

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 42nd Year of Protecting Nature 1973 - 2015

NOVEMBER 2015

Volume 24 - Issue 11

Annual Meeting — Thursday, November 12, 7:00 p.m., Union College Dick Auditorium, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln

Lyman Awards to Local Food Organizations

Projects Supporting Resource Conservation, Biodiversity, Human Connections

by Colleen Babcock and Chuck Francis

This month we honor two organizations that promote local foods in Nebraska. *Buy Fresh Buy Local Nebraska* (BFBLN) and *Good.Fresh.Local* (GFL) make eating food from “near home” a practical and satisfying possibility. We are pleased to have BFBLN Coordinator Billene Nemec and GFL Coordinator Pam Edwards provide this month’s program. Additionally, to recognize and honor their work with their respective projects, each will be presented with the Lyman Award for their organization.

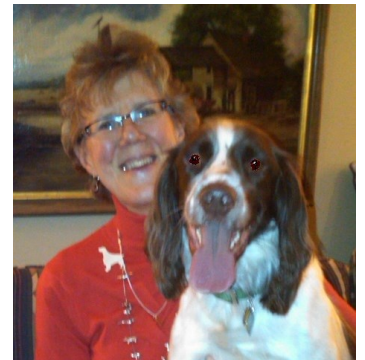


Billene Nemec

Billene Nemec is a Nebraska native who for over 30 years has been a market gardener, farmers’ market vendor and manager for three farmers’ markets in Lincoln, and a consultant in this area across the state. She coordinates activities of a broad range of members to realize the BFBLN mission of "encouraging the

purchase and enjoyment of locally-grown food." This includes publishing an annual local food guide with 10,000 copies distributed to consumers across Nebraska.

Pam Edwards, assistant director of UNL Housing Dining Services since 1996, became an integral member of a dedicated team of GFL program initiators in 2005. She continues to coordinate the many intricacies involved in connecting food producers, UNL food service staff, and student consumers. Pam was president of the Nebraska Dietetic Association in 2010-2011 and is active in numerous professional and community organizations including Animal Assisted Therapy and is pictured here with her Nebraska farm-bred partner, Lester.



Pam Edwards and Lester

The Edwin and Elvina Lyman Award for Environmental Stewardship is named for the founders of Wachiska’s Population and Environment Committee. The Lymans provided the initiative and energy to bring more attention through Wachiska to the critical programs of local organizations working to promote biodiversity, healthy landscapes and rural communities, and many dimensions of human and societal issues in examining our population and its impact on the environment.

Join Wachiska on **Thursday, November 12, at 7:00 p.m.** for this free public presentation in the Union College Dick Auditorium, 3800 South 48th Street, in Lincoln. Free parking is available on both sides of 48th Street and in the College View SDA Church parking lots. Look for Audubon signs on the doors. There is a handicap ramp at the east entrance and an elevator inside. Refreshments will be offered after the program.

The November meeting is also Wachiska’s annual meeting with election of officers. See page 2.

Calendar

November

- 2 Education Committee, Wachiska office, 6:00 p.m.
 - 3 Board Meeting, Wachiska office, 7:00 p.m.
 - 9 Newsletter deadline, Wachiska office, 5:00 p.m. (due to the holiday)
 - 12 Annual Meeting, program on locally-grown foods by Billene Nemec and Pam Edwards, Union College, 7:00 p.m.
 - 14 Field Trip to Pioneers Park Nature Center, 8:30 a.m. (page 2)
 - 16 Conservation Committee, Wachiska office, 5:30 p.m.
 - 19 Legislation Committee, DaVinci’s, 11th & G, 6:00 p.m.
 - 21 Field Trip to Oak Lake Park, 9:00 a.m. (page 2)
- NO Population/Environment Committee meeting scheduled



Field Trips

Birding 101

with Esa Jarvi

Whether you are a beginner or an advanced backyard birder, join us for two opportunities this month to learn about birding in the Lincoln area. Esa Jarvi, who moved to Nebraska this year, thinks he can show you local bird spots and the basics of binoculars and field guide use. The first four participants to sign in on November 14 will receive a free field guide from Esa. Bring binoculars if you have them; shared optics and field guides will be available for use if anyone needs them.

Our first birding session will be at **8:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 14**, at Pioneers Park which is located by West Van Dorn and South Coddington streets. We'll meet on the west side of the Nature Center's Prairie Building out on the porch. The building and parking area are right next to the road that leads to the bison pen.

The second birding session will be **9:00 a.m. Saturday, November 21**, at Oak Lake Park. Meet in the parking lot on the east side of the lake by the intersection of Charleston Street and Sun Valley Boulevard. We will bird there and then drive to another site.

Bring a water bottle and dress accordingly if conditions are muddy. The leader will show up rain or shine. In the event of extreme weather, email Esa at esaterojarvi@yahoo.com for possible changes. There is no fee and the public is welcome.

New Members

by Joyce Vannier, Membership Chair

The past couple of months the following people have become Friends of Wachiska with a local membership:

Sandra Ashley	Christy & Richard Hargesheimer
M J Berry	Barbara Rothenay
Jon & Michele Farrar	Cathy & Brad Rustermier
Edna Forrest	Stan & Jean Shavlik
Karl & Mary Lou Fredrickson	David Splichal
Jan Gauger	

Joining as National Audubon members and therefore assigned to Wachiska are these folks:

Fred Brandl	Lynn Marienau
Jack Higgins	Dayle Williamson

Frank Dupuis has transferred to Wachiska from another chapter.

Annual Meeting in November

At Wachiska's annual meeting November 12, the following slate of officers will be presented for 2016 by the nominating committee:

President – Jessi Umberger
 Vice President – Gary Fehr
 Recording Secretary – Rachel Simpson
 Treasurer – vacant

Nominations will be accepted from the floor with the condition that each nominee is currently a member and has given consent to be nominated.

If you are interested in running for one of the above positions, chairing a standing committee, or serving as a director at large, call President Elizabeth Nelson at 402-770-3485 or the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846. Officers serve a one-year term which may be extended two times.

The 116th Annual Christmas Bird Count

by Lauren Dinan

Calling all birders! Time is nearing for Audubon's 116th Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC), one of the longest running citizen science projects in the world. The CBC is an amazing event where birdwatchers from across the nation collect bird counts from both the field and yard feeders over a 24-hour period. Each year this event is held between December 14 and January 5. Data collected provide a snapshot of the status and distribution of various bird species that can be used to track long-term trends in bird populations to guide future conservation efforts. This annual data is available online and is being used by many to better understand these population trends.

The CBC has become an annual holiday tradition for thousands of birders; it is easy to participate and is a fun and rewarding way to contribute to bird conservation each year.

Join us for the Lincoln area Christmas Bird Count which will be held on **Saturday, December 19**, and help us continue the annual holiday tradition of collecting vital bird data. Participants are needed at all birding levels. Arrangements can be made to pair up novice observers with more knowledgeable birders.

To participate in the Lincoln area Count as either a field or feeder counter, please contact me at lauren.dinan@yahoo.com now so territories can be assigned.

Note: Any rescheduling due to inclement weather will be communicated via email.



From the Board ...

by Elizabeth Nelson
President

\$50,000 Donation Kick-starts Fundraising for \$1 Million Prairie Management Fund

A \$50,000 pledge from an anonymous donor, matched by a \$50,000 allocation from Wachiska's savings, has provided \$100,000 to establish the Wachiska Audubon Society Prairie Management Fund to be held and managed at the Lincoln Community Foundation. The Donor Development Committee led by Wachiska members Elizabeth Nelson, Linda Brown, Joe Francis, and Richard Peterson, is directing this three-year, \$1 million fundraising effort which will seek donations from Wachiska members, environmentally-oriented foundations, and the general public.

Twenty years ago, Wachiska Audubon Society set the goal to preserve tallgrass prairie in each of the 17 Southeastern Nebraska counties that comprise our membership area. We have come a long way toward reaching that goal with 32 prairies now under our protection in 13 counties. We currently protect and preserve nearly 1,000 acres of prairie through direct ownership of eight high-quality prairies (nearly 500 acres) and are holding and monitoring conservation easements on 24 additional prairie parcels.

Meeting our long-term obligations

By purchasing prairie and accepting conservation easements, Wachiska has taken on considerable long-term management responsibilities. We have recognized that, as an organization, we are quickly reaching the point where we need to hire staff to lead our prairie management obligations.

The prairies we own were purchased primarily with funds from our generous donors. We work hard to make our prairies as self-supporting as possible. Generally, we are able to pay the property taxes with revenues from carefully monitored haying and grazing. Some expenses have been covered by grants. Yet the maintenance and restoration work hours required are considerable; well over 1,500 volunteer hours a year go into caring for and monitoring these prairie parcels plus hundreds of additional hours towards legal activities and special projects like burning, plant inventories, etc. Wachiska is one of the few Audubon chapters to manage as many acres of prairie as we do with all volunteers. These demands are becoming increasingly difficult to meet with our current all-volunteer efforts.

After months of planning, in October the Wachiska Board approved the establishment of the Prairie Management Fund. A \$50,000 donation from an anonymous donor is being matched by \$50,000 from Wachiska reserves to open this fund with \$100,000. Our goal is to raise \$1 million by the end of 2018 to create a sustainable fund, the income from which would:

- First, pay for a part-time land manager to coordinate maintenance and restoration activities supervised by Wachiska's Conservation Committee.
- Second, generate funds for additional staff positions such as a volunteer coordinator, a grant writer, or an executive director with a focus on enhancing the preservation and educational aspects of managing our prairie lands.

Wachiska member support needed now

Many Wachiska members have given generously to support past prairie purchases. Now, we need your support to meet our land management obligations. We are requesting current gifts, or pledged estate bequests, to move this effort forward. We must demonstrate strong member support when we begin applying for grants next year.

Your contributions, whether given now or through your estate, will help Wachiska continue to protect and preserve tallgrass prairie in Nebraska, a legacy dear to all those who value protecting our natural environment.

For more information how you can help, please contact anyone on Wachiska's Donor Development Committee, the Lincoln Community Foundation, or your attorney.

Wachiska Audubon Society was chartered in 1973 as an independent chapter of the National Audubon Society. Wachiska is a qualified 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization; TIN 51-0229888.

Forget to Order Birdseed; Need More?

Wachiska's Fall Birdseed Sale went smoothly in mid-October. We are grateful to Elizabeth and Daniel Nelson for making available the new pick up location in southwest Lincoln. Special thanks goes to Lana Novak, Cathy Shaner, and Richard Peterson for assisting customers when they picked up their orders and to George Maly, Larry and Shirley Anderson, and Mitch Renteria for helping unload the semi.

If you can use any of the following remaining seed, call or email Arlys to arrange a time that you can pick it up. Remember that the sales tax is included in these prices:

7 bags of Classic Audubon Mix	20-lb. bag	\$19/bag
5 bags of Bushy Tail Treat	20-lb. bag	\$28/bag
1 bag of Nyjer Thistle	8-lb. bag	\$12/bag
2 bags of Safflower Seed	20-lb. bag	\$21/bag
5 bags of Sunflower Hearts (fine)	20-lb. bag	\$32/bag
4 bags of Sunflower Seed (black oil)	25-lb. bag	\$15/bag
8 High Energy Suet Cakes		\$2.50/ea.
11 Berry Treat Suet Cakes		\$2.50/ea.

If plans continue as in the past, look for Wachiska's Spring Birdseed Sale to be announced in the January or February newsletter.

Spiders

by Richard Peterson



We have all seen and been exposed to spiders—some good experiences, some not so good. Maybe it was that web you walked into face to face on your early morning walk along a narrow path, or the surprise you got in the garage while putting on your gardening gear. For many people, spiders along with snakes are the creatures we love to hate.

Spiders are in the Phylum *Arthropoda* which includes the crabs, lobsters, centipedes, millipedes, insects, and some others that are unfamiliar and most of us will never see. Spiders are in the Class *Arachnida* and the Order *Araneae*.

Spiders once held an honored position in the arsenal of household remedies. This was back when warts and gout, constipation and jaundice, leprosy, and all communicable diseases were treated at home. Spiders were eaten alive or dead, rolled up in pills of various kinds, made into ointments to be rubbed on the body, and brewed into liquors to be drunk.

There is no evidence that spiders search us out or that their bite will infect us with disease, unlike some mosquitoes, ticks, and lice. Two genera of spiders should be mentioned, the *Loxosceles* and the *Latrodectus*.

The *Loxosceles* are referred to as the recluse spiders. They construct irregular webs under logs, stones, and in dark corners, in trunks or under stored clothing. Their body (excluding their long legs) is half an inch long. They are yellowish brown in color. This reclusive spider is found outdoors in natural situations as well as in buildings. It becomes limited to homes further north in its range. Most people in Nebraska are bitten when putting on their gardening clothes or work shoes stored in the garage.

Latrodectus are known as the widow spiders. The black widow female is small, usually smooth, shiny, and black or almost so. Webs are usually built close to the ground. They are only one-half inch long, legs and all. The red markings (some resemble an hourglass) on the underside of the female are not always obvious unless you can see the underside. The male is less obvious and does not sport the red markings. The venom of the widow is highly virulent, but the spider itself is quite timid and has no desire to bite humans unless in self-defense.

If after being bit you feel the need to visit an ER, you should take the culprit with you. That means you need to capture the critter. Without having it to identify, the attending physician won't know whether you were bit by a flea, tick, bedbug, ant, or a fly—all of which produce lesions that resemble a spider bite.

Remember, spiders don't search us out. The ones you are likely to encounter are those that make elaborate webs hoping to snare a meal. They are not after us—we are the ones getting in the way of their normal activities.

Birders of All Skill Levels Needed

by Thomas Palmeri, Professor of Psychology
Vanderbilt University

Vanderbilt University's psychology laboratory is looking for birders of all levels of experience to participate in a project examining how perception and memory for birds differs between beginners and experts. We really do mean all levels of experience from the true beginner to the expert with decades of study, and everything in between.

These experiments are online on the web. They measure your ability to remember and identify birds and sometimes other animals or objects. Many experiments are fairly short. They can be done on any computer, wherever and whenever you decide to do them.

One of our current experiments is a bird identification test. Go

online and test your birding skills:

<http://expertise.psy.vanderbilt.edu>. Once you register your own login ID and password on the site and complete a short survey of your birding expertise, you will be able to participate in any experiments that are available. We expect to add new experiments over time. Some future experiments may include modest compensation.

If you have questions, please contact me at Vanderbilt University at thomas.j.palmeri@vanderbilt.edu. Check out our website at <http://catlab.psy.vanderbilt.edu/>.



American Avocet

Did You Know?

The Eastern Phoebe was the first banded bird in North America. According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's *All About Birds*, John James Audubon attached silvered thread to an Eastern Phoebe's leg to track its return in successive years.

The oldest known Eastern Phoebe was ten years and four months old. They have been known to return to the same nest for several successive seasons and raise two broods a season. Some may even attempt a third brood.



Photo by Phil Swanson

Eastern Phoebe

Climate Change Update

by Marilyn McNabb

By the time you are reading this, we will have an answer about whether Lancaster County will have adopted noise standards generally acceptable elsewhere. Whether we're looking to a future of generating wind energy here or not, it's interesting to look at some of the projects under development now that will change and improve wind power from a bird-lover's perspective. One of these uses the intelligence and skill of a wild creature and another mimics substances and systems found in nature.

"Houdini" is a trained peregrine falcon which lives in Colorado and has performed for delighted crowds at halftime during U.S. Air Force Academy football games. Recently, he has taken on a second career for the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and the National Wind Technology Center (NWTC). The goal of his work with NREL and NWTC is to provide information so that radar can identify birds flying toward wind turbines, and to do it in time for the power plant operator to shut down the blades. Radar picks up all kinds of signals—deer, litter, cars, and atmospheric disturbances—with a gigabyte of data every minute. From Houdini's reports, researchers will work to identify a distinctive signature for birds in flight. On the job, Houdini wears a tiny GPS the size of a USB flash drive.

The radar company working on the project, Laufer Wind, has already succeeded in its first effort, which was to develop a radar system to detect nearby planes and automatically switch on lights on the turbines to warn pilots. Previously, the lights had to remain on, annoying some neighbors. Laufer Wind had been looking at using drones to stand in for bird flight, but an NREL engineer started wondering, "If they want to learn how birds move through the air, what they really want isn't a drone, it's a bird." We wish Houdini and his people success. Check out this site at <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/articles/2015/04/wind-energy-data-the-scientific-flight-of-the-falcon.html>.

Another hopeful and intriguing report concerns "biomimetic technology," meaning just what it sounds like. The subject to be imitated is the nearly silent flight of owls. The technology that this learning could be applied to ranges from wind turbines to airplanes, and who knows what else.

Owls' wings have an intricate structure like no other birds, according to Professor Nigel Peake of Cambridge's Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, who led the research. Peake, along with a team from Virginia Tech, Lehigh, and Florida Atlantic universities, studied owls' flight feathers under high resolution microscopes and discovered that the wings are covered with a downy covering that resembles a forest canopy from above, a flexible comb of bristles on the leading edge, and most importantly, a porous and elastic fringe of feathers at the trailing edge that dampens sound.

The researchers then started to develop a coating that could replicate the effect of the fringe that scatters sound. The goal is

to reduce sound while producing more energy by running the turbines at higher speeds. They came up with a porous coating made of 3D-printed plastic. In wind tunnel tests, the coating reduced the noise generated by a wind turbine blade by 10 decibels without affecting aerodynamics. For details, go to <http://www.treehugger.com/wind-technology/owl-wings-inspire-silent-wind-turbine-blades.html>.

Wachiskan Doug Campbell recommends another look at biomimicry, demonstrated by the fascination the Wright brothers had with birds' flight. It is well described in David McCullough's *The Wright Brothers*.

Prairie Discover Days 2015

by Tim Knott, Education Committee

Wachiska's Education Committee held its annual Prairie Discovery Day events for fourth-grade students from Syracuse, Yutan, and Valley/Waterloo schools again this September. Even though we had to postpone one of the events due to wet weather, they went well.

Much credit should be given to our speakers: Dr. Sarah Crook, Betty Orr, and Dr. Bill Beachly. Also, Ron Drews did a great job of getting our Yutan Prairie ready for students.



Our Education Committee chair and committee members did a wonderful job of making Prairie Discovery Days a success once again. Those assisting me in these programs were Lauren

Dinan, Sue Kohles, Bruce Mellberg, Sam Truax, Lana Novak, Shari Schwartz, and John Carlini. Thanks must be extended to the Nebraska Humanities Council for making these speakers possible.



The Babbling Brook

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

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

Wild Bird Habitat Stores Selected as the Best

Lincoln's Wild Bird Habitat Store has been selected as the "best store with a birding emphasis" at a birding expo in Missouri. The nominees were submitted by a search team with the winner chosen by birding industry leaders from across the U.S. and Canada. Wachiska member Dave Titterington is the owner of these stores and was chosen as the chapter's Earthkeeper Award recipient this past spring. Way to go, Dave and WBHS!

Twice as Much Trash in Landfills as Thought

A recent blurb in local papers reported a study revealing that Americans are sending more than twice the amount of trash to the dump as the federal government has estimated. In reality, the average person tosses out five pounds of garbage daily, and it all ends up in the landfills.

For years, the EPA relied on estimates to determine how much trash was generated, but in 2010, the agency required most local landfills to actually measure and report findings from the dump. After researchers studied these records, they determined 289 million tons was discarded in 2012 rather than 135 million tons previously estimated. (Has recycling already gone out of style in the U.S.?)

Then Following the Thought Above . . .

Again this year Wachiska will be collecting old calendars and next year's new calendars which you don't need to share in several places. Teachers are interested in them from day care to high school levels; nursing homes and physical therapy rehabilitation centers have taken them to give to residents and patients who want to take them home with them after having recorded their daily therapy progress. Even though many of us get calendars from every organization we support, there are some who don't get any and we make them available at our January and February general meetings.

So, if this is a way you can help ease landfill quantities or even recycling bins, just bring your old or unwanted new calendars to a Wachiska event or drop them off at the Wachiska office.

Our supply of old *Audubon* magazines is dwindling as chapter leaders participate in various local events, so bring them, also. Because magazines are heavy, please consider dropping them off at the office outside our door on second floor if you have very many to donate. Thanks for all you do to help out!

Audubon Bird Guide App

National Audubon has just announced that an updated version of the Audubon Bird Guide app has been released and is now available free to bird lovers nationwide. With 821 species profiles and more than 3,200 world-renowned photos, this award-winning app instantly turns any mobile device into the most trusted field guide in North America. To download the Audubon Bird Guide, go to www.audubon.org/apps. This app provides a great new way to engage more people in becoming active participants in conservation action. Find a toolkit which includes tips and tricks for using the app, email and social copy and images, ecards, a poster, and a captivating video.

Audubon Nebraska's Annual Report

To view Audubon Nebraska's 2014-2015 annual report, visit nebraska.audubon.org. You have made a difference. Working together we are having an impact across our great state. Thank you for being part of it! Questions? Call 402-797-2301.

Members Signing Up to Receive *The Babbling Brook* Online

You can help Wachiska save paper and reduce the cost of printing and mailing *The Babbling Brook*. Each month's newsletter will be posted online by the first day of each month. Our electronic subscribers will receive an email the first of each month with a direct link to the online newsletter.

If you would like to join the 160+ other *Babbling Brook* readers and switch from paper to online delivery, please send an email to newsletter@wachiskaaudubon.org and put "Electronic Newsletter" in the subject line. We'll get you converted over.

Fall Tidying Up Outdoors

Small wattle fences made of woven twigs and small branches, provide an attractive, rustic edging to garden beds. Use flexible green wood such as from grapevine, willow, or hazelnut. To set up the supports, insert sturdy sticks upright into the ground, spacing them about one to two feet apart or loop them into an arch, setting the ends in the ground. Then weave smaller twigs in and out of the uprights, tucking the ends into the weave. Push the woven twigs to the base of the sticks and then start the next layer.

Shovel snow over biennials, perennials, and berry bushes to prevent repeated freezing and thawing.

Public Officials

President Barack Obama

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

100 Centennial Mall N Rm 287, 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 Brad Ashford (2nd District)

7126 Pacific St, Omaha NE 68106
Omaha phone: 402-916-5678
Wash. DC phone: 202-225-4155 Fax: 202-226-5452
E-mail at website: <http://ashford.house.gov>

Congressman Adrian Smith (3rd District)

416 Valley View Dr Ste 600, Scottsbluff NE 69361
Scottsbluff phone: 308-632-3333 Fax: 308-635-3049
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 Chris Beutler

County-City Bldg, 555 S 10th St Rm 208, 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: council@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln Journal Star

Letters to the editor, 926 P St, Lincoln NE 68508
E-mail: oped@journalstar.com

Membership

Wachiska offers two choices of membership—many people choose both. Local membership, called Friends of Wachiska, includes receiving *The Babbling Brook*, our chapter's monthly newsletter. It also includes voting privileges and attendance at monthly meetings, programs, and field trips. All local membership dues remain with Wachiska to support chapter activities such as prairie preservation and education.

Membership in the National Audubon Society also includes membership in our local chapter, Wachiska. You will receive *Audubon* magazine from National Audubon along with *The Babbling Brook*.

Friends of Wachiska (local membership)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Recruited by _____

E-mail _____

_____ \$20 Individual/Friend _____ \$50 Sustainer
_____ \$30 Families _____ \$100 Patron

Make checks payable to **Wachiska Audubon Society**. All funds remain with our local chapter. Mail to:

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

As a conservation organization, our goal is to use our natural resources wisely. Materials and postage are considerable, and we do not want to waste them. When your address changes or if you are receiving *The Babbling Brook* and would rather not get it, please notify us at office@wachiskaaudubon.org or 402-486-4846.

AND / OR

National Membership in National Audubon Society

Dues from new (introductory) memberships and for first-time gifts will be returned to Wachiska if this coupon is used:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Recruited by _____

E-mail _____

Enclose introductory membership fee of \$20.

Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society** and mail to:

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

C5ZP040Z

Members Recycle Cans for Wachiska

Thanks to all Wachiska members and friends who are recycling aluminum cans at A-Can Recycling Center, 3255 South 10th Street, in Lincoln.

Owners Ben and Connie Dahlberg have set up an account for Wachiska whereby anyone can bring in their cans and specify that the proceeds should be credited to the Wachiska Audubon account.

Stop in Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Please call the Wachiska office at 402-486-4846 if you have questions.

Recycling aluminum cans saves 95 percent of the energy used to make aluminum cans from virgin materials. Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for over two hours.



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Lincoln NE 68506-5643



The Babbling Brook is printed on recycled and recyclable paper.



Wachiska Audubon Society

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office@wachiskaaudubon.org

www.wachiskaaudubon.org

WACHISKA AUDUBON LEADERS - 2015

OFFICERS

President	*Elizabeth Nelson	402-770-3485
Vice President	*Jessi Umberger (Otoe)	402-580-3057
Recording Secretary	*Bob Boyce	402-770-6865
Treasurer	*Gary Fehr	402-570-4382
Immediate Past President	*Arnold Mendenhall (Hickman)	402-525-4884

STANDING COMMITTEES/POSITIONS

Director at Large	*Joe Francis	402-489-7965
Director at Large	*Richard Peterson	402-489-2996
Director at Large	*Mitch Renteria	402-483-7275
Conservation	*Stu Luttich (Geneva)	402-759-3597
Education	*Lauren Dinan	308-390-3961
Field Trips	John Carlini	402-475-7275
	*Ken Reitan	402-423-3540
Hospitality	Cheryl Moncure	402-488-0036
Legislation	Bruce Kennedy (Malcolm)	402-796-2114
	*Sam Truax	402-325-9012
Membership	Joyce Vannier	402-570-8469
	*Lana Novak	402-475-8693
Monthly Programs/General Meetings	Arlys Reitan	WAS office 402-486-4846
Newsletter Editor	Arlys Reitan	WAS office 402-486-4846
Population/Environment	*Colleen Babcock	308-850-0445
Publicity/Public Relations	Jeanne Kern	402-423-0428

*Denotes Board member

OTHER ASSOCIATES

Bird Questions	Kevin Poague	402-797-2301
Facebook coordinator	Benjamin Vogt	402-499-5851
NAS Regional Board Member	Michele Crist (Boise, ID)	208-863-1918
Newsletter Layout	Linda Sullivan	402-580-8515
Raptor Recovery	Betsy Finch (Elmwood)	402-994-2009
Executive Director Audubon Nebraska	Marian Langan	402-797-2301
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Director	vacant	402-797-2301
Webmaster	Dan Staehr	402-440-5869

NEBirds Website

Check out the email discussion at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NEBirds> to learn of the latest sightings and interesting tales of Nebraska's most avid birders and those interested in Nebraska birds and their ecology. Posts change daily—and even more often when excitement arises. Offerings of recent sightings, questions, and new photos are all welcome.

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**.