

CAT PRINTS



Wildcat Audubon Society - Serving the Nebraska Panhandle

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Kenitz Corner

By Alice Kenitz

The Wildcat Hills Banding Station was open August 31 through October 10. As usual, it was an interesting season!!! There were 735 newly banded birds of 32 species.

To me, the most interesting finding was the 45 Lesser Goldfinches banded--just 2 years ago there were none. Other species of interest include Plumbeous Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Cassin's Finch. There were 245 Chipping Sparrows banded--the most ever.

Kathy DeLara found over 100 White-faced Ibis and Cattle Egrets in the area south of Henry and Morrill on September 4th. This was unusual because of the late date as well as the large numbers. There were still a few around for our Scottsbluff County Fall bird count on September 19th and two were seen near the River-view Golf Course in October.

Other interesting species found this fall include Broad-winged Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Blackburnian Warbler.

A White-winged Crossbill was seen at a Gering feeder on November 30th which is a rare sighting for our area.

There have been several reports of Snowy Owls in northern, central and eastern Nebraska recently so keep an eye out for them and report any that you might see.

Now it's time to get out and look for some unusual winter birds!



Cattle Egrets south of Henry, September 2011 by Kathy

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

TARGET GOES GREEN!

Target is “into doing the green thing.” Store manager Kim Soule reports the following environmentally friendly opportunities her store is making available to its customers:

\$.05 refund for every bag a customer furnishes

Re-useable bags for sale

Drop-off for re-cycling of plastic bags, all plastics including 5 & 7, glass and aluminum cans

Drop-off for re-cycling of electronics, such as cell phones, G.P.S.'s, computers, etc. In addition to these customer services, the store is temperature controlled so the thermostat adjusts to energy savings mode when the store is closed. Lighting is also reduced during this time. Parking lot lights go out an hour after the store closes, too. Only environmentally safe cleaning products are used to keep Target spic 'n' span. All cardboard is baled and re-cycled as well.

42nd Rivers and Wildlife Celebration

Speakers have been announced for the March 15-18th Crane Festival. Local and national speakers will present information on a variety of wildlife and conservation topics. Michael Forsberg will be featured on Saturday evening. Al Batt returns to the RWC for performances in the Wild Experience Room and as lunch-time speaker on Saturday. Other presenters include Paul Johnsgard, noted Nebraska ornithologist; George Happ, who will share his experiences with sandhill cranes nesting, literally, in his backyard in Alaska; Sharon Stiteler who runs the birding blog Birdchick.com. Caroline Jezierski, the Wind and Wildlife Coordinator with the University of Nebraska Coop Unit; and Keanna Leonard, education director at Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary.

See the back page for details on Wildcat Audubon membership

Nebraska Habitat Stamp

The Nebraska Habitat Stamp is a stamp that produces funding for habitat management, conservation work, and potentially even land acquisition.

Every one of your dollars would be matched by up to \$3 in federal funds from the Pittman-Robertson Act, also called the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act.

The Wildlife Restoration Act was initiated by hunters and other sportsmen, essentially imposing a tax on themselves (for the purchase of hunting and shooting equipment and supplies) to create more funding for wildlife conservation. This 10% tax on the sale of such goods goes to Washington and then is dispersed to state game and fish agencies. The tax typically produces enough money to provide \$3 in reimbursements for every dollar spent on hunting permits and habitat stamps sold in Nebraska.

Non-hunters can contribute greatly to wildlife conservation simply by purchasing a habitat stamp. The \$20 purchase of a stamp will result in \$80 going into the funds that NGP agency uses for habitat management and land acquisition, both of which can greatly benefit all of us — including those of us that like to walk through the woods or grasslands with scattered trees and thickets while looking for birds. Where else can you turn \$1 into \$4 for something that you love?

Anyone wishing to purchase a habitat stamp can do so online at www.outdoornebraska.org, at any of the Nebraska Games and Parks offices, or at local permit vendors such as stores with sporting goods departments and bait shops.

RECYCLE

Bring your aluminum cans to any Wildcat Audubon event or meeting. Please bring your ink jet cartridges to the meetings, we will no longer be paid for the ones sent in the envelopes, but they will still be recycled by the company. Proceeds from recycling are used for community education.

Calendar of Fall/Winter Events 2011

December 17th

Scottsbluff Christmas Bird Count, meet at Arby's at 6:30am.

What began as a Christmas Hunt, with hunters choosing sides and seeing which team could bring in the most quarry, in 1900 turned into the largest citizen science project in the world, the Christmas Bird Count.

The primary objective is to monitor the status and distribution of bird populations in the western hemisphere.

Locally the Christmas Bird Count has been conducted most years since 1953. The 15 mile diameter count circle is centered near dome rock and includes the cities of Scottsbluff and Gering. Everyone can participate, beginning birders will be paired with experienced birders and feeder watchers can count at home if they live within the 15 mile local count circle.

This is an all day count, we will meet at Arby's at 6:30am to get our assigned areas, meet back for lunch and continue after lunch. If you can help for any part of the day that would be great. Any unusual sightings during the count week should be reported as they can be listed as count week birds if we don't see any on count day. Please contact Alice Kenitz, 308-436-2959 if you would like to participate. A charge of \$5 per person is required but Wildcat Audubon will pay half of the fee which includes a count result magazine. There is no charge for students that would like to participate. Other area CBCs are listed below.

Lake McConaughy CBC. Will be held on Saturday, 31 December 2011. Contact Steve Dinsmore at 515-294-1348 cootjr@iastate.edu for meeting place and time or to get your assignment.

Crawford and Harrison CBCs, Crawford will be January 2nd and Harrison January 3rd, weather permitting. Contact Bruce or Donna Walgren at Piranga@bresnan.net or 307-234-7455 for meeting times and places.

January 21st

General Meeting and Program Regional West Medical Center South Plaza Meeting Room at 7:30 pm

Stan and Gail Haas will present a program about their recent trip to India. This is Stan's 2nd trip to India. India is a very large country with many diverse cultures, their travels were primarily in western India. They will share their experiences and insight that they gained from their travels. Please join us.

February 17-20

Great Backyard Bird Count

for information visit the website at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc> or contact Kathy DeLara

February 18th

General Meeting and Program Regional West Medical Center South Plaza Meeting Room at 7:30 pm

James Hill of the Agate Fossil Beds will be presenting the program .

March 15th-18th

The 42nd annual **Rivers and Wildlife** Celebration, Nebraska's Crane Festival in Kearney nebraskacranefestival.org

March 17th

General Meeting and Program Regional West Medical Center South Plaza Meeting Room at 7:30 pm

Lesley Gaunt from Scottsbluff National Monument will do a presentation on desert bighorn sheep

April 21st

General Meeting and Program Regional West Medical Center South Plaza Meeting Room at 7:30 pm

Program to be announced.

Join the Wildcat Audubon Society

Membership dues are only \$5.00 per year and due in January

Your dollars help pay for CatPrints newsletter, Public Education and other projects through out the year

If you would like to continue to receive the newsletter by mail please send in this form.

If you want to have it sent to you by email, send an email with "CatPrints Newsletter" in subject line to Kathy DeLara at renosmom@charter.net



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