

# CAT PRINTS



*Wildcat Audubon Society - Serving the Nebraska Panhandle*

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## Kenitz Corner

By Alice Kenitz

We had some very good birding outings in May and June. The NOU meeting that we hosted in Scottsbluff in May was great. We found 173 species in Scotts Bluff, Banner, Kimball, Morrill, and southern Sioux counties. The highlight bird for most of those that came from across the state was Mountain Plover. On the Spring Count on May 24 we found 111 species!! It was good to find species like Western Tanager and Osprey. A pair of Osprey even made an attempt to nest near Winters' Creek Lake. It appears they never got past the nest-building stage. Some really strong winds that blew a lot of their nest away could have been a discouraging factor, but they did continue to work on the nest for a little while after that. We're hoping they'll be successful in 2009!!

The rest of the field trips have been to work on the Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas II. In June the pastures were still nice & green and we visited some beautiful places. Wildflowers were great, too.

We visited breeding blocks in Scotts Bluff, Morrill, Kimball, and Sioux Counties.

We were privileged to see the Sandhill Crane chick in Morrill County. A visit to a block in Kimball County brought Cassin's Kingbirds, Cassin's Finches, and Cassin's Sparrow. Our visit to the Glen area of Sioux County was done with less than ideal conditions—very windy and dusty, and chilly in the early part of the day. But we were pleased to find baby Black-capped Chickadees and Pygmy Nuthatches. The sego lilies were abundant in places—and very beautiful.

It doesn't seem possible that fall migration has already begun with the movement of shorebirds. Before we know it we will be back to watching finches and juncos at feeders.

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory will be doing bird banding during September and early October at the Wildcat Hills Nature Center and at Chadron State Park. It is always fun to be able to see a bird 'up close and personal' in the hands of a bird bander.

Hope to see you on the fall and winter field trips, at our fall meetings, and at the bandings.

<http://www.wyoneb.net/-delara/WildcatAudubon.htm>

## *Bird Friendly Living*

You can make your yard more attractive to birds with a few simple steps. Here are some things you can do to help birds and make your yard a safe place for them.

1. Make your yard an attractive place for birds by replacing some of the habitat birds have lost. Plant native shrubs, trees, perennials and grasses that provide food, shelter from the elements and predators and nesting sites.  
Birds have evolved to time migration and nesting with availability of food and shelter provided by native plants and insects. Also, native plants have evolved to be adapted to our soil and climate so they are much easier to take care of. The space doesn't have to be large, even a few plants will help.
2. Provide fresh food and water. Clean the feeders regularly and change water in your water source every day or two to keep it clean and prevent mosquitoes. If you only feed one type of food use black oil sunflower seeds in hopper feeders for the most species of birds or use specialty feeders for attracting certain species such as niger seed and feeders made for finches.
3. Don't use chemicals in areas used by birds. Pesticides, herbicides and fungicides are toxic to birds and kill the insects that the birds need for food. If you think you must use them **please** read and follow the label directions carefully.
4. Keep you cat indoors or on a leash, it will save many birds and keep the cat safe and healthy as well.  
Collars with bells, declawing and keeping your cat well fed will not make a difference.
5. Reduce window collisions by placing your feeders that are close to the house within 3 feet of the window so they don't hit them hard enough to be hurt, putting screens over the windows, attach decoration on the glass or keep curtains closed on one side of the house so birds can't see though and think there's an opening they can fly though.
6. Drink shade grown coffee to help protect the wintering habitat of the migratory birds that raise their young in your yard and come back year after year

## Cat Prints Subscription

If you wish to receive a copy of the Cat Prints Newsletter and haven't already done so, please send in the subscription form on the back page. Mark the box if you would like a printed copy mailed to you or if you would like to help lower the expenses of postage and printing and have it emailed to you instead.

If you would like to sign up for the emailed version you can send an e-mail to Kathy at [renosmom@charter.net](mailto:renosmom@charter.net) Please put "**Cat Prints Newsletter**" in the subject line of your e-mail so it doesn't get deleted. **Remember, if you decide that you want a printed copy you can just print it from your computer at home.**

The current newsletter and previous ones are available on our website at [www.wyoneb.net/-delara/WildcatAudubon.htm](http://www.wyoneb.net/-delara/WildcatAudubon.htm)

**New and renewed members** since the last newsletter;  
Judy Hinze  
Valerie Newman  
Kathleen Sullivan,  
Gary & Vicki Enlow  
Wilber Weitzel

If you would like to join Wildcat Audubon see the form on the back of this newsletter

**Thanks for your support**

## 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.

# Calendar of Events Fall 2008

## September 13th

*Bird Banding open to the public*

Wildcat Hills Nature Center 8am-11am.

For information call Amana Keep Education Coordinator for Nebraska Prairie Partners, at 308-220-0052

## September 20th

*Scotts Bluff County Fall Bird Count*

Meet at Arby's at 7am, we should be back by 1:00 and may go out again after lunch.

## September 20th

*General Meeting*

RWMC South Plaza Meeting Room 7:30pm.

For the program Al and Judy Williams will share their experience of their trip to Tanzania through a powerpoint presentation.. They spent two weeks on the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro visiting schools, clinics, churches, and homes. Another week was spent on safari to the Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Crater.

Hosts Dean & Phyllis Drawbaugh and Ruben Siegfried

*Visitors are always welcome*

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Earl Grey Tea (24bags)	\$4
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To order contact Ann Duey at 632-3544, or [dduey@actcom.net](mailto:dduey@actcom.net) or contact any WAS Member.

## October 18th

*Field Trip to Lakes for Sandhill Crane and Waterfowl*

Meet at Arby's at 7am. We will check out the local lakes and ponds for migrating waterfowl and other birds. We should be back by 1:00

## October 18th

*General Meeting*

RWMC South Plaza Meeting Room 7:30pm.

Program; Myria Johnson from the Riverside Zoo will talk about her Earth Expeditions trip to Mongolia to study steppe ecology, and conservation of Pallas' cats and Prezwalski's horse. She also attended a Conservation Radio Workshop focused on sharing international stories and creating conservation messages.

Hosts Brad and Connie McKinney

## November 15th

*General Meeting*

RWMC South Plaza Meeting Room 7:30pm.

A presentation on Fairburn Agates will be given by Wade Beins, Senior Geologist at the Crow Butte Uranium Mine. He will discuss how agates form, where they are found, and how to look for them. Several displays of agates from Mr. Beins' 14 years of collecting will be on hand for the public to view.

Hosts Ray and Ann Boice

## December 20th

*Scottsbluff Christmas Bird Count*

Meet at Arby's at 6:30am, this is an all day count, we will come back to town for lunch then continue in the afternoon until about 4pm.

You can count all day or for any amount of time you are available. We also need feeder watchers within the count circle. Contact Alice Kenitz at 436-2959 for more information or if you would like to be a feeder watcher.

Spring programs will include; Mary Brown from the Tern and Plover Partnership in January and Alice Kenitz with the Witchey Films in February or March.

## *Join the Wildcat Audubon Society*

Membership dues are only \$5.00 per year and due in January  
Your dollars help pay for Audubon Adventures in local schools, CatPrints newsletter,  
Beginner Birding Classes, Public Education and other projects

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



Wildcat Audubon Society  
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There is no charge for the Cat Prints Subscription  
If you would like to become a local member send \$5.00 to:  
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