

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

The Babbling Brook

Our 46th Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2019

NOVEMBER 2019

Volume 28 - Issue 11

Program and General Meeting — Thursday, November 14, 7:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, Lincoln

Managing Prairies for Resilience and Diversity

(with bonus material on cowbirds)

by Chris Helzer and Chelsea Forehead, The Nature Conservancy

he goal of most prairie managers is to help prairie communities maintain their diversity and ecological function, regardless of threats and disturbances they face. Doing that successfully means ensuring that the varying habitat needs of all species are met each year. In this program, Chris Helzer will talk about how the Conservancy approaches prairie management in Nebraska, including their overarching objective to create a "shifting mosaic of habitat patches" across each prairie they manage.



Chris Helzer

The Nature Conservancy uses a combination of fire and grazing to create a variety of habitat conditions across prairies each year while suppressing the vigor of invasive grasses, trees, and other species that can become overly competitive. These management strategies continue to evolve over time as Conservancy managers experiment, learn, and adapt. Patch-burn grazing, for example, is an approach that has shown great promise but isn't logistically feasible for many landowners and land managers; because of that, the Conservancy is experimenting with other strategies that produce similar results.



Chelsea Forehead

After a broad discussion of prairie management by Chris, **Chelsea Forehead** will share a summary of her recent graduate work on the impacts of perch site availability on brown-headed cowbird parasitism rates. She conducted her research during 2017 and 2018 in the Conservancy's Platte River Prairies.

Chris is the Nebraska director of science for The Nature Conservancy, based in Aurora. In addition to his expertise in

prairie management and research, Chris is a photographer and writer. Chelsea is a Hubbard Fellow for the Conservancy, based at the Platte River Prairies near Wood River.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, November 14**, at **7:00 p.m.** at Lincoln's Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street. Free parking is readily available in the church lot with overflow parking in the Pius High School lot across the street to the west. There is easy access to the church with no steps and plenty of space for visiting with the speakers and mingling with friends while enjoying refreshments following the free program.

Wachiska's annual election of officers will take place before the presentation (see page 3).

Calendar

November

- 9 Field Trip to Pioneers Park birding areas, 9:00 a.m. (page 2)
- 11 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 13 Finance Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
- 14 Annual Meeting/General Meeting, "Managing Prairies for Resilience & Diversity," by TNC, Unitarian Church, 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m.
- 19 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Legislation Committee, DaVinci's, 11th & G sts., 6:00 p.m. (earlier date due to holiday)

NO Education Committee meeting in November

December

- 12 Holiday Potluck/Program, "Platte Basin Timelapse A
 Watershed in Motion," with Mike Forsberg and
 ensemble, 6:15 p.m., Unitarian Church (details next
 month)
- 28 Lincoln Christmas Bird Count (more next month)

Wachiska Audubon Office: 402-486-4846

Email: Office@WachiskaAudubon.org



Field Trip

by John Carlini, Field Trip Chair

Changing of the Guard at Pioneers Park

by Esa Jarvi

Late autumn birding offers an element of surprise as summer's breeding birds switch places with winter visitors and migrants. Esa Jarvi will lead November's field trip to Pioneers Park to look for whatever birds we can find in the open areas and edges of fields. A walk around the ponds may yield more sparrows.

Meet at **9:00 a.m.** on **Saturday, November 9**, at Pioneers Park Nature Center's parking lot. The park is located in Lincoln just southwest of West Van Dorn Street and South Coddington Avenue. Wear shoes that can withstand some moisture. This outing is free and open to the public. If you have questions, call Esa at 402-440-6357.

A Great Gathering

by Shari Schwartz and John Carlini

A late September field trip to search for fall congregations did not disappoint. Dragonflies constantly peppered the sky overhead during our walk along the perimeter of the Whitehead Saline Wetland, and above them a contingent of common nighthawks put on an aerial show as winged creatures big and small circled and swooped to eat each other for supper in "nature's chain," as one of the participants so aptly put it. The hoard of great-tailed grackles that congregates next to Cracker Barrel in the fall entertained us with their comical calls as they gathered in their annual roost site trees where they were joined



by incoming waves of starlings. The saline wetland also offered some surprises when a scan with the scope revealed an unexpected sora foraging along with some gorgeous male wood ducks. An impressive stand of the rare saltwort plant was also observed in the salt basin.

Sora

Fortunately, a predicted rain shower didn't hit until we were en route to the downtown chimney swift roost. We wondered if it would interfere with our attempt to watch the throng of swifts gathering in the sky before descending into their large old brick chimney roost site that accommodates hundreds of swifts every fall. But despite the pouring rain, a swirling cloud of swifts greeted us overhead when we arrived and even though we had to watch from our cars to avoid getting drenched, the swifts provided their typical spectacular show of amassing in a "racetrack" formation above the chimney before peeling off and plummeting straight down into their temporary chimney motel. Two days later several of us returned to view the swifts again in drier conditions and tallied at least 1,415 swifts as they entered the chimney at nightfall.

Prairie Discovery Days 2019

by Tim Knott, Education Chair



Wachiska's education committee held two Prairie Discovery Day events this fall. The first one was on August 29 for fourth graders from Syracuse Elementary School, and the second was held on September 3 for the D.C. West fourth graders from Valley. About 40 kids and five teachers participated from Syracuse and approximately 70 students and five teachers took part from D.C. West. We had great weather for both events (hot but no rain), and we were fortunate to have some great

kids. They were well behaved and listened carefully to our speakers, Dr. Sara Crook and Dr. Bill Beachly.

Because these events were held slightly earlier this year, students got to see many more of the tallgrass prairie plants still blooming, and were able to catch a larger variety of prairie bugs, beetles, and



spiders; in fact the students got to see up close a dragon fly, a praying mantis, and a large robber fly thanks to activity leaders John Carlini and Shari Schwartz. The kids caught lots of grasshoppers, garden spiders, katydids, butterflies, and milkweed bugs. Thanks to some great help from our regular members Bruce Mellberg, Theresa Pella, Lana Novak, Ethan Freese, and Sue Guild and from volunteer Master Naturalists Dan Leuenberger and Mary Jasnowski, it was a good experience



for everyone. Ron Drews, who hays our Yutan Prairie, was essential to our success there and provided us with free pizza, too.

We hope we can do more prairie education next year.

*Prairie Discovery Days photos by Theresa Pella

A familiar bird at feeders across North America, dark-eyed juncos consistently make Project FeederWatch's top-25 list for every region across the continent. Look for them hopping on the ground, scratching in the leaf litter, or flitting in the underbrush. For hours of enjoyment, learn how to attract feeder birds and record your observations for science at FeederWarch.org.

Annual Meeting in November

Plan to attend the November meeting and exercise your right as a member or friend to vote for Wachiska's 2020 leadership team. The year will be an important one in the chapter's life as we build momentum that began with the June Open Forum where input was received related to Wachiska's mission, assets, needs, and the future. Plans continue for a strategic planning session in early 2020, to be followed with implementation of agreed action items.

The nominating committee's slate of 2020 Board candidates includes:

President: Stu Luttich (1st year incumbent)
Vice-President: Theresa Pella (1st year incumbent)
Treasurer: Mary Rogge (6-month incumbent)
Recording Secretary: Marilyn McNabb (nominee)
Corresponding Secretary: permanently vacant
Director-at-Large: Terry Stentz (1st yr. incumbent)
Director-at-Large: Curt Donaldson (nominee)
Director-at-Large: TBD

Nominations will also be taken from the floor during the November meeting, as long as the nominee has consented. The candidates receiving a majority vote will take office on January 1, 2020.

Audubon Nebraska Joins Lawsuit over Whooping Crane Habitat

by Kristal Stoner, Executive Director, Audubon Nebraska

Audubon Nebraska will join an amicus brief against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the construction of a power transmission line across whooping cranes' migratory path.

The USFWS issued its decision notice on June 17, 2019, which permitted the Nebraska Public Power District to begin construction of a 345,000-volt, 224-mile-long transmission system through the Nebraska Sandhills. This project is known as the R-Project 345-KV Transmission Line (R-Project) and includes an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) under the ESA for the American burying beetle but not for the whooping crane. The USFWS issued its decision despite being provided recent analyses showing whooping crane migration through the vicinity of the planned transmission lines and the harm to whooping cranes that is likely to result from their collision with the power lines.

Audubon will join with the Center for Biological Diversity to submit an amicus brief supporting a civil lawsuit by Western Nebraska Resources Council, a nonprofit corporation; Hanging H East, L.L.C.; Whitetail Farms East, L.L.C.; and the Oregon-California Trails Association. This lawsuit is in the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado.

Kansas Quarter

by Richard Peterson

As most of you know, since 2010 the U.S. Mint has been releasing special Washington quarters as part of their "America the Beautiful" series. Five quarters are issued each year with a different design on the back. Nebraska had its design issued in 2015, celebrating Homestead National Monument near Beatrice.



In 2020, it will be Kansas' turn when residents will be celebrating their 11,000-acre, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. New coin releases, like new stamp releases, usually have a first day of issue celebration at the site being honored. Now, although the issue date is still a year away, my phone call to the preserve headquarters hinted that there was a celebration being planned. Details to be available soon. Besides the coin ceremony, there will be lots of prairie-related things to keep you busy including a 10-minute orientation film, a bus tour of the prairie, trails to hike, and touring of historic buildings. Pets on leash are welcome. The National Park Service site is located at 2480B Kansas Highway 177, Strong City, KS 66869.

Getting there is easy as it's in the middle of the Kansas Flint Hills, about straight south of Lincoln. You can take I29S to Kansas City, then I35S to Emporia. Then take Exit 127 and drive west to Strong City. Travelers coming from the west can take Highway 81 south out of York to Salina, then I135 south toward Wichita. Take Exit 32 and drive east toward Strong City. Watch for the brown attraction signs. It would make for a nice, but long day trip, or you could stay over and spend more time in the area. Maybe a little shopping and/or barbeque in Kansas City.

I went to the Homestead coin issue celebration where you could purchase uncirculated rolls or singles of the coin, buy both mint marks P and D in a presentation set, as well as other celebration items, and, of course, I took in the other things Homestead had to offer.

The Kansas quarter is the fifth issue of 2020. In past years that last coin of the year was issued in November. Call their main office at 620-273-8494 or check their website for what those final plans might include.

"There is nothing in which the birds differ more from man than the way in which they can build and yet leave a landscape as it was before."

> Robert Lynd (1879 - 1949)

Field Notes from the President

by Bob Wells, President, Audubon Society of Omaha

Within the last two weeks, two important new studies on the status of birds and their habitats have been published, one from the journal Science and one from the National Audubon Society.

The journal Science has published an exhaustive study of the bird population dynamic in the United States and Canada over the past 50 years. This retrospective study used data gathered from the Audubon Christmas Bird Counts, Breeding Bird Surveys, and eBird data. Researchers also were able to employ high-resolution weather radar to estimate bird populations. Data showed an overall decline of 2.9 billion birds since 1970. In addition to recognized known endangered species, this study tracked declines in several species of backyard birds. Across-the-board declines in warbler species alone totaled 617 million birds. Blackbird species plummeted by 440 million birds. Even the lowly starling, known to be a prolific breeder, declined by 49 percent.

While the authors of this study did not identify specific causes of this massive decline, others have mentioned the usual threats, such as the disappearance and fragmentation of bird habitats and increased use of pesticides, particularly neonicotinoids. In a very recent study, neonicotinoids were shown to disrupt bird behavior and interfere with the timing of bird migration.

Positive takeaways from this study show continuing increases in the number of bald eagles and falcons. Falcon populations increased by 33 percent. The small warbler-like group of birds, vireos, enjoyed a jump of 89 million, about 53 percent. Study authors could not understand why a species similar to warblers would have a large increase while warblers themselves would fall so precipitously. Improvements in the management of wetlands yielded the only habitat-based increase in bird species.

The National Audubon Society is recommending increased protection of bird-rich habitats—specifically the Great Lakes area and the Colorado River Basin. Other recommendations include keeping cats indoors to prevent them from preying on birds. The National Audubon Society has recommended addressing bird window strike problems with window strike decals and interior building lighting.

In addition to this important new study from the journal Science, on October 10 the National Audubon Society released an update to its 2014 Climate Change Report. (Editor's Note: Wachiska Audubon is scheduling a future general meeting program on the results of this National Audubon study.)

The preceding is reprinted from the article entitled "Field Notes from the President" in The Meadowlark, Nov./Dec. 2019, Vol. 48, Issue 6, newsletter of the Audubon Society of Omaha with permission of the author and editorial committee.

"Everything in nature invites us constantly to be what we are."

— Gretel Ehrlich

W.A.R.B.L.E.R.

(Wachiska Audubon Readers' Bulletins, Letters, and **Environmental Reports)**

Arts for Conservation Night

UNL's School of Natural Resources (SNR) Community Engagement is hosting "Arts for Conservation Night" on November 21. Included will be art, music, nature-related displays for those interested in geology, GIS discovery, climate, etc. All areas of art and SNR science will be featured at this event. Some really amazing work will be represented: the Platte Basin Timelapse crew, the Time and the River original composition out of the Glenn Korff School of Music, multi-media storytelling, and art from a variety of scientific disciplines. A silent auction will benefit the Mary Bomberger Brown Scholarship Fund. Professor Bomberger Brown was a well-known ornithologist and a friend of Wachiska Audubon. Plan to attend this free event beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 21, in Hardin Hall, 3310 Holdrege Street, on UNL's East Campus. Free parking will be available.

Christmas Bird Count Announced

Jason "the Birdnerd" St. Sauver at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center outside Denton will again be the organizer for this year's Lincoln Area Christmas Bird Count scheduled for Saturday, December 28. More details in next month's newsletter.

Save Your Calendars - Old and New

As we've done for several years, Wachiska will accept your old wall calendars again this year. School classes use them for displays, projects, reports, etc. Then if you receive new 2020 calendars that you can't use, include them, too. They will be delivered to retirement centers to share with residents who don't get one. Bring all calendars to the Wachiska office during weekday office hours and leave them in the corner by our office on second floor. Thanks for recycling in this way!

Remember Wachiska When Shopping Online

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

Continue Recycling Aluminum Cans to Benefit Wachiska Audubon

Many thanks to all Wachiska members and friends who continue recycling aluminum cans at A-Can Recycling Center, 3255 South 10th Street in Lincoln. Wachiska has an agreement whereby anyone can bring in cans and specify that the proceeds go to the Wachiska account. Stop in Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Even though prices are low now, we still have the satisfaction of knowing we are helping clean up the environment.

Wachiska Audubon 2019 Report from the Conservation Committee

The Conservation Committee manages and maintains the prairies and property owned by the Wachiska Audubon Society. The committee also administers the conservation easement agreements held by Wachiska.

The committee meets monthly, with the nine committee members sharing in tasks.

Accomplishments for 2019 include:

- Reviewed work needed and tracked volunteer hours required to accomplish it.
- Participated in a planning session to study alternatives for future management of our prairies and easements.



Prescribed Burn

- Utilizing over 30 volunteers, burned over 100 acres of prairie and grazing lands on Klapka, Wildcat, and Fertig.
- Haying and grazing: CRP grazing contract at Klapka produced over \$9,700 income.
- Mendenhall participated in program review with Farm Service Agency personnel from USDA Washington, DC.



Wildcat Prairie burn resulted in enhanced habitat for the regal fritillary

- Conservation practices included cross fencing, water tanks, and grazing management to enhance habitat for bobwhite quail and Massasauga rattlesnake.
- Hosted Nebraska Environmental Trust Committee at Beethe Prairie and presented information about how we manage our easements including those that they have helped fund.



Environmental Trust Committee at Beethe Prairie

 Second year of three-year Northern Prairie Alliance contract on Berg East and West to defer haying and allow prairie growth to shade out red clover and have enough growth to conduct prescribed burns.



Rousek Gayfeather Harvest

- Over 20 volunteers participated in the Rousek gayfeather harvest, resulting in 255 bulk pounds of seed harvested.
- Seed Harvest: Volunteers, under Beth Coufal's leadership, collected seed from over 30 species from Dieken, Berg, and Knott prairies and delivered for processing by buyer.
- Managed timing and area to be hayed at Fertig, Knott, and Dieken to have tallgrass ecosystem available for prairie education activities.

"If you truly love Nature, you will find beauty everywhere."

— Vincent van Gogh

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

"Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink"

This is the title of National Audubon's new ground-breaking report just released in October. It forecasts in detail the impact climate change will have on North American birds through the end of the century. Audubon President David Yarnold summarized it this way: "Two-thirds of America's birds are threatened with extinction from climate change but keeping global temperatures down will help up to 76 percent of them. There's hope in this report, but first, it'll break your heart if you care about birds and what they tell us about the ecosystems we share with them. It's a bird emergency."

The first page of the National Audubon website has a link to the study. Go there and scroll down to where you can type in your zip code to see what birds in your area are most threatened as average temperatures rise 1.5 to 2 degrees C., to 3 degrees C.

In my zip code, a bird whose goofy song of doubled phrases always makes me laugh, the brown thrasher, is one of six highly vulnerable species. As much as 87 percent of its range could be lost with an average 3 degrees C. temperature increase. The threats are identified as spring heat wave, heavy rain, urbanization, and fire weather. These effects aren't so good for people, either.

Audubon scientists studied 604 North American bird species using 140 million bird records. Audubon's monitoring of birds is ongoing and relies on citizen scientists to gather information. If you can identify these three birds: goldfinch, bluebird and whitebreasted nuthatch, you are qualified to participate in Audubon's Climate Watch. What is required, after an initial session to learn the ropes, is to visit an assigned area and count these birds for a couple of hours two times a year in January/February and May/ June. The person to talk to is Jason St. Sauver at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, jstsauver@audubon.org, 402-797-2301. Jason's preferred title is "Birdnerd."

Audubon magazine for fall has excellent information on the new report and a terrific "Guide to Climate Action."

SOMETHING YOU CAN DO RIGHT AWAY! National Audubon is urging us to contact our House and Senate members to ask them to support and even cosponsor BEST, the Better Energy Storage Technology Act of 2019. It invests \$60 million a year for five years in research and development of innovative technology needed to move as fast as possible to commercialization of grid scale energy storage. Storage technology is a critical part of keeping the electric grid reliable as we move to nonpolluting energy generation like solar and wind. Senator Susan Collins

introduced BEST, S1602, in the Senate along with two other Republican cosponsors, three Democrats, and one Independent. In the House, H.R. 2986, the matching bill, is sponsored by nine Republicans and seven Democrats. Rep. Don Bacon of Omaha is a co-sponsor. Bipartisanship on a subject as divisive as climate change is a rare and beautiful thing.

I believe Rep. Jeff Fortenberry will co-sponsor BEST if enough of us ask him to do it. ASK HIM.

Wildlife Corridors

As climate change alters landscapes, wild animals will need to move to find more hospitable homes. In theory, they can simply fly, walk, or swim to new habitat. But roads, cities, farms, dams, and other barriers make moving between protected areas difficult. Today one in five species in the U.S. is in danger of extinction, due in large part to habitat loss and fragmentation, and only 41 percent of existing natural areas across the country are connected enough to let plants and animals move as the climate shifts, according to a 2016 study. Large-scale connectivity projects like the nearly 200-mile-long Path of the Pronghorn, the nation's first federally protected migration route, designated in 2008, have shown that it's possible to protect migration pathways and even rebuild links between fragmented landscapes.

For deer, elk, pronghorns, and scores of other animals at risk of being struck by vehicles on New Mexico's highways, a new state law will help provide safer passage. Passed in March, the Wildlife Corridors Act requires the state's fish-and-game and transportation departments to identify, prioritize, and maintain corridors for animal movement and to construct highway crossings and other secure means of passage. New Mexico is the first state to pass connectivity legislation.

Six other states have corridor legislation in the works: California, Colorado, Oregon, Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire. There is also movement at the federal level. In May a coalition of leaders in the House and Senate introduced the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act which would build a National Wildlife Corridor system across federal land and allocate \$78.5 million toward wildlife passageways on tribal, state, and private land.

Trumpeter Swan Conference this Month

The Audubon Center at Riverlands and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are co-hosting the Trumpeter Swan Society's 25th Swan Conference in Alton, Illinois, November 19-21.

Whether you are a wetlands or waterfowl manager, or someone who loves birds, and big rivers, this conference is for you! Birders, photographers, wildlife and conservation professionals, and anyone who wants to learn more about North America's largest waterfowl are warmly invited. Check it out at riverlands.audubon.org.

Public Officials

President Donald Trump

1600 Pennsylvania Av NW, Washington DC 20500-0001 Comment line: 202-456-1111 Phone: 202-456-1414 Fax: 202-456-2461 E-mail at website: http://whitehouse.gov/contact

Senator Ben Sasse

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

Senator Deb Fischer

440 N 8th St Ste 120, Lincoln NE 68508 Lincoln phone: 402-441-4600 Fax: 402-476-8753 Wash. DC phone: 202-224-6551 Fax: 202-228-0012 E-mail at website: http://fischer.senate.gov

Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (1st District) 301 S 13th St Ste 100, Lincoln NE 68508-2537 Lincoln phone: 402-438-1598 Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4806 Fax: 202-225-5686 E-mail at website: http://fortenberry.house.gov

Congressman Don Bacon (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 Pete Ricketts

Capitol Bldg, PO Box 94848, Lincoln NE 68509-4848 Phone: 402-471-2244 Fax: 402-471-6031 E-mail at website: http://governor.nebraska.gov

State Senator ____ District ___ State Capitol, PO Box 94604, Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

State Capitol Switchboard 402-471-2311

Lancaster County Commissioners

County-City Bldg, 555 S 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: <u>mayor@lincoln.ne.gov</u>

Lincoln City Council

402-441-7515 E-mail: council@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln Journal Star

Letters to the editor, 926 P 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)

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

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

I prefer to receive my newsletter by email.

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



American Goldfinch Family



Cornell Laboratory's eBird App

Track your lists

What's your latest life bird? What bird lists do you care about? eBird tallies them for you and archives your photos and sounds—all for free.

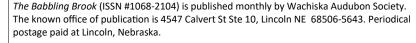
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Wachiska Audubon Society 4547 Calvert St Ste 10 Lincoln NE 68506-5643

402-486-4846 Office@WachiskaAudubon.org www.WachiskaAudubon.org





WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2019

| President |
|---------------------|
| Vice President |
| Recording Secretary |

OFFICERS

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

STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

| Director at Large | *vacant | |
|--|--|--|
| Director at Large | *Terry Stentz | 402-202-8819 |
| Director at Large | *Melinda Varley | 402-416-4111 |
| Conservation | *Ross Scott (Roca) | 402-202-1523 |
| Education | *Tim Knott | 402-483-5656 |
| Field Trips | | |
| | *Lana Novak | 402-475-8693 |
| Hospitality | Cheryl Moncure | 402-488-0036 |
| | .*Bruce Kennedy (Malcolm) 402-796-2114 | |
| Legislation | *Bruce Kennedy (Malcolm) | 402-796-2114 |
| Legislation | *Bruce Kennedy (Malcolm) *vacant | |
| Legislation Membership | *vacant | |
| - | *vacant *Jami Nelson | 402-488-1598 |
| Membership | *vacant* *Jami NelsonWAS office | 402-488-1598 402-486-4846 |
| Membership Monthly Programs/General Meetings | *vacant*Jami Nelson WAS office WAS office WAS office | 402-488-1598 402-486-4846 402-486-4846 |
| Membership Monthly Programs/General Meetings Newsletter Editor | *vacant*Jami Nelson WAS officeArlys Reitan WAS officeArlys Reitan WAS office*Mary King | 402-488-1598 402-486-4846 402-486-4846 402-570-3295 |

OTHER ASSOCIATES

| OTTER ASSOCIATES | | |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|
| Bird Questions | Kevin Poague | 402-797-2301 |
| Facebook Coordinator | Benjamin Vogt | 402-499-5851 |
| Raptor Recovery | Betsy Finch (Elmwood) | 402-994-2009 |
| Executive Director Audubon Nebraska | *Kristal Stoner | 402-797-2301 |
| Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Director | Meghan Sittler | 402-797-2301 |
| Webmaster | Roxanne Smith | 402-477-1319 |
| Wachiska Computer Issues/Questions | Linda Sullivan | 402-580-8515 |
| Bookkeeper | Nancy Hamer | 402-499-1306 |
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Audubon Calendars Have Arrived

If you ordered 2020 Audubon calendars, they are now in the Wachiska office. You should have received an email a couple of weeks ago that they are here. Please contact Arlys to arrange for you to pick them up at which time payment is due. No extras were ordered. We sold more calendars this year than ever before. Thank you for your continued support.

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

A Gift to the Future

A bequest to Wachiska Audubon Society is a gift to future generations enabling our natural heritage to continue. For wills, trusts, and gifts, our legal name is Wachiska Audubon Society. Our Federal Tax ID number is 51-0229888.