisher	5	Song Sparrow	47
Common Goldeneye	9	Red-headed Woodpecker	1	White-throated Sparrow	8
Ruddy Duck	3	Red-bellied Woodpecker	117	White-crowned Sparrow	15
Common Merganser	48	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	Harris's Sparrow	28
Hooded Merganser	1	Downy Woodpecker	148	Dark-eyed Junco	767
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	Hairy Woodpecker	34	Northern Cardinal	176
Wild Turkey	19	Northern Flicker	111	Red-winged Blackbird	18
Great Blue Heron	1	Northern Shrike	1	Meadowlark spp.	84
Double-crested Cormorant	4	Blue Jay	355	Common Grackle	4
Bald Eagle	13	American Crow	94	Brown-headed Cowbird	2
Northern Harrier	2	Black-capped Chickadee	141	Purple Finch	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	Red-breasted Nuthatch	6	House Finch	301
Cooper's Hawk	12	White-breasted Nuthatch	142	Pine Siskin	3
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	Brown Creeper	39	American Goldfinch	270
Red-tailed Hawk	53	Carolina Wren	6	House Sparrow	953
Total # of Species	84				

Education/Outreach Committee Needs Helpers

Bird EnCOUNTER is right around the corner. It is scheduled for Saturday, February 15, at the Loren Eiseley Branch Library, 1530 Superior Street (in northwest Lincoln). It will run from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This free program is geared toward families with young children, but everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate in the many activities celebrating birds during the Great Backyard Bird Count. Join us for games, hands-on crafts, a binocular station, and live birds from the Raptor Conservation Alliance. Volunteers are needed. If you can help at this popular event, contact the Wachiska office or Tim Knott, 402-217-8505.

Volunteers are also needed for two upcoming Family Nature Nights. These are short one-hour sessions organized by the Lower Platte South NRD for younger kids at Lincoln's elementary schools. Students learn about wildlife and nature in Nebraska. The first session will take place at Eastridge Elementary on January 16 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. A second event is scheduled for February 6 at Kloefkorn Elementary (time yet to be decided). Call Tim Knott at 402-217-8505 or the office if you would like to help with these fun and informative events.

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center January Program

Winter Bird Watching
Saturday, January 25, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

This event from Conservation Nebraska will dive into the secrets of observing birds during the colder months, with insights on how to attract them to your yard and tips for identifying winter bird species. Participants can take part in-person OR through Zoom. The Zoom portion will conclude at 2:00 p.m. The in-person event includes a 30-minute birdwatching hike after the presentation, weather permitting. Registration details can be found on our website.

Details on this and other events are on our website at <https://springcreek.audubon.org/events>; 402-797-2301.

Note: Our visitor center is open Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and our weekend winter hours (November through February) are Saturday-Sunday 12:30-4:30 p.m. Trails are open sunrise to sunset 7 days a week. Free admission!

Our Members Weigh In

"You folks are so worth supporting! [Wachiska] offers so much to your members and are helping to save so many prairies. Keep up the great work!"
-- R. T.

Holiday Open House at Prairie Pines

by Mark Brohman

On Saturday afternoon, December 14, about 80 people attended our Holiday Open House at Prairie Pines. Several Prairie Pines Partner volunteers and board members helped Wachiska members and Board members host the event.

Jim King provided holiday music and an opportunity for the youth to join him in singing and playing instruments. Youngsters were able to build bird feeders with pine cones and seeds and create holiday ornaments.

Betsy and Doug Finch brought a saw-whet owl and a leucistic red-tailed hawk that is almost completely white. Bird leucism is a genetic mutation resulting in total or partial reduction of color in a bird's plumage. This bird had dark eyes, and you could faintly see the traditional markings of red tail feathers.

Refreshments and a variety of holiday treats welcomed visitors to the open house. The kids especially liked the hot cocoa and hot cider. The visitor's center was decorated for the season, and several visitors reported this was their first time visiting Prairie Pines, but definitely not the last. Morning showers and overnight freezing rain gave way to a little sun and just-above freezing temperatures, allowing several visitors to enjoy some of the many trails.

If you missed the fun, don't worry, we will have many events coming up in 2025. The property will continue to be open Fridays and Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eventually, we will be open to the public more days of the week, and we will partner with Prairie Pines Partners to provide a wonderful place for everyone to visit and experience nature and wildlife.



Jim King playing holiday music at the Prairie Pines open house

“Nature is a tool to get children to experience not just the wider world, but themselves.”

-- Stephen Moss

Silence, Please

by Jessica Leber, Audubon magazine

Stop and listen along the Niobrara National Scenic River in Nebraska and you might tune in to trickling waterfalls, croaking bullfrogs, or calling green herons. “It’s exploding with wildlife,” says Park Superintendent Susan Cook.

What you are unlikely to hear is noise from cars, airplanes, and recreational vehicles, says Nick McMahan, director of quiet trails for Quiet Parks International. Based on observations he and his colleagues made while paddling the river, in late 2023 the nonprofit declared the route its first quiet trail in the United States—one of several awards it offers to spotlight sanctuaries from the world’s motorized din.

Just as wildlife thrive in quieter environments, so do people. But finding calming places is increasingly difficult. Nearly all U.S. residents hear some aviation, rail, or road noise in their daily lives, according to federal data, and almost one-third live in areas exposed to traffic noise about 45 decibels. In some popular recreation areas, tourist helicopters, ATVs, and snowmobiles add to the clamor.

Since 2019, Quiet Parks International has worked to develop standards for what exactly constitutes “quiet” in a range of environments, from remote wilderness to urban parks. The goal? To help land managers promote, value, and preserve places where visitors can commune with nature’s sounds, even for a short while.

Editor’s Note: This article is reprinted from the Winter 2024 issue of Audubon magazine.

Nine-banded Armadillo “Little Armored One”

by Richard Peterson

The nine-banded armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*) is found from the southern U.S. into Central and South America. Its relatives originated in South America; the formation of the Isthmus of Panama allowed armadillos to enter North America as part of the Great American Interchange. Their movement north was limited by their low tolerance of harsh winters, lack of sufficient insulating fat, and inability to hibernate. The northern edge of its range extends into Nebraska where remains of fossil armadillos dating to 2.5 million years ago have been unearthed. In 2023, two individuals were found—one near Bruning and another near Chester, just south of York.

The armadillo is a solitary, mainly nocturnal animal found in many habitats, from mature and secondary rainforest to grassland and dry scrub. It is an insectivore, feeding chiefly on ants, termites, and other small invertebrates. It supplements its diet with amphibians and small reptiles as well



Nine-banded Armadillo

as fungi, fruits, and seeds. Armadillos have been seen at carrion but are probably more interested in the maggots than the meat. It has poor eyesight but has a keen sense of smell used to find and root out a meal. Although usually seen slowly shuffling along and sniffing the air, if alarmed it can flee at a surprising speed. The armadillo can jump three to four feet straight up into the air if sufficiently frightened, making it a particular danger on roads and highways. Sometimes hunted for its meat, during the Great Depression it was popular in East Texas where it was called a Hoover hog or a poor man’s pork (one of the many President Hoover jokes heard at the time).

The armadillo is an extensive burrower, with a single animal having up to a dozen burrows which are 7-8 feet wide, up to 15 feet deep, and 25 feet long. Males defend breeding territories and become aggressive to keep others out and to increase chances of pairing with a female. Territorial disputes are settled by kicking and chasing.

Nine-banded armadillos reach sexual maturity at the age of one year and reproduce every year for the remainder of their 12-15-year lifespan. Mating occurs during a 2-3-month period occurring from July-August. A single egg is fertilized, but implantation is delayed for 3-4 months to ensure the young will not be born during an unfavorable time. The gestation period of four months then begins during which time the zygote splits into four identical individuals attached by a common placenta. After birth, the quadruplets remain in the burrow and begin to forage with the mother, eventually leaving after six months to a year. A single female can produce up to 56 young over the course of her life.

In Spanish, armadillo means “little armored one.” They are used in medical research because they are among the few mammals other than humans which are susceptible to leprosy. The armadillo was named the state’s favorite small mammal in Texas.

Climate Change Update

by Chuck Francis

Nitrous Oxide is a Powerful Greenhouse Gas

A Global Nitrous Oxide Assessment published in November 2024 by the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.) describes the power of nitrous oxide as a potent greenhouse gas (GHG). Most attention deals with effects of CO₂ on depletion of the ozone layer, but this recent report gives details on how and why we should all read information on NO₂ (full-text report can be accessed at <https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/46562>). Here are details from the report.

We are all familiar with release of carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels, deforestation even in the arctic region, and other activities of humans who control most of the planet, or at least we think we do. What we don't appreciate is the cumulative power of multiple sources of GHG and the urgency of doing all we can to counter this existential threat to our species' survival on this finite Spaceship Earth.

First, the good news. If we put in place effective abatement strategies as soon as possible, there is potential to:

- Reduce nitrous oxide emissions by 40 percent below 2020 levels by 2050
- Provide five times the ozone reduction benefits of HCFC phaseout by 2100
- Prevent 20 million premature deaths due to improved air quality by 2050

This is within reach through cooperation of industry, farmers, and government regulators, but it needs to start now.

How can we achieve this? First, we must identify the sources of NO₂ put into the environment by our food production systems. Agriculture contributes 75 percent of nitrogen emissions on the planet. Sources include production and spreading of fertilizers that contribute 90 percent of the NO₂, and most are products still applied in quantities exceeding what crops need; the other 10 percent comes from manure that is spread to increase soil quality and meet crop requirements.

Specific practices help reduce NO₂ emissions without affecting crop yields and animal production:

- Soil and plant testing for precise crop needs
- Split applications of controlled-release fertilizers
- Nitrification inhibitors
- Reduced fertilizer rates
- Integrated rotation with N-fixing crops, reduced tillage
- More cover crops

- Manure recycling in each field and farm
- Integrated crops and livestock, rotational grazing

These may sound a bit technical, but they are common sense and already used by regenerative and organic farmers. They reduce overall costs and maintain yields.

A non-intended result of many human activities, NO₂ is a threat to both climate and the ozone layer. Scientists have known this for decades. It is time for farmers and everyone to take practical and logical steps to mitigate nitrous oxide and other GHGs threatening our environment, plus our personal and community health. Do we have the will to make the changes needed?

Report authors are Tariq Aziz (Univ. Faisalabad in Pakistan) and an international team of university and government experts from around the world; it is published by United Nations Environment Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N., copyright 2024.

Looking for an Office Manager

If you or someone you know might be interested in becoming Wachiska's office manager, please get in touch with Mark Brohman. Arlys Reitan will be stepping back from her current duties, and we will need a part-time office manager. The main duties are to put the monthly newsletter together, work with Mark to find speakers and manage the monthly membership meeting, and manage the office. Other duties include answering general inquiries, emails, letters, and phone calls; setting up meetings for the director, Board, and subcommittees; and handling daily business. The person would need to be in the new Wachiska office at Prairie Pines (112th and Adams) at least two partial days a week. Hours and days are flexible, and we can attempt to accommodate the person's schedule. The number of hours would range from 20-30 per week.

Calendars ONLY

by Arlys Reitan

Thank you to everyone who has been dropping off 2025 calendars to be given to those not receiving any. Once again, please remember that we are taking ONLY 2025 calendars. We have no outlets or use for greeting cards, magazines, Christmas cards, and all the other items tossed in with calendars. Perhaps nursing homes or retirement centers could use them, so please check with those places.

This year well over 300 calendars were collected for those at LCCC. Wachiska's liaison with the center reports that our members' participation is "wonderful." She continues to pick up and deliver our calendars to the Work Release Center where "the staff assures her that these are very popular; recipients need calendars to keep track of appointments for jobs, housing, visits, and all their activities. We all want to help them succeed as they reenter society."

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 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
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4155 Fax: 202-226-5452
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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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

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Lincoln NE 68506-5643

402-486-4846

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www.WachiskaAudubon.org

WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2025

Executive Director Mark Brohman
Office Administrator..... Arlys Reitan

OFFICERS

President *Theresa Pella
Vice President *Ann Briggs
Secretary *April Stevenson
Treasurer/Finance..... *Carol Bodeen

STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large *Dakota Altman
Director at Large *Doug Campbell
Director at Large *Andrea Faas
Director at Large *Ethan Freese
Director at Large *Stu Luttich
Director at Large *Tom Lynch
Director at Large *Roxanne Smith
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**.

