



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

DECEMBER 2024

Volume 33 - Issue 12

Wachiska Holiday Potluck Dinner, Silent Auction, and Program

Thursday, December 12, 5:30 p.m. dinner/7:00 p.m. program, Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street
and program via YouTube link: <https://youtube.com/live/3EOLjlxrjHA?feature=share>

Timelapse Photo Array of Wachiska's Highlights

by Dakota Altman, Platte Basin Timelapse

As we complete another full revolution around the sun, it's the perfect time to reflect on all that we've accomplished—both individually and together. Wachiska and its dedicated members have spent this year educating school groups, fostering meaningful connections within communities, and acting as stewards of some of Nebraska's last postage-stamp prairies, protecting and caring for them for wildlife and future generations.

To honor the incredible work Wachiska's loyal members have done in 2024, we've assembled a 20-minute slideshow of prairies, events, seed harvests, our very own timelapse, and so much more. Wachiska's prairies are a place of solace for me, as I know they are for many others. Each visit brings a renewed sense of wonder and appreciation—from the bobolinks calling across a dew-laden prairie in spring, to the towering spires of liatris in summer, and to the quiet stillness of a fall morning.

The program features photos from Wachiska members, including Ethan Freese, Ross Scott, Mark Brohman, and myself.

Dakota Altman has served two years on the Wachiska Board and was just re-elected to another term. He earned a BS degree in fisheries and wildlife and a Master of Applied Science in the



Dakota Altman

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. Dakota has been active with the conservation committee. Recently a timelapse camera was installed on our Knott Prairie. Some of these photos will be included in this pictorial presentation along with images of chapter highlights over the first 50 years of Wachiska's history.

Timelapse photography is a visual story of how a place changes over time. Our team explores the Platte Basin and other watersheds to share stories of people, wildlife, and landscapes. Platte Basin Timelapse has been in motion since 2011, and is a project with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Still photos, videos, and music combine to make these presentations something to remember for a long time.

Join us all on **Thursday, December 12**, at **5:30 p.m.** for a potluck dinner at our usual meeting site, Lincoln's Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street. Bring a favorite dish or two to share along with your own table service, including silverware and serving utensils for your shared dish. A silent auction will be ongoing throughout the evening, so bring your checkbook and pick up some gifts and relics. Then at **7:00 p.m. sharp** the slide presentation will begin and will be live-streamed on YouTube at

<https://youtube.com/live/3EOLjlxrjHA?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.

Calendar

December

- 9 Conservation Committee via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 12 **Holiday Potluck & Silent Auction begins at 5:30 p.m.; slide show by Dakota Altman at 7:00 p.m.** will be live-streamed; no registration needed (see link above)
- 14 **Prairie Pines Holiday Open House, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.** (page 2)
- 15 **Lincoln Area Christmas Bird Count** (page 6)
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 17 Board Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

Executive Director's Message

by Mark Brohman



Wachiska is all set to accept Prairie Pines from the University of Nebraska Foundation later this month. So many people have told me they can't wait to come visit Prairie Pines. We have received several wonderful donations, and I have already had volunteers help me do some painting on the old farmhouse. I'm sure as spring rolls

around, I will be looking for volunteers of all kinds, whether it is helping staff the visitor center, trimming branches, or painting.

The fall migration has slowed, but there are still a few birds traveling through. We had 11 birders visit Prairie Pines a couple of weeks ago when we spotted 20 species in a few hours. I can't wait for some winter birding and then the spring migration. Prairie Pines Partners currently has the grounds open Fridays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is amazing the number of people visiting on those two days a week. Hopefully, we are able to expand the number of days open to the public and the activities offered.

I want to thank all the volunteers who helped us collect seed at Gary and Jarel's prairies last month. Ten volunteers (Jarel, Gary, Virginia, Lana, Bailey, Tim, Theresa, Steve, Nancy, and Leona) helped me collect for several hours. Some of the seed will find its way back to our prairies and some will find new homes across Southeast Nebraska. We really appreciate Gary and Jarel Vinduska opening their prairies to us for collecting seed.

We had a great speaker at the November meeting. Dr. John Carroll gave a wonderful presentation with a variety of African wildlife slides from the UNL classes he takes to Botswana and South Africa. This month will feature our annual holiday potluck and silent auction, followed by photos from Board member, Dakota Altman.

I want to acknowledge the loss of several great guys. Fred Zwonechek served 44 years in highway safety. I had the pleasure of serving on the State's Safety Council with Fred. Another recent loss was Steve Oltmans who was the manager of the Lower Elkhorn NRD from 1972-1986 and then the manager of the Papio-Missouri River NRD from 1986-2006. I served on the Back to the River board with Steve for years. Carl Wolfe had a 41-year career with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. He started as a research biologist and later became the coordinator for outdoor education. In retirement, Carl volunteered with projects like cranes, bumblebees, and manatees. Dr. Jack Longfellow was a veterinarian from Broken Bow who was one of the most intelligent people I have ever known.

As we approach the holiday season, take some time to enjoy nature. Whether it is a stroll on one of Wachiska's prairies, a drive through Pioneers Park, or just watching birds at your backyard feeder, take a moment to appreciate the world around you and think of those who don't get those opportunities. Happy Holidays!

Wish List for Prairie Pines

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

If you have hand or power tools, lawn items (hoses and sprinklers), 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. As always, we really appreciate the generosity of our members.

Prairie Pines

Holiday Open House

Wachiska and Prairie Pines Partners
welcome you to a Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 14th

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

festive music ~ refreshments ~ treats

The celebration will be held in the visitor's center; if the weather is cooperative, you are welcome to wander about the property. Come and help us celebrate a new chapter in Prairie Pines' history.

Wachiska Audubon Highlights for 2024

by the Wachiska Board

During the November 14th annual meeting, the Board made a short presentation highlighting this year's accomplishments for this dynamic organization.

Looking at the four focus areas in the 2020 Strategic Plan:

1) Building Relationships

- Continued implementation of the online membership database
- Continued to build cooperative relationship with the Otoe-Missouria and other Indigenous Peoples
- Began an assessment of how bird outings can better fit into Wachiska's work and goals

2) Advocating for the Environment

- Continued communication and coordination with Audubon Great Plains, Audubon Kansas, and Audubon Society of Omaha to stay connected and work on similar issues
- Continued education/outreach committee's efforts to grow in number of programs and number of people reached through Bird EnCOUNTER, Earth Day, Return of the Thunderbirds, Nature Nights, Prairie Discovery, Tour the Wild Side, Arbor Day, Spring Creek Prairie's Hoot 'n Owl, and bringing raptors to after-school programs, connecting with over 2,000 participants, most of whom are elementary students
- Tracked merging issues and submitted comment letters, e.g., including opposing a Fish & Wildlife Service's proposed rule that would negatively impact the regal fritillary, opposed a Johnson County poultry farm, opposed an inter-basin transfer proposal for the Platte River, supported legislation for a pollinator task force, and opposed proposed transportation project exemptions from the Endangered Species Act

3) Caring for Tallgrass Prairies

- Continued work with Northern Prairies Land Trust to manage the prairies Wachiska owns
 - Cropland on Wildcat Prairie restored to a native plant habitat
 - New fence line and water tanks on Klapka Prairie
 - Approximately 1.5 miles of brush and trees removed from some prairies
- Continued contract with Prairie Legacy, LLC to work with easement landowners to control noxious and invasive species and tree and brush encroachment
- Deteriorated signs replaced for two easement properties and one owned prairie

- Seed collections done to further diversity for existing and future prairies
- Participated in NGPC review of its Legacy Project to determine if species need to be added, removed, or reclassified as species of concern

4) Strengthening Internal Operations

- Approved an updated five-year strategic plan for 2025-2029
 - Focus Area 1 – continue movement to become a solid, smooth-operating organization
 - Focus Area 2 – have in place a sustainable long-term plan for owned prairies and conservation easement properties
 - Focus Area 3 – become a known entity throughout Southeast Nebraska where any individual or group can learn about the importance of tallgrass prairies and become advocates to protect this rare ecosystem

The capstone of the year was the decision to accept Prairie Pines Nature Preserve! History of the property goes back to Wachiska charter members Walt and Virginia Bagley's efforts to preserve a 145-acre tallgrass prairie, woodlands, and wetlands in northeast Lincoln for nature. Ownership of Prairie Pines fits well into the 2025-2029 strategic plan focus areas by providing a dedicated office space, outdoor spaces for education, outreach and events, and opportunities to build back interest in birding and watching wildlife.

The property will be managed by a new committee, thus allowing the conservation committee to utilize its resources on continued management of the other prairies under Wachiska's umbrella. A new partnership with Prairie Pines Partners to share responsibilities and opportunities is evolving and will be documented in a written agreement.

This decision does mean additional financial support is needed to help ensure that this dream takes shape. Look for details of how you can contribute in Wachiska's end-of-year fundraiser appeal; also note equipment and items needed on page 2. Contact Executive Director Mark Brohman at 402-486-4846.

The full annual report can be found on Wachiska's website. If you have questions or comments, visit with Mark or any Wachiska Board member.

"If you want happiness for a lifetime -- help the next generation."

--Chinese proverb

Killing Barred Owls to Protect Spotted Owls

by Mark Brohman

I recently read an article in *The Washington Post* about scientists shooting barred owls because they are outcompeting spotted owls in Northern California. The article describes how biologists are going out four nights a week and using recordings to draw the unsuspecting barred owls to their demise on the Hoopa Valley Reservation and in the Six Rivers National Forest.

Barred owls often respond to both spotted and barred owl calls by aggressively defending their territory, cannonballing into nearby branches, flying right up to the speaker, even sometimes slamming into the researchers. From the barred owls they shoot, the scientists conduct necropsies to learn about the prey in their stomachs. Even the biologists admit it is a tough job dispatching the birds. The decision was made by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to slow the spread of an “invasive species” into the spotted owl habitat.

By the mid-2000s, detections of the barred owl, an East Coast native spreading south from Canada, were surpassing the spotted owl throughout much of its territory. Barred owls are slightly larger, more aggressive, and prefer the same nesting trees as spotted owls. They produce more young and eat almost anything—the flying squirrels and wood rats favored by spotted owls, but also frogs, salamanders, beetles, snakes, turkeys, and house cats. Outcompeted by these new rivals, spotted owl populations began to plummet from an estimated 6,000 pairs that existed on federal land after listing to about 2,000 pairs or fewer today.

The University of Wisconsin has an ongoing study to assess whether removing the barred owl, a species rapidly spreading down the West Coast, will help the spotted owl survive and protect the wider ecosystem. In August the USFWS plan was expanded and now targets to kill up to half a million barred owls over the next three decades.

One project involving six hunters killed more than 1,000 barred owls across 10 million acres in Northern California since 2019. Scientists believe a quick death is more humane than capture. The spotted owl was listed as a threatened species in 1990, causing controversy in the Pacific Northwest timber industry.

The article noted that some environmental and birding organizations have reluctantly endorsed the management plan, but that it was a “gut-wrenching” decision. There are several animal welfare groups denouncing the plan, and Animal Welfare Action, a nonprofit, has filed a lawsuit in federal court to block the plan. They are claiming the fast-spreading barred owl is native to North America and is protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

As a biologist, this story really touched me. I know every day we are trying to rid the Everglades of exotic snakes and reptiles, but

something about killing a native owl makes me uncomfortable. Maybe it is because owls are kind of a sacred bird, highly revered by Indigenous People. The Apache and other tribes saw owls as a sign of death, while the Aztecs and Mayans saw them as messengers and companions of the Gods of Death. Maybe it is that they symbolize wisdom and intuition.

Long-term Study Shows Why Prairie Restoration Is So Difficult

by Jackie Augustine, Executive Director
Audubon of Kansas

Biologists at Kansas State University conducted an experiment at Konza Prairie Biological Station to examine the effectiveness of the removal of woody vegetation in the restoration of grassland streams. We are losing grasslands as they are taken over by woody plants resulting in a decline in streamflow (less water in creeks), loss of grassy plant species, increased rates of erosion, and other ecosystem-scale impacts. The researchers wanted to know how long it would take for the stream to recover if woody species were removed.

The researchers physically removed all woody vegetation with chainsaws and brush mowers in the winter of 2010-2011 and cut resprouting vegetation in half of the watershed, alternating each year, from 2011-2020. The dominant species removed included hackberry, redbud, locust, elm, and oak as well as shrubs including dogwood, plum, and sumac. No herbicides were used on the woody vegetation, but some plots were reseeded with native grasses and wildflowers.

Their results are depressing. Over the 10 years of the study, they were unable to restore the diverse grassland vegetation along the stream with or without reseeding, nor did they see any increase in streamflow. Shrubs expanded rapidly in the areas where trees were removed allowing woody vegetation to remain dominant despite repeated cutting. The researchers concluded that they were seeing an “inexorable movement toward a new ecosystem state “where a handful of woody species are replacing the scores of grasses and forbs.

This is why AOK [Audubon of Kansas] and other conservation organizations work so hard to protect our last remaining pristine habitats. Study after study has shown that restored areas only approximate those that have never been destroyed. In the case of woody vegetation encroaching on our prairies, **we must do everything we can to stop woody encroachment now and keep our prairies pristine, or we risk losing them forever.**

This article is reprinted with permission of the author. It appeared in the Audubon of Kansas Newsletter, May 2024. The entire scientific article and study can be found at <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/eap.2830>.

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

Audubon bird lovers have big challenges ahead. One is to participate in patient dialogue about public policy affecting climate. Another is to remain fully aware of the increasing urgency of needed big changes. And doing both is the biggest challenge.

Two days after the voting, National Audubon issued a statement that said, in part, that it “respects and honors the democratic process and is committed to working with the Trump administration. We will work closely with the administration on durable conservation solutions to tackle the dual crises of biodiversity loss and climate change because we know that what is good for birds is also good for people and the planet.

“Audubon is committed to doing everything we can to reverse biodiversity loss and climate change, to halt, and ultimately reverse, the catastrophic decline of birds across the Americas.

“By 2028 we aim to:

- Create a 300-million-acre network of connected climate resilient conserved lands and waters across the Americas
- Accelerate the generation and development of responsibly-sited renewable energy in the U.S., enough to power 75 million homes per year
- Sequester and store 30 billion tons of carbon in natural systems . . .
- Continue to work with industry, corporate partners, conservation peers, local communities and with federal and state governments . . . [and] the Trump administration . . .”

The National Audubon website's description of local Audubon chapters' climate work is impressive. You can read about a range of activities here: <https://www.audubon.org/news/accelerating-responsible-clean-energy-development-audubons-efforts-2024>. For example, there is a report about Audubon in Minnesota, who succeeded in passing legislation to allow transmission lines alongside highways. Their report, also on the national website, found that putting transmission lines on existing rights of way leaves more habitat intact and reduces the chances of bird collisions. Audubon's work on the importance of increased nationwide transmission is based on the report “Birds and Transmission: Building the Grid Birds Need.” It lays out the need for both a rapid upgrade and careful siting to minimize impacts on birds. Check out <https://www.audubon.org/our-work/climate/clean-energy>.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) recently reported that carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is accumulating faster than at any time in human history. The

level of pollution is 51 percent greater than before the Industrial Revolution when people began to burn large amounts of coal, oil, and fossil gas. (Check out this site: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/oct/28/planet-heating-pollutants-in-atmosphere-hit-record-levels-in-2023>). Causes were ascribed to the burning of fossil fuels, big wildfires, a possible drop in the ability of trees to absorb carbon, and hotter oceans taking in less CO₂. Two weeks after the WMO report, a study from the UN Environmental Programme found that we are not on track to meet the internationally accepted goal of 1.5 C by the end of the century, but more likely are moving toward 3.0. The UN report said “Forests, plants and soil—as a net category—absorbed almost no carbon in 2023 during the hottest year on record.” Climate models have not taken into consideration the inability of these natural carbon sinks to absorb pollution. Possible effects are discussed by Patrick Greenfield, “Trees and land absorbed almost no CO₂ last year,” *The Guardian*, Oct. 14, 2024.

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 recently 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 Metal Recycling 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 every month or two, 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 with all the items on it. Drive back to the front of the building, go in the front doors marked “office,” present your printed ticket, and tell them it is for “Wachiska Audubon 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. Thank you for thinking of Wachiska and keeping more items out of the landfill.



“I know it sounds like a cliché, but the greatest gift that you can give yourself comes from helping someone else. We get so caught up in our own lives and in our unrealistic worlds. We're so busy achieving and competing and worrying about silly little minutiae that we lose sight of the larger picture.”

-- Norma Kamali

Carrie Barbour

by Richard Peterson

Carrie Adeline Barbour was born in Springfield, Indiana, in 1861. She studied art (1886-1887) at Oxford Female College, Oxford, Ohio. She then taught wood carving and china painting for two years at Iowa College in Grinnell, Iowa. In 1892, Carrie began teaching in the art department at the University of Nebraska. Although she specialized in art and art education, since childhood she had shared a passion for natural history with her older brother, Edwin.

In 1891, Edwin H. Barbour, who today is considered the “Father of Nebraska Paleontology,” was hired as a professor in the University of Nebraska Department of Geology. He was soon appointed curator of Nebraska's State Museum which had been founded in 1871. Today's museum, Morrill Hall, was built in 1927. Edwin asked Carrie to assist in his field work and in the preparation laboratory. Within a year, she left the art department to focus on her work at the museum. In 1893, Carrie became an assistant curator of paleontology where she would be a part of the museum for nearly 50 years.



Carrie Barbour participated in numerous collecting expeditions in the Badlands and Black Hills of South Dakota and the Daemonelex beds of Nebraska and Wyoming. She also took part in the Morrill Geological Expedition (1897) and the State Geological Survey. In the summer of 1899, she and an assistant procured over 20,000 samples of fossil crinoids,

bryozoans, brachiopods, ammonoids, and corals from the Nebraska Carboniferous and Permian formations—some were newly discovered, and several had never been described. Carrie painstakingly cleaned and pieced together hundreds of these and other fossils for the museum.

In 1912, she became an assistant professor of paleontology at the university and may have been the first woman paid as a paleontologist in the United States. She made lasting contributions to the field, particularly the area of preserving fossil specimens. By 1915, Carrie was a member of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences. She was also a member of Sigma Xi and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. One of her publications was titled “Some Methods of Collecting, Preserving and Studying Fossils.” (Nebraska Academy of Sciences, December 30, 1896.)

Carrie Barbour died in 1942 at the age of 79 and is buried in Wyuka Cemetery in Lincoln, Nebraska. For more on Carrie Barbour, refer online to “History Nebraska, The Barbours: A Family in Paleontology.”

Christmas Bird Count

The Lincoln Area Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will take place on Sunday, December 15. Jason “the Birdnerd” St. Sauver is once again coordinating this annual event. If you'd like to participate and still haven't made this known to Jason, contact him right away at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, 402-797-2301 or jtsauver@audubon.org to let him know of your interest. You can request your favorite birding spot(s) if still available. Jason is hoping to have 100 people participating in our local count this year which marks the 125th year that the annual CBC has taken place in the United States.

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center

by Kevin Poague, Operations Manager

Winter Walkabout

Saturday, January 4, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Our first exploration of the prairie in the New Year! Join us for this leisurely stroll through the winter tallgrass looking for animal tracks, and then chat about what birds and beasts do to survive the winter. Free admission (donations welcome). Registration preferred.

Find more information on this and other Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center events at <https://springcreek.audubon.org/events>; 402-797-2301.

Note: SCPAC is open Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Weekend winter hours (November through February) are Saturday and Sunday 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. Trails are open sunrise to sunset 7 days a week. Free admission! The visitor center will be closed December 24 - January 1 for the winter break. Walking trails are open throughout the year, sunrise to sunset.

2025 Calendars Still Being Accepted

If you are still receiving extra 2025 calendars from various organizations, Wachiska is once again collecting them to be redistributed to those who can use them. Please drop them by the Wachiska office during working hours. It's good to call first to be sure someone is here to receive them. This year over 300 calendars have been given to people who don't have access to them. This is another way to do a small favor for others who greatly appreciate it. Thank you!

**Happy Holidays to Each and Every One
See You Next Year!!!**

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
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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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.

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**.

