

2014-2015 Annual Report



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The Why of Our Work

Audubon programs, centers, chapters, and sanctuaries share a strong common history of successful impact on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. This is clearly illustrated in our mission statements, highlighting the importance of the work that we do in, and for, our communities.



Audubon Nebraska

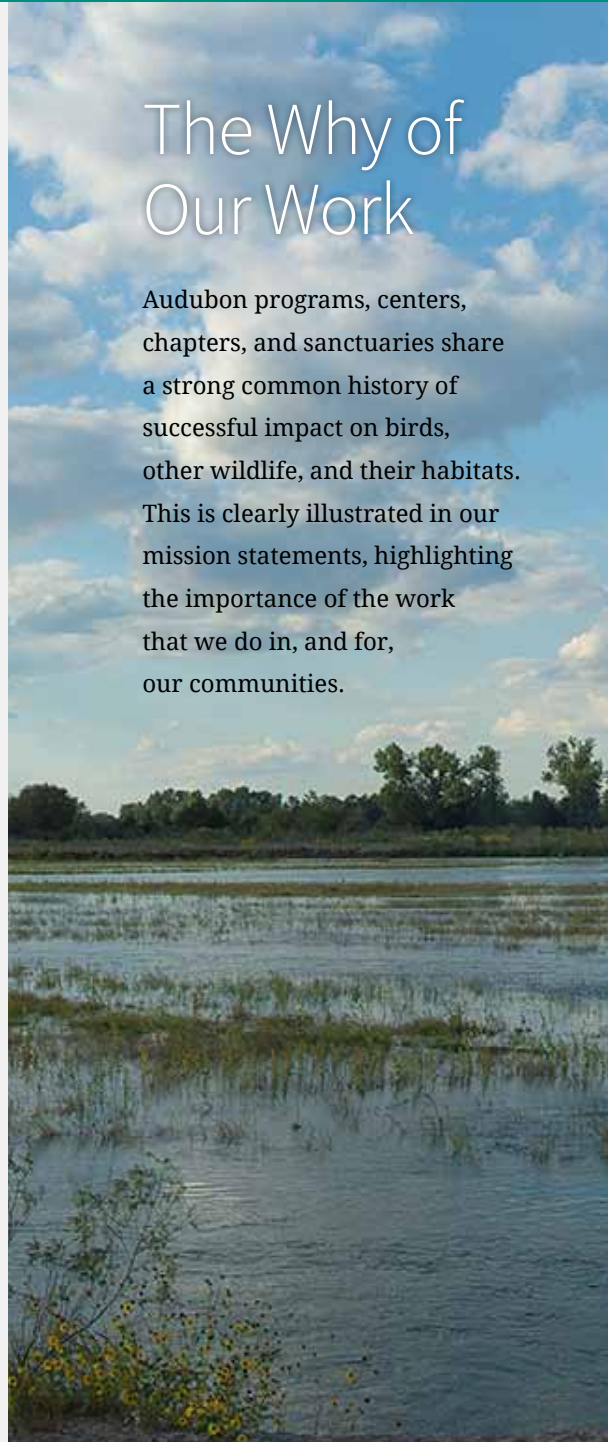
The mission of Audubon Nebraska is to conserve and restore our state's natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary

The mission of Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary is to conserve and restore the Platte River ecosystem, focusing on cranes, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center

The mission of Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center is to conserve and restore the tallgrass prairie ecosystem including birds, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.



Who is Audubon Nebraska?

Audubon Nebraska Stewardship Board

Trixie Schmidt, *Chair*
 Mary Daugherty
 Dan Lindstrom
 Lisa Smith
 Rich Vierk

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Stewardship Board

Lana Flagtwet, *Chair*
 Mari Lane Gewecke, *Chair-Elect*
 Deb Dahab
 Christie Dionisopoulos
 Judy Dougherty
 Stephen Gage
 Matt Gonzalez
 Jeff Hagaman
 Jeff Jewell
 Bruce Johnson
 Jenni Lesoing-Lucs
 Cindy Morris
 Cindy Rose
 Sam Seever
 Daniel Semrad
 Lyle Sittler
 Scott Stuckey
 Tom Tallman
 Barbara Wright-Chollet

Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary Stewardship Board

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 Susan Ahlschwede
 Ed Berglund
 Charles Bicak
 Stan Dart
 Ben Hirschfeld
 Jennifer Homan
 Roger Jones
 Jennifer Martin
 Janice McGregor
 Brian Moody
 Margery Nicolson
 Carol Wahl
 Greg Williams

Audubon Nebraska Staff

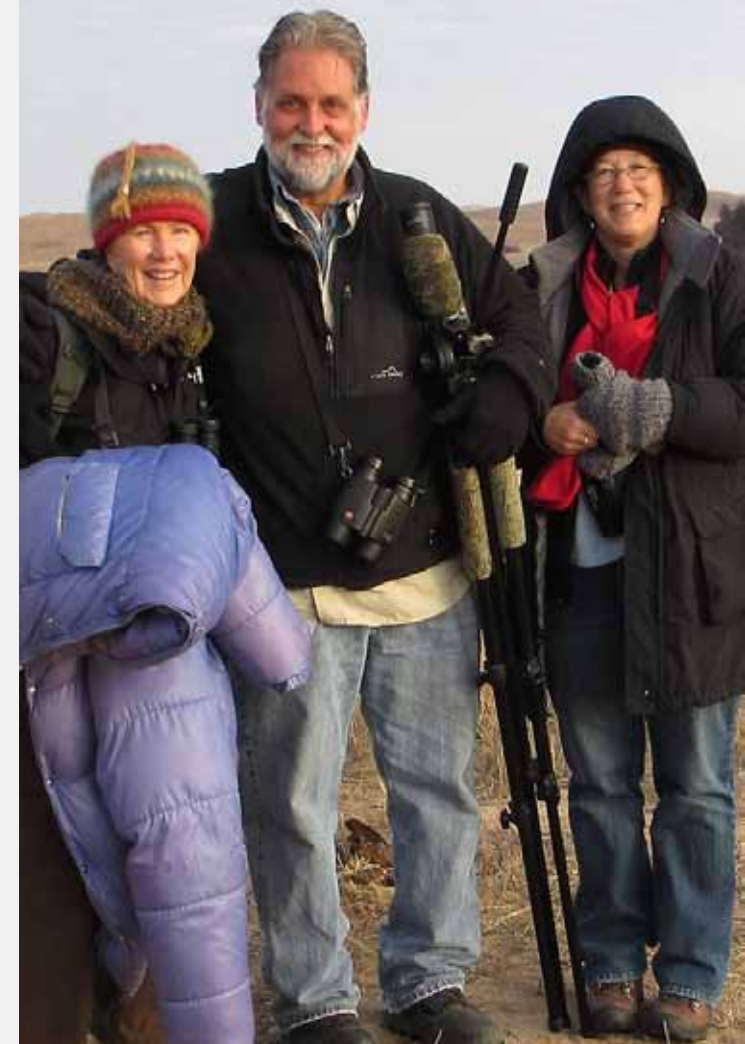
Marian Langan, *Executive Director*
 Melissa Filipi, *Director of Philanthropy*
 Carey Collingham, *Corporate and Foundation Coordinator*
 Cindy Houlden, *Donor Relations Coordinator*
 Autumn Taddicken, *Project Manager*

Based at Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary:

Bill Taddicken, *Director*
 Keanna Leonard, *Education Director*
 Kent Skaggs, *Operations Manager*
 Andrew Pierson, *Director of Conservation*
 Sharon Ingram, *Nature Store Manager*
 Anne Winkel, *Habitat Technician*

Based at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center:

Gerry Dimon, *Interim Director*
 Jason St. Sauver, *Community Education Director*
 Kevin Poague, *Operations Manager*
 Open, *Habitat Program Manager*
 Deb Hauswald, *Program Coordinator*
 Matt Harvey, *Program Assistant*
 Amy Plettner, *Caretaker*



From Our Leaders

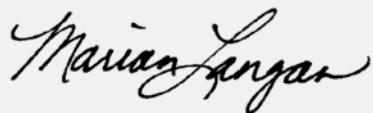
Photo credit: David Murphy

As I reflect on how much we have accomplished, I realize how much more there is to do in order to fully realize our mission.

Society's thirst for land and water continues to grow. Climate change continues to have a major impact on birds. More and more children are spending less and less time in the outdoors. All of these create challenges that we must rise to meet, and we can. We will. We have to.

Each year the number of people visiting our Centers continues to grow. Parents and educators alike want opportunities year-round to connect children with nature. People are seeking the refuge of natural areas to decompress from our online, always-on lives. And birds are finding safe haven at a scattered number of protected habitats shining like bright beacons on our altered landscape.

Audubon is creating sustainable solutions to the conservation challenges facing birds and their habitats. Through Audubon's *Working Lands Conservation*, *Bird Friendly Communities*, and *Important Bird Areas* strategies, the birds of the Central Flyway will have a better chance to thrive. This work is about tomorrow as much as it is about today. We create opportunities to do more than marvel at nature – we create opportunities to be inspired, and to act.



Marian Langan



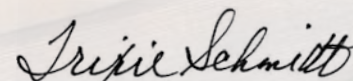
Marian Langan,
Executive Director,
Audubon Nebraska

The Gentle Kiss of a Butterfly

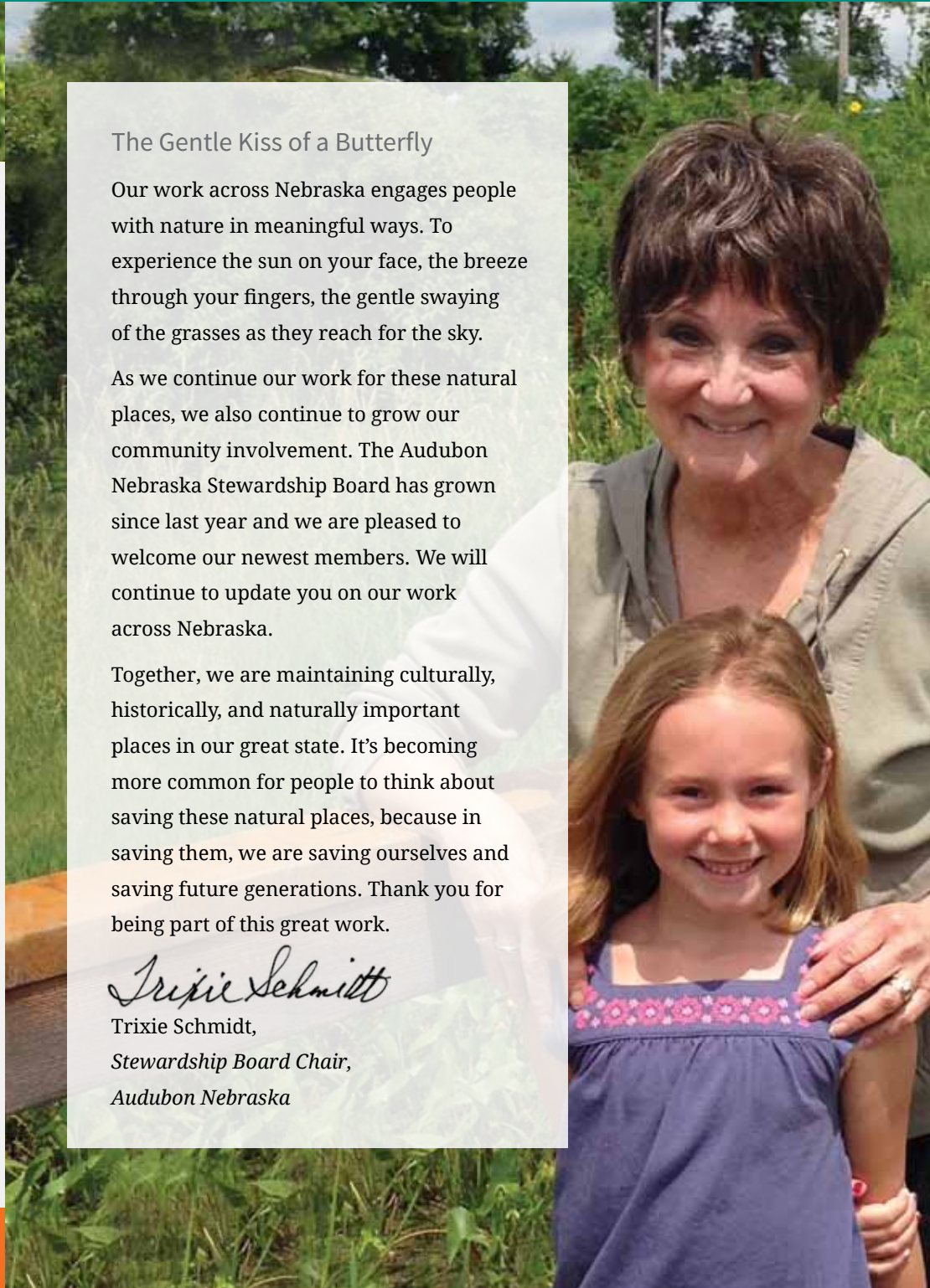
Our work across Nebraska engages people with nature in meaningful ways. To experience the sun on your face, the breeze through your fingers, the gentle swaying of the grasses as they reach for the sky.

As we continue our work for these natural places, we also continue to grow our community involvement. The Audubon Nebraska Stewardship Board has grown since last year and we are pleased to welcome our newest members. We will continue to update you on our work across Nebraska.

Together, we are maintaining culturally, historically, and naturally important places in our great state. It's becoming more common for people to think about saving these natural places, because in saving them, we are saving ourselves and saving future generations. Thank you for being part of this great work.



Trixie Schmidt,
Stewardship Board Chair,
Audubon Nebraska



How We Do Conservation: People

Achieving More, Together

Through the dedication and generosity of our donors, Stewardship Board members, volunteers, and friends, we are able to make great progress toward our mission of conserving important habitats for the birds and other wildlife that call these special places home. THANK YOU to all of our supporters, it's incredible what we can achieve together!

Because of you, we were able to:

- > serve over 16,000 youth and adults in our education programs this past year at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center (over 4,200) and Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary (over 12,000),
- > log nearly 11,000 hours in time contributed by our volunteers, for over \$220,000 in services, and
- > connect over 27,000 visitors with the world around them.

Together we are creating opportunities for everyone to walk through the tallgrass, explore the diversity around us, listen to the gentle flow of the river — these authentic experiences in our natural world are priceless. You are building

these unique, magical moments for our communities, for our youth, for our visitors.

In the coming year, our goals are to engage more youth and adults in our work; increase the number of visitors and volunteers at our Centers; increase the diversity of birds, plants, and other wildlife in Nebraska; and partner with other conservation leaders, educators, and elected officials across our state. Because the more people are involved, the more we can achieve, together.

We would like to thank the following for their service during 2014-2015:

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Stewardship Board –
 Dave Ellingson, Greg Hurlbut, Liz Lange, Arnold Mendenhall, Eric Rasgorshek, Jessica Marshall

Rowe Sanctuary Stewardship Board –
 Dr. Joel Johnson and Kirk Summers

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Staff –
 Ben Mullarkey, Roger Furrer, Jamie Kelley, Kathryn Kuczaj

Rowe Sanctuary Staff –
 Diana Luscher, Heidi LaClair, Tess Bruner, Jade Hemberger, Brittney Saner, Brandon Wolf, and all of our summer camp interns





How We Do Conservation: Habitat

From east to west, our state has amazing and diverse beauty. From the morning songs of the Sandhill Cranes coming out of the pre-dawn darkness, to the distinctive evening calls of the Common Poorwill, and the familiar whistle of the Northern Bobwhite, this is part of our legacy.

The growing scientific data surrounding climate change paints a stark picture if we

aren't able to make changes. If you haven't seen the University of Nebraska report, *Climate Change Implications for Nebraska*, it can be found at <http://bit.ly/1u6dXw0>.



Cranes prefer sparse roosting vegetation along the Platte River. To meet those habitat needs, Rowe Sanctuary works with key partners to clear sandbars as needed, using a variety of methods including heavy machinery.

Our ongoing work and partnerships ensure our sites are managed for the benefit of our communities today ... and tomorrow.

This year our work expanded even farther with focused efforts on making sure state policies support the ongoing conservation of the Niobrara River valley. In addition, we received funds to initiate an education and outreach effort regarding the important birds and

other wildlife in our glorious Nebraska Sandhills. We look forward to the new partnerships these projects are bringing together, making all of our efforts more effective.



Important Bird Areas

By protecting and managing Important Bird Areas (IBA), we can provide essential breeding, migration, or wintering habitats for bird species. We work with partners and local landowners in many capacities, on a voluntary basis, to conserve habitat and address declining bird populations. The IBA program is one example of our proactive, science-based, positive-action projects across Nebraska.

How We Do Conservation: Policy

Climate Change, a Bipartisan Discussion

Last summer, Marian Langan (Audubon Nebraska) attended the Audubon boot camp in Minnesota with Wachiska Audubon Society members Marilyn McNabb and Jessi Umberger. This trip led to increased collaboration, education, and opportunities for Nebraska.

Marilyn wrote data-driven articles in the chapter newsletter. Dr. Clint Rowe, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Professor at the University of Nebraska, was recruited to present a summary of the University of Nebraska climate report at a Wachiska chapter meeting. This highlighted the work being done

right here in Nebraska, and the need to monitor and address issues before it's too late.

Clint was also an invited speaker at Audubon's Nebraska Crane Festival in March 2015. ANCF also featured Joe Ryan, Audubon's previous leader for the climate efforts, as a presenter. Audubon connected with local media outlets to discuss



Congressman Jeff Fortenberry meets with Audubon supporters Doug Campbell, Linda Brown, Wachiska Audubon Society President Elizabeth Nelson, and Jessie Umberger to discuss climate change and energy solutions. The meeting highlighted the collaboration and dedication of Audubon supporters in Nebraska. Also attending the meeting were Dr. Paul Johnsgard and Marian Langan.

climate change issues, resulting in wide-ranging media coverage of the migration, the crane festival, and climate change concerns.

As far as the national climate team is aware, Nebraska is the only state to have a chapter organized from grassroots through Congressman-

level visits to discuss climate change, providing a template for other states. The process has been outlined and is now being hosted on Audubon Works, Audubon's internal web-archive available to all Audubon members. We have a lot to be proud of in Nebraska, together we are making a difference. And we know we have more work to do.

In honor of her leadership for Audubon's climate work, Marilyn McNabb was awarded the William Dutcher Award for the Central Flyway at the National Audubon convention held in Leesburg, VA, in July 2015. The award is given for outstanding service to the Audubon cause at the regional level. Congratulations, Marilyn!

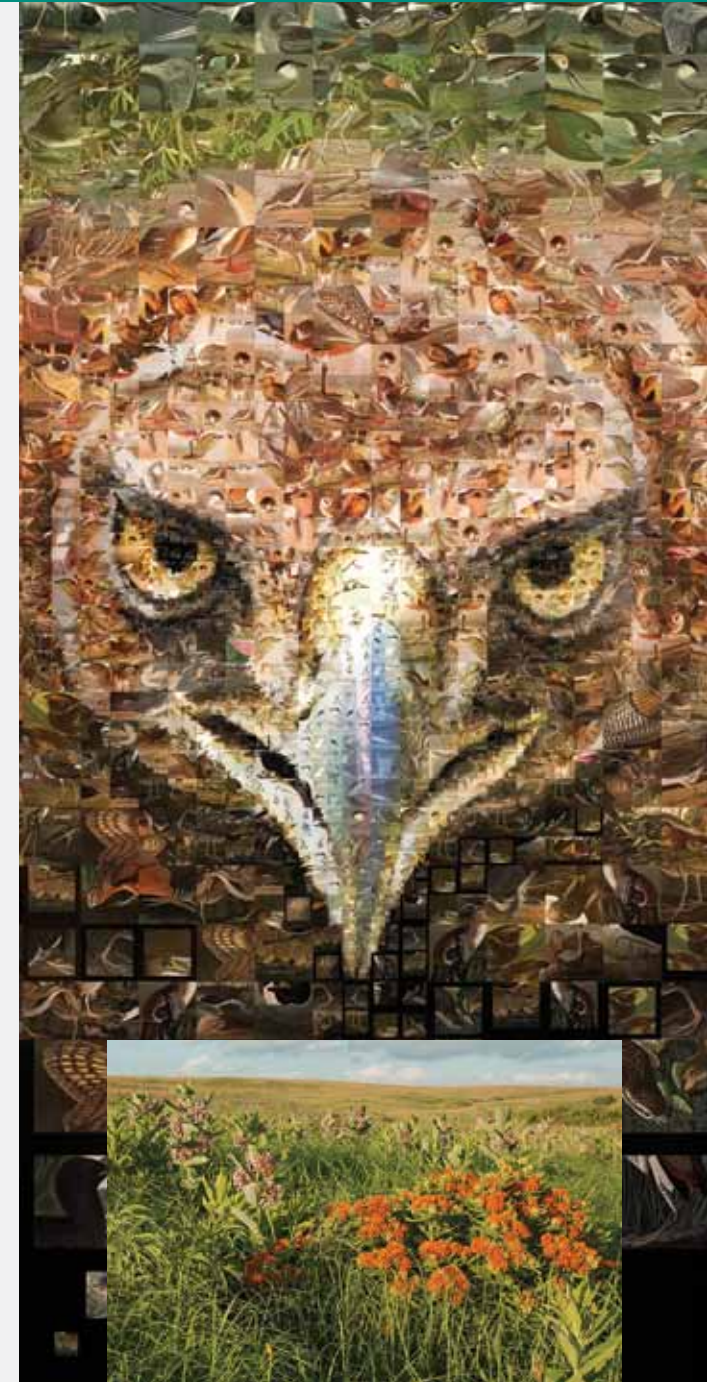


Photo credit: David Murphy

Our Audubon Centers

Facing a future of changing climate, our Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary will respond proactively to the needs of cranes and other wildlife. We don't know what the Platte River will look like



in 40 years, but we CAN use available data to determine how we should manage habitat and what actions we can take to provide a safe and prosperous future for the wildlife that rely on the river. Thank you for helping create a future for the Platte River and the cranes.

Bill Taddicken

Bill Taddicken, *Director*

Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary

At SCPAC, each season brings its own focus and dynamic to our work, work necessary to conserve this imperiled native tallgrass prairie for grassland birds, other wildlife, and our



youth and adults. The story of the prairie highlights this living, breathing part of our community, our history, and our legacy. We don't know what the future may hold, and we are committed to maintaining this heritage for generations to come.

Gerry Dimon

Gerry Dimon, *Interim Director*

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center

Audubon Chapters in



Wachiska Audubon Society

With the purchase of the Gewacke Prairie, Wachiska moved closer achieving one of its priority goals: To protect tallgrass prairie in each of 17 southeast Nebraska counties served by the chapter. The chapter connects with Audubon members and the public through field trips, presentations, *The Babbling Brook* newsletter, and additional events throughout the year. Wachiska pursues conservation and legislative actions to protect our waterways and land habitats.



Stu Luttich, Tim Knott, Ernie Rousek, Wachiska Audubon Society President Elizabeth Nelson, Linda Brown, and Ross Scott celebrate the purchase of Gewacke Prairie near Ohio, Nebraska.

Upcoming Events

September 27, 7pm – *Blood Supermoon Lunar Eclipse Party*

October 24, 8am-8pm – *RNR (Rowe Nature Retreat)*

October 24, 9pm – *Owl Prowl*

Visit our website for more information: rowe.audubon.org

Upcoming Events

September 26, 6-10pm – *Twilight on the Tallgrass Prairie Festival*

October 10, all day – *The BIG SIT!*

November 13, 7-8:30pm – *Nocturnal November*

November 27 & 28, 11am-12:30pm – *Turkey Trail Trot*

Visit our website for more information: springcreekprairie.audubon.org

Nebraska



Audubon Society of Omaha

ASO engages people year-round through events such as festivals, birding trips, nature hikes, school programs, bird banding, and prairie and water education courses. A new Youth Birding Field Trip was organized with great success, and the annual prairie festival hosted 45 people in bird and wildflower hikes, providing information about the special qualities of prairies. The annual juried art contest drew 350 people to the awards ceremony, featuring art from greater Omaha K-12 public, private, and home-schooled students.



Colored pencil of a Blue Jay by Heather Remm, Senior, Fort Calhoun High School

Big Bend Audubon Society

Big Bend Audubon members are active year-round supporting SOAR camps at our Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary. These camps create opportunities for hundreds of children to be in nature for a week each year. Members also serve as birding guides and field trip leaders, and host thousands of guests in our blinds during crane season.



Rowe Sanctuary volunteer Brian Moody of Kearney, left, leads Rowe Sanctuary visitors to a river blind west of the Iain Nicolson Audubon Center.

Photo credit: Lori Potter

Wildcat Audubon Society

Wildcat Audubon, serving western Nebraska, celebrates our amazing birds. A highlight this year was being present for the banding of five Northern Saw-whet Owls, not previously known to nest in Nebraska. The chapter hosts field trips and programs year-round to share a love of birds and nature, and supports partner efforts such as summer camp scholarships to the Wildcat Hills Nature Center south of Gering, NE.



The first Saw-whet Owl nestlings banded in Nebraska on April 3, 2015. Banded by Jerry Toll

Photo credit: Wayne Molhoff

Audubon Nebraska in the News

Nebraska has an incredible natural and cultural heritage, just waiting to be shared with everyone from our local adults and youth to tourists traveling across Nebraska. Each of our Audubon Centers has its own character and personality, its own link to the past and vision for the future. Local, regional, and national media coverage promotes these destinations and raises awareness of the beauty and history of our state.



Natural Fun

Through an outstanding multi-year partnership, Aveda salons joined Audubon Nebraska staff for a fun conservation tour of the lower Platte River by kayak. Aveda

partners raised over \$22,000 during Earth Month in 2015, to be used for Audubon conservation work in Nebraska in the coming year.



Great partnerships and outstanding supporters have enabled us to do so much work across the state. Supporters at Rowe Sanctuary made it possible for Audubon to protect an additional 588 acres near the center of the Sanctuary's

habitat. A celebration was held to recognize the land acquisition, complete with ribbon cutting, outdoor barbecue, and hayrack tours of the property.



With beautiful outdoor settings, dining on the river bank or prairie is always a treat! Rowe Sanctuary and Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center offer unique opportunities for outdoor events, board or staff meetings, and retreats.



Photo credit: Val Cuppens

Audubon Supporters

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 Larry Hill
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 Jerry and Sharon Ingram
 Jacobi Carpet One
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 Kinder Porter Scott Family Foundation
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 Gerald Woods
 Karin Zahorik
 Chris and Art Zyguelbaum
 Nelnet
We would also like to thank all of our donors, at every level, for their support. We are fortunate to say, there simply are too many of you to list here!
We sincerely apologize if your name doesn't appear on this list and should. Please contact our office so we can correct our records.

Photo credit: Don Brockmeier

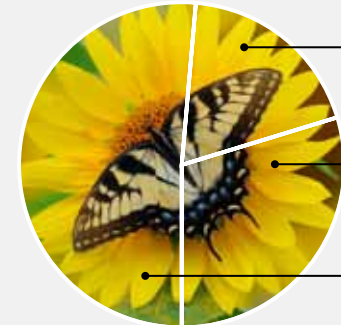


To support a cause that has been important in your life, please consider a gift to Audubon Nebraska, Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary, or Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center. You can honor a family member by making a tribute gift in your will or other estate plans. The Grinnell Legacy Society honors our members and friends who have generously included Audubon in their estate plans. For more information, please contact us (information on page 15).

Audubon Nebraska Financials

Revenues, Gains, and Other Support

Gifts, Grants, Bequests	\$ 798,422
Investment Income	271,913
Earned Income and Other Revenue	456,696
Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support . .	\$ 1,527,031



Expenses

Education and Community Outreach	\$687,164
Habitat Management	\$702,434
Advocacy	\$137,433
Total Expenses	\$ 1,527,031



Photo credit: David Murphy



Photo credit: David Murphy



For the Future

We've all heard that it's easier to keep current customers than to acquire new ones. That philosophy applies in many areas of life.

For us, how much simpler would it have been to maintain historic habitats and wild spaces? Sadly, we don't always realize the importance of these places until it's (almost) too late.

We strive to restore natural spaces for birds and other wildlife, native plants, and our communities. We work to be more proactive. And we work to leave a legacy for future generations. We work to instill concern, understanding, and a caring attitude toward natural spaces because without this world around us, how can we know our place in the world?



Melissa Filipi,
*Director of Philanthropy,
Audubon Nebraska*

Melissa Filipi



How You Can Help

- Become a volunteer. There are many opportunities that fit any schedule, interest, skill, or time.
- Tell your friends and family. Raising awareness opens many doors and introduces new volunteers and supporters to our work.
- Donate. The generous support of our donors makes it happen. All money raised here supports the work here.



Audubon Directory



National Audubon Society
225 Varick Street, 7 Floor
New York, NY 10014
212-979-3000
www.audubon.org



11700 SW 100 Street
Denton, NE 68339
402-797-2301
nebraska.audubon.org



44450 Elm Island Road
Gibbon, NE 68840
308-468-5282
rowe.audubon.org



11700 SW 100 Street
PO Box 117
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springcreekprairie.audubon.org

Audubon Society of Omaha
PO Box 3542
Omaha, NE 68103
402-451-3647
Nebraska Bird Line 402-721-5487
audubon-omaha.org

Big Bend Audubon Society
PO Box 1575
Kearney, NE 68848
www.audubon.org/chapters/big-bend-audubon-society

Wachiska Audubon Society
4547 Calvert Street, Suite 10
Lincoln, NE 68506
402-486-4846
office@wachiskaaudubon.org
www.wachiskaaudubon.org

Wildcat Audubon Society
170188 Spring Creek Road
Mitchell, NE 69357
www.wyoneb.net/-delara/WildcatAudubon





Audubon NEBRASKA

is a proud member of Community Services Fund, an organization of nonprofit agencies improving the quality of life throughout Nebraska by preserving resources, expanding knowledge, encouraging creativity, and protecting rights. Look for Community Services Fund in your next worksite giving campaign to designate your donation to Audubon Nebraska. Donations may also be designated for Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary or Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center by contacting nebraska@audubon.org. For more information about Community Services Fund and worksite giving, visit www.CommunityServicesFund.org.

