

CAT PRINTS



Wildcat Audubon Society - Serving the Nebraska Panhandle

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Christmas Bird Counts

Members of the Wildcat Audubon Society conducted the 57th annual Scottsbluff Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on Saturday, December 18. This was the 111th annual CBC in the United States. Each CBC attempts to count all of the birds in a 15-mile diameter circle in a 24-hour period. Each count must be held between December 14 and January 5. The center of the Scottsbluff circle is near Dome Rock.

Last year there were 2160 CBCs held in the United States, Canada, Latin America, the Caribbean, Bermuda, and the Pacific Islands. In those circles there were 60,753 observers who identified 2319 species and tallied 55,951,707 individual birds. Data collected each year is widely used in scientific studies.

The 2010 Scottsbluff count tallied 57 species 24,191 individuals. In addition, 3 additional species were identified during the count week. These species include American Crow, Northern Bobwhite, and Pygmy Nuthatch. The average number of species in Scottsbluff is 46.96. This is the first time a California Gull has been seen. Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches (10) is also an unusual species to find. Species seen in unusually high numbers include Cackling Goose 170 and Eurasian Collared-Dove 357. Black-capped Chickadees were low in number at 5.

Other species identified include Canada Goose 12464, Gadwall 7, American Wigeon 36, Mallard 4389, Northern Shoveler 15, Northern Pintail 9, Green-winged Teal 6, Canvasback 2, Common Goldeneye 59, Ring-necked Pheasant 3, Great Blue Heron 4, Bald Eagle 6, Northern Harrier 5, Red-tailed Hawk 24, Rough-legged Hawk 4, American Kestrel 28, American Coot 1, Wilson's Snipe 5, Ring-billed Gull 2, Rock Pigeon 376, Great Horned Owl 1, Belted Kingfisher 8, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 4, Hairy Woodpecker 3, Northern Flicker 16, Northern Shrike 3, Blue Jay 54, Black-billed Magpie 12, Horned Lark 50, Red-breasted Nuthatch 3, Marsh Wren 1, Golden-crowned Kinglet 1, Townsend's Solitaire 18, American Robin 377, European Starling 3647, Cedar Waxwing 28, American Tree Sparrow 11, Song Sparrow 6, Harris's Sparrow 1, White-crowned Sparrow 112, Dark-eyed Junco 333, Northern Cardinal 1, Red-winged Blackbird 946, meadowlark sp. 3, Common Grackle 2, Purple Finch 1, House Finch 120, Red Crossbill 3, Pine Siskin 44, American Goldfinch 142, and House Sparrow 251. Contact Alice Kenitz, compiler, with any comments or questions about the count.

Bruce and Donna Walgren conducted the Crawford CBC on Dec 21st. It was 28 degrees at the start of the count and it remained cool for the whole day. There wasn't much snow left on the ground which made travel easy. Standing water was frozen, and running water was open except in low flowing areas. Very little wind made for a pleasant day. They found 1,259 individual birds representing 37 species, which coincidentally is equal to the average species count over the 17 year history of the count. They found 10 species of raptors (including owls), which is a record number of raptor species for the count. In addition, a Merlin was seen during count week. Buteo numbers have been pretty good for the last couple of years even though rabbit numbers seem to be low. Black-capped Chickadee and American Crow numbers were low, but a good number of American Robins were seen. The number of Eurasian collared-Doves (102 this year) continues to increase since the first year they were observed in 2003 (8 birds). A complete list of birds found are on the following page.

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

Kenitz Corner

By Alice Kenitz

So far this winter, the birding has been better than last winter--at least in my back yard!!!

We've been entertained by up to 6 Ring-necked Pheasants. Lee found the remains of one which fell to a predator--probably a coyote. But it is fun to see these beautiful birds in our yard.

We've planned some interesting field trips for this summer. This will be the last summer we will be working on the Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas II. It has been an interesting project, taking us to some beautiful areas of the Panhandle. It is amazing what you can find if you get 'off the beaten path'. We hope we'll see many of you on our trips this summer.

The 2010-11 season of **Project FeederWatch** began **November 13 and runs through April 11**. You can sign up at any time. FeederWatchers keep track of their birds through the winter and report their tallies each week. This helps scientists track changes in winter bird populations from year to year. To learn more and to sign up, visit www.feederwatch.org or call 800-843-2473. New participants receive a kit with a handbook, a bird-identification poster, calendar, and instruction booklet. There is a \$15 fee to help cover the costs of materials.

GREEN TIP

Have you pulled up to the re-cycling depot and seen the category "Trash Paper"? You can re-cycle a multitude of paper in that bin. All junk mail can be disposed of in this slot. It is recommended, however, you remove and shred any items such as credit card applications that might compromise your private information. Also check for and remove non-paper items like pens, coins, and plastics sometimes contained in junk mail. Shredded paper is accepted as well as the inner rolls of toilet paper and paper towels. Boxes, such as cereal boxes, should have the insert removed and then be flattened. Pull off the plastic from the inside of tissue boxes before flattening and adding them to your pile. Corrugated cardboard goes into another category, but all other cardboard goes into "Trash Paper." Include wrapping paper and paper egg cartons as well. Never put anything in that has been contaminated by food, such as pizza boxes. Once you start using the "Trash Paper" re-cycling bin, you'll find you have much less in your trashcan to haul to the curb.

Membership dues are due January 1st
See the back page for details

Christmas Bird Count Continued:

Crawford CBC Tally

Mallard 3 , Bald Eagle, Adults 2 , Bald Eagle, Immature count week , Northern Harrier 3 , Red-tailed Hawk 10 , Ferruginous Hawk 1 , Rough-legged Hawk 8 , Golden Eagle, Adults 1, Immature 1 , American Kestrel 2 , Merlin count week , Prairie Falcon 1 , Ring-necked Pheasant 14 , Wild Turkey 51 , Rock Pigeon 19 , Eurasian Collared-Dove 102 , Eastern Screech-Owl 1 , Great Horned Owl 1 , Downy Woodpecker 1 , Northern Flicker (form?) 5 , Horned Lark 312 , Blue Jay 2 , Black-billed Magpie 4 , American Crow 7 , Black-capped Chickadee 9 , Red-breasted Nuthatch 2 , White-breasted Nuthatch 1 , Pygmy Nuthatch 6 , Townsend's Solitaire 9 , American Robin 85 , Cedar Waxwing 25 , Northern Shrike 2 , European Starling 360 , American Tree Sparrow 36 , ark-eyed Junco - (Form? 11, Oregon 1, Slate 5, Pink-sided 2) , House Finch 3 , Red Crossbill 8 , Pine Siskin 62 , American Goldfinch 41 , House Sparrow 40

Harrison CBC

Bruce and Donna Walgren conducted the Harrison Christmas Bird Count on Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2010.

The temps were warmer than last year's single digits - 24 to 28 degrees, but with much stronger winds and heavy overcast all day. They tallied 24 species, with a low total of 423 individuals.

Only 1 Black-capped Chickadee and no nuthatches were found. They did find 3 Lapland Longspurs(don't always find these guys) and 1 Ferruginous Hawk.

But the surprise of the day was finding several groups of Snow Buntings in various parts of the circle (a total of 36 Snow Buntings - a high for short history of the count!).

Here is the complete list for the Harrison CBC.

Mallard 4 , Northern Harrier 2 , Red-tailed Hawk 1 , Ferruginous Hawk 1 , Rough-legged Hawk 5 , Golden Eagle, Adults 1 , Wild Turkey 13 , Eurasian Collared-Dove 19 , Downy Woodpecker 1 , Horned Lark 147 , American Crow 6 , Black-capped Chickadee 1 , Townsend's Solitaire 1 , American Robin 5 , Bohemian Waxwing 4 , Cedar Waxwing 26 , European Starling 55 , Dark-eyed Junco (Form? 22, Oregon 1, Slate 4, Pink-sided 1) , Lapland Longspur 3 , Snow Bunting 36 , House Finch 4 , Red Crossbill 7 , American Goldfinch 7 , House Sparrow 46

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 Events 2011

January 15th

General Meeting, RWMC South Plaza 7:30 pm
Connie McKinney will be highlighting her new book, Wildflowers of the Wildcat Hills, including Scotts Bluff National Monument. Her presentation will include images of both common and at-risk wildflower species. Information will also be given on identification and historical uses of local plants, as well as an overview of public lands available to the wildflower enthusiast. There will be books available for purchase after the program.

February 19th

General Meeting, RWMC South Plaza 7:30 pm
Program by Annabel Lee Major, Nebraska Master Naturalist Program Coordinator. The Nebraska Master Naturalist Program takes you into the field to learn hands-on about Nebraska's natural resources, and let's you create your own volunteer experience, while rewarding you for your contribution to your community.

February 18th-21st

Great Backyard Bird Count
<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>

March 19th

General Meeting, RWMC South Plaza 7:30pm
Cathy Johnston will give a presentation on her experiences of the people, culture and history of Egypt through the pictures and stories of her visit to the country.

March 18th-20th

Rivers and Wildlife Celebration in Kearney
<http://www.nebraska.audubon.org/RWC.htm>

March 26th

Field trip to look for waterfowl at the lakes and ponds.
Meet at Arby's at 8am, we should be back around 1:00

April 16th

General Meeting, RWMC South Plaza 7:30 pm
Amanda Filipi, with the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, will give a presentation on the Wildcat Hills Nature Center banding station and their banding results from the past 4 years. She will talk about the banding process, the unique and rare species captured and plans for the future

May 6th-9th

Field trip to Quivira National Wildlife Refuge in central Kansas.
<http://www.naturalkansas.org/quivira.htm>
For more information or if you plan to go on this trip contact Alice Kenitz or Kathy DeLara (info on page 1)

May 20th-22nd

Nebraska Ornithologists Spring Meeting, will be held in Norfolk for more information <http://www.noubirds.org/> or contact a board member

June 4th

Scotts Bluff County Spring Bird Count and atlas blocks
Meet at the RCI parking lot, 27th St and Ave I, Scotts-bluff at 6am

June 11th

Morrill County Atlas block in the Lisco/Oshkosh area M402 and Garden County G203 and G201 if we have time.
Meet at the old Sunmart parking lot in Gering at 6am, this will be an all day count, bring a lunch and drinks

June 18th

Kimball County Atlas blocks K403, K405, K407, K408 north of Bushnell. Meet at the old SunMart parking lot in Gering at 6am, this will be an all day count, bring a lunch and drinks

June 25th

Field trip to Smith Lake WMA in the sandhills north of Lakeside, meet at RCI, 27th St and Ave I at 6am
This will be an all day trip, bring a lunch and drinks

August 14th

Annual Picnic at Bob and Kathy DeLara's, 5pm, bring a covered dish, table service and lawn chair

September 17th

Scotts Bluff County Fall Bird Count
Meet at Arby's at 7am, we should be back by 1:00

September 17th

General Meeting

September 23rd-25th

Nebraska Ornithologists Fall Meeting, will be held at Rowe Sanctuary near Kearney
for more information, <http://www.noubirds.org/>

October 15th

General Meeting

October 22nd

Field trip for waterfowl, cranes and other birds, meet at Arby's at 8am, we should be back around 1:00

November 19th

General Meeting

December 17th

Scottsbluff Christmas Bird Count, meet at Arby's at 6:30am, for more information contact Alice Kenitz

All of our meetings, field trips and other events are free and open to the public.

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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