

CAT PRINTS



Wildcat Audubon Society - Serving the Nebraska Panhandle

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Allison Johnson wins award for Nebraska Habitat Stamp Entry

This year I decided to enter a painting for the Nebraska Habitat Stamp contest as a way to 'brush-up' (literally) on some bird anatomy. The stamp is required of all hunters in Nebraska 16 years and older. The art for the stamp is chosen from adult division drawings and paintings of animals commonly found in Nebraska. The junior division art contest, which I participated in, does not have a stamp, but the winner is recognized and receives an award.

Drawing has been a hobby that I picked up from my father when I was younger, and one has become very useful in bird watching. Birds are now the main subject on my drawings, they are graceful in everything they do as well as exquisitely detailed making them fun and interesting subjects. Because of this, it was only natural to choose a bird for the Habitat Stamp. As for the species, that was a little harder. I started working on the stamp while my family and I were in Utah for a skiing trip. While there, we made a visit to Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, a huge refuge covering the marshy area around the Great Salt Lake. The season was slightly off (being the middle of winter) so there weren't as many



Falco by Allison Johnson

species as we would have liked to have seen, but we did get to view (and photograph) one species common to all of North America: the American Kestrel. The little guy was sitting; all fluffed up, on a fence post and didn't look like he was in any mood to fly off, and ended up giving us quite a photo-op. I fell in love with how miserable he looked, and he ended up being my subject for the Habitat Stamp. The painting was done in acrylic and the title (for lack of any more imaginative words) is Falco. The painting was awarded first in the senior division of the contest out of 1,130 entries.

Allison Johnson

Kenitz Corner

By Alice Kenitz

Where has the spring and summer gone? Many of us were really busy birding here and across the country in April, May, and early June.

Several of us enjoyed meeting the Cheyenne Audubon chapter for their trip to Goshen County, Wyoming. Table Mountain Wildlife Management Area is nearly always a great place to find waterfowl and other birds of the marsh, and we weren't disappointed. We didn't see anything terribly unusual, but we had beautiful weather and good company that made for a very nice day.

The trip to Crescent Lake on May 13 was special, as usual. A few of the highlights of the day were Peregrine Falcon, a probable Hammond's Flycatcher, Harris's Sparrow, and Baltimore Oriole in Garden County and a Trumpeter Swan in Scottsbluff County. And we can't forget the bull snake that Bob DeLara caught so that we could all have a good look.

Some of the best species of the early summer have been Dickcissels and Cassin's Sparrows. Both species have been seen in Scotts Bluff and Sioux Counties.

Thanks to Larry Snyder for showing us Mountain Plovers in April and again in June. Bernard Stanley showed us some new country when we went to the Pawnee National Grasslands in Colorado on June 3. We visited Pawnee Buttes,

Panorama Point (the highest point in Nebraska) in Kimball County, and Three Corners, the spot where Nebraska, Colorado, and Wyoming come together. He showed us a Swainson's Hawk nest with the adults at the nest. Other species that we don't see too often were Northern Mockingbird

and Brewer's Blackbird. A big thanks to Bernard for leading, and to his sister for allowing us to invade her yard at lunch time. Now we are beginning to look for late summer visitors such as hummingbirds. And it isn't too soon to be thinking about fall migration!! Get outside and enjoy!!!!

Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas Project II

After some delay, the Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas Project II was kicked off at the NOU meeting at Ponca State Park last May. As time and scheduling permit, I hope to visit local clubs around the state to give a presentation about the project. A Feb. attempt in Scottsbluff was snowed out, but one in Norfolk came off as planned. If your club has a field trip scheduled, I'd like to join you and have the opportunity to explain the project, show how atlas work is done, etc. and in the process survey an atlas priority block. Volunteers are still needed for upcoming years.

This project will update and refine the information collected during the first bird atlas project (1984-1989). In addition to basic information mapping the breeding ranges of all wild birds in Nebraska, this project will collect detailed data about the habitat used by each species. Due to our continually changing environment, the breeding ranges and numbers of Nebraska birds are also constantly changing. Bald eagles, which built only one nest in the state during the first project, now breed nearly statewide. Eurasian collared-doves, never seen in Nebraska until the late 1990s, are now found throughout the state. House finches, great-tailed grackles and some other species have increased their ranges as well. The list of changes goes on, with the extent of change unknown until completion of the project.

As with the first atlas project volunteer field workers are planning to collect data for the next 5 years. The end result will be publication of an atlas, with individual maps showing the current breeding distribution. To accomplish the goals of the project, the volunteer workers will survey the 520+ priority blocks scattered across the state. Each block is a quarter of a township – 3 X 3 miles. The workers will visit the blocks at various times during the breeding season to develop a list of the species that breed in each block. During the first project, more than 125 observers drove more than 75,000 miles and logged nearly 6000 hours of observer time to complete the project. Those numbers will probably be exceeded this time around, despite the current gas prices.

This project is co-sponsored by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, with funding by the Nebraska State Wildlife Grant and matching funding by the co-sponsors.

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Calendar of Events

August 6th

Wildcat Audubon's Annual Picnic

This year the picnic will be at Don and Meredyth Gentry's 1445 Holly Drive, Gering. 308-436-2495 at 4:00pm

Bring a covered dish, table service and a lawn chair. Drinks will be furnished. We will go out to the Wildcat Hills at sundown to look for poorwills.

September 9th

Breakfast At Wind Springs Ranch

Helen and David Hughson will host us at their Sioux County ranch. Meet at 27th & Ave I at 6:30am to caravan to the ranch. We will eat breakfast and bird around the springs.

September 16th

General Meeting

RWMC south meeting room 7:30pm. The speaker will be Doak Nickerson, with the Nebraska State Forest Service, presenting "Forestry Outback & Down Under....Aussie Style" about his trip to Australia. Brad & Connie McKinney will be our hosts.

September 23rd

Scotts Bluff County Fall Bird Count

Meet at Arby's for breakfast at 7:00am. We will be counting birds in the county, beginner birders welcome.

October 21st

Waterfowl Fieldtrip

Meet at Arby's at 8:00am for breakfast. We will check out the local lakes and ponds for migrating ducks, geese, gulls and other waterfowl. We should be back around 1:00.

October 21st

General Meeting

RWMC south meeting room 7:30pm. The speaker will be Roger Lawson with the Nebraska Prairie Partners. He will present a review of the research and monitoring of the Mountain Plovers, Burrowing Owls and Ferruginous Hawks. He will also summarize the outreach efforts to land owners and the habitat management initiatives that have resulted.

Roger will also tell us about the education efforts in the panhandle and how we can contribute and participate.

Hosts for the evening will be Bernard & Betty Stanley.

October 17th

Beginner Birding Class

"The Birds in Your Back Yard"

Do you want to know what that bird is in your backyard and at your feeder, come join us for this class and we will show you how to identify birds you might see this winter out your kitchen window. Class will be held at the First United Methodist Church 20th St & 4th Ave. Scottsbluff in the Fellowship Hall. Come in the north door on the east side of the building. Pre-registration helpful but not necessary. There is no charge for the class and you do not have to be a member to attend. To pre-register call or email any of the committee members listed below/right.

November 18th

General Meeting

RWMC south meeting room 7:30pm. Program to be announced at a later date.

No General Meeting in December

December 16th

Christmas Bird Count

This is a tentative date for our annual count. If you would like to participate please contact Scottsbluff CBC Compiler Alice Kenitz for more details. There will also be other CBC counts in the area at Crawford, Ogallala, Guernsey/Ft Laramie and Sioux County between Dec 14th and Jan 5th. The dates are not scheduled at this time but if you are interested contact Alice and she will forward the information to you.

January 20th

General Meeting

Regional West Medical Center South Meeting Room 7:30pm. The program, "Belize & Tikal, Rainforests, Reefs & Ruins" will be presented by Dr. Don and Meredyth Gentry on their trip to Belize last fall.

RECYCLE

Bring your aluminum cans to any Wildcat Audubon event or meeting. Postage paid envelopes are now available for individual ink jet cartridges you can mail from home. Pick some up at the next meeting.

Proceeds from your recycling will help pay for Audubon Adventures in local schools.

FAIR-TRADE PRODUCTS

Regular Coffee	\$8
Decaf Coffee	\$9
Earl Grey Tea (24bags)	\$4
Green Tea (24bags)	\$4
Hot Cocoa Mix	\$6
Milk Chocolate Bar	\$3
Dk Choc with Almonds Bar	\$3
Very Dark Chocolate Bar	\$3

The coffee and cocoa are shade grown products. All products are organically grown and Fair Trade Certified™ including the sugar used in the chocolate products. To order contact Ann Duey at 632-3544, email dduey@actcom.net or contact any Wildcat Audubon Society Member. Products will also be available at the general meetings and other Audubon events.

Visitors are always welcome at any of our meetings, events or fieldtrips

Field Trip/Class Committee

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Cat Prints by e-mail

To save printing, paper and postage costs we now have 'Cat Prints' available by e-mail in the PDF format. Most computers have a program that can open the PDF file called Adobe Reader or it can be downloaded from the web site at no charge. If you would like to sign up send an e-mail to Kathy at renosmom@charter.net Please put "WCA Newsletter" in the subject line so your email doesn't accidentally get deleted. If you decide that you want a printed copy you can just print it from your computer at home.

Join the Wildcat Audubon Society

Membership dues are only \$5.00 per year. Your dollars help pay for Audubon Adventures in local schools, postage and printing of the newsletter, Beginner Birding Classes, public education and other projects

We would like to thank all of our local members for their support.

New members since the last newsletter are:
Larry Snyder, Greg & Judy Hinze,
Gary & Vicki Enlow, Conrad & Louise Kinnaman,
Dean & Phyllis Drawbaugh, Nancy Gillam, Keith Bruning,
Sam & Robin Sebastiani, Chuck & Donna Davey,
Walter Johns, Donna Reisen and Bruce Rolls

Wildcat Audubon Society
Membership 2006

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
E-mail _____ Phone _____

Send along with \$5.00 membership dues to:
Wildcat Audubon % Kathy DeLara
170188 Spring Ck Rd, Mitchell, NE 69357 NL07-06



Wildcat Audubon Society

c/o Kathy DeLara
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