

# CAT PRINTS



*Wildcat Audubon Society - Serving the Nebraska Panhandle*

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## Kenitz Corner

By Alice Kenitz

Winter birding has been a little slow it seems. Maybe that's partly because winter has seemed so long and cold!!! One of the best birds around this winter has been Mountain Chickadee and several are still around in late March. Red-breasted Nuthatches are more numerous than usual, as well.

There have been several separate reports of Lesser Goldfinches this winter. We are seeing this species more frequently. With nearly all of the standing water being frozen most of the winter, numbers and variety of waterfowl have been less than in the past few years.

The Christmas Bird Count was held on December 15. We had 66 species plus 3 additional species during count week. Our average over the 54 years of conducting the Scottsbluff Count is 46.7 species, so we did pretty well. We had pretty good use of the bluebird boxes on Stage Hill. There were 39 houses used by Mountain or Eastern Bluebirds and 28 used by House Wrens. In the last few years we've taken down broken boxes, put up new boxes, and rearranged boxes,

so I'm not exactly sure how many houses we have at this point. There have been large numbers of Snow Geese in the valley in March. It was quite a thrill to see so many. On a waterfowl viewing field trip on March 15, we also found a nice flock of Sandhill Cranes. We were surprised to find 16 Bald Eagles in the Winter's Creek/Lake Minatare area. A nice flock of 23 Mountain Bluebirds in the same area was beautiful.

We are getting ready to host the spring Nebraska Ornithologists' Union meeting at Trails West YMCA Camp on May 16-18. It is not necessary to be a member of NOU to attend, so we hope that many of you can come to all or part of the activities. There is more information about this meeting elsewhere in this newsletter.

June field trips will once again concentrate on Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas blocks. We'll be visiting some neat areas in Morrill, Kimball, Sioux, and Scotts Bluff counties. Hope you can join us!!

### How you can help our local birds

Backyards and other private lands provide essential habitat for many species of birds. Check out the Audubon web site to find out how you can help some of our local birds with declining population such as the Brown Thrasher, Bullock's Oriole, Northern Flicker, Eastern Screech-owl, Spotted Towhee and others. Information will also be available at our next meeting.

<http://audubonathome.org/birdstohelp/index.php>

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

**TERN AND PLOVER CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP  
CONSERVATION.....SENSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

*Common sense conservation—that is the mission of the  
Tern and Plover Conservation Partnership.*

We study and protect endangered interior least terns (*Sternula antillarum athalassos*) and threatened piping plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) in a way that minimizes conflicts between birds, industry, homeowners, and local communities. Both species are listed as Tier 1 At-Risk species under the Nebraska Natural Legacy Plan. Our approach is to work with all interested parties to find sensible, proactive solutions to protect terns, plovers, and other components of the Platte River ecosystem, while ensuring that business, industry, and private interests are free to continue to operate with minimal interference. We want both birds and humans to thrive. The Partnership was founded in 1999 to prevent and resolve conflicts between birds and the sand and gravel mining industry. Since then we have expanded our Partnership to include NRDs, housing developments, and others in our protection activities.

We estimate that Partnership activities have added at least 430 least terns and 130 piping plovers to the total population since our founding in 1999. None of our sand and gravel mining industry partners have been prosecuted or fined for violations of the Endangered Species Act in that time. According to the sand and gravel mining industry's own estimates, our activities have generated at least \$2,000,000 in additional revenue for them. Not surprisingly, they are supportive of our efforts. We are proud of all these accomplishment, but especially of the number of birds we've added.

**The Partnership:**

- Protects tern and plover colonies from predation and human disturbance.
- Works with conservation organizations on the wintering grounds in Mexico to protect the birds during the non-breeding season.
- Works closely with industry, homeowner's associations, local governments, conservation organizations and the public.
- Increases awareness and appreciation of conservation issues by participating in events that educate and involve the public, industry and government.
- Maintains an active research program. The more we know about terns and plovers, the more effective our protection efforts will be.
- Monitors tern and plover colonies through our community based "Adopt-a-Colony" volunteer program.
- Involves students through our "Job Shadowing" program.

For more information about the Partnership, or to get involved in our "Adopt-a-Colony" program, check out our web site at [www.ternandplover.unl.edu](http://www.ternandplover.unl.edu)  
Feel free to contact us at our email [ternsandplovers@unl.edu](mailto:ternsandplovers@unl.edu)  
Our offices are located on the UNL East Campus at 153 Hardin Hall, 3310 Hol-drege Street, Lincoln, NE 68583-0931.

All tern and plover sightings are valuable to us. We can glean a lot of useful information from your field sightings. If you see either of these species, we would appreciate it if you would contact us. Please include the date, location, number of birds, what the birds were doing, and any additional observations you made. The terns and plovers thank you for all your help. Mary Brown

**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;  
John Flavin, Walter Johns, Conrad & Louise Kinnaman, Faulene Main, Philip Lechter, Audrey Sterkel, Vivian Walker L.L. Schmale-Tate, Mr. & Mrs Edwin Harms, Michelle Hoff, Dean & Phyllis Drawbaugh, Helen Hughson, Ann Duey, Anne James, Norma Long, Don & Charlotte Herrel, Charlotte Pettijohn, Ruben Siegfried

**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.

**Wildcat Audubon Society** will host the NOU Spring 2008 meeting on May 16-18 in the Jane Fli-  
 esbach Retreat Center at the Trails West YMCA Camp in Riverside Park in Scottsbluff. The camp  
 looks out on the North Platte River which could bring some interesting birds to our doorsteps.  
 There are eight new, large, and very nice motel-style sleeping rooms available. Each room con-  
 tains one queen-sized bed and two bunk beds with a bathroom including shower. All linens are  
 furnished. Two of the units are handicap accessible. Each room will rent for \$80/night.  
 We are asking that you reserve the sleeping rooms with Wildcat Audubon by contacting  
 Bonnie Schoen at 308-632-2383 or [bschoen@bbc.net](mailto:bschoen@bbc.net) or Alice Kenitz at 308-436-2959 or  
[akenitz@prairieweb.com](mailto:akenitz@prairieweb.com) You may pay for the rooms with your registration for the weekend.

Field trips on Saturday and on Sunday morning will be going to Kimball County to look for such  
 species as Mountain Plovers and Cassin's Kingbirds, Sioux County to look for longspurs, and the  
 Wildcat Hills and various wetlands in Scotts Bluff County.

Friday night speaker will be Drew Larsen from Pheasants Forever Habitat Organization, he will be  
 talking about wildlife habitats. Saturday night we will hear from Bart Bly and Larry Snyder from  
 Nebraska Prairie Partners who will tell us about the various bird species (Mountain Plovers, Bur-  
 rowing Owls, Ferruginous Hawks, and others) that they are working with.

**We are asking Wildcat Audubon members that would like to do so, to bring a dozen  
 cookies Friday afternoon between 3 and 4:30 pm, for the welcome and registration at 4:30.  
 Since we are sponsoring the meeting Wildcat Audubon members do not have to pay the regis-  
 tration fee if they wish to just come to a meal and program and not attend field trips Just  
 note that you are a member on the registration form in the registration fee blank.**

If you have further questions, please contact Alice Kenitz. Please bring something for the door  
 prize drawing if you will be the attending Saturday night dinner and program.

**Schedule for Spring Meeting**

**Friday, May 16**

- 4:30 p.m. Registration
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner
- 6:45 p.m. Wildlife Habitats Program  
                   Pheasants Forever-Drew Larsen
- 8:00 p.m. Board of Directors meeting

**Saturday, May 17**

- 6:00 a.m. Breakfast  
                   pick up sack lunches at this time
- 6:45 a.m. Field trips leave
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner
- 6:45 p.m. Door prize drawing
- 7:15 p.m. Annual business meeting
- 7:45 p.m. Nebraska Prairie Partners Program  
                   Bart Bly and Larry Snyder

**Sunday, May 18**

- 6:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 6:45 a.m. Field trips leave
- 12 noon Weekend tally (lunch on your own)

**Field Trips**  
**Saturday-all day**

**Kimball County**  
 with Wayne Mofhoff

**Sioux County**  
 with Helen Hughson

**Scotts Bluff County Wetlands**  
 with Kathy DeLara

**Scotts Bluff County Wildcat Hills**  
 with Alice Kenitz

**Sunday-morning only**

**Windsprings Ranch and**  
 Possibly Frimann's for thrasher  
 with Helen Hughson

**Scotts Bluff Co Wetlands or ?**  
 Best places from previous day  
 With Kathy DeLara

**Banner County Wildcat Hills**  
 Wright's Gap area for Banner County  
 birds  
 with Alice Kenitz

**All Field Trips Subject to Change**

**Nebraska Ornithologists Union Registration  
Spring Meeting at Trails West YMCA Camp in Scottsbluff, May 16-18, 2008**

*Registration Deadline May 6*

Meals (Price includes tax and tip)	Price	No. of Persons	Cost
Friday Evening-pizza and salad.....	\$ 6.00	x _____	= _____
Saturday Breakfast-scrambled eggs, hash browns, bacon....	\$ 6.00	x _____	= _____
Saturday Sack Lunch.....	\$ 5.00	x _____	= _____
Saturday Dinner-buffet with roast beef and lemon chicken..	\$14.00	x _____	= _____
Sunday Breakfast-breakfast casserole, fruit.....	\$ 7.00	x _____	= _____

Registration fee..... \$10.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
 NO REGISTRATION FEE for WILDCAT AUDUBON members attending evening programs/meals only

Lodging-see article about the Spring Meeting. . \$80/room/night (\$160 for the weekend) = \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed with this Form..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE INDICATE ANY SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to NOU and mail with this form before May 6 to:

Betty Grenon, Treasurer  
 1409 Childs Road East  
 Bellevue, NE 68005

**You do not need to be a member of the Nebraska Ornithologists Union  
 or the Wildcat Audubon Society to participate.  
 Everyone is welcome to join us for the programs and  
 a weekend of birding and fun, no experience necessary**

# Calendar of Events 2008

## April 19th

*Community Conservation Day*  
At the Riverside Zoo 11-2  
Celebrating Earth Day, Migratory  
Bird Day and Arbor Day

## April 19th

*General Meeting*  
RWMC South Plaza Meeting Room  
7:30pm.  
Program by Nathan Pieplow of Boulder  
CO on Amazing Bird Songs &  
Sounds

## April 26th

*Field Trip to someplace fun, TBA*  
Meet at Arby's at 7am, depends on  
what we do, but should be back by  
1:00

## May 24th

*Scotts Bluff County Spring Bird  
Count*  
Meet at 27th and Ave I, Scottsbluff  
(RCI) at 6am, back by 1:00. We will  
go back out after lunch to continue  
counting for anyone that would like  
to join us

## August 17th

*Wildcat Audubon's Annual Picnic*  
Bob & Kathy DeLara's at 5:00pm  
Bring a covered dish and table ser-  
vice.  
Fieldtrip to the Wildcat Hills for  
poorwills at dark

## September 20th

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

## September 20th

*General Meeting*  
RWMC South Plaza Meeting Room  
7:30pm.  
Program to be announced

## Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas II - Field Trips

- **May 31st, Carter Canyon (Block S402)**  
Meet at the old SunMart in Gering at 6am This will be a  
half day trip, should be back about 1:00
- **June 14th, Morrill County (Blocks M401 & M404)**  
Meet at SunMart in Gering at 6am, this will be an all day  
trip bring a sack lunch and drinks
- **June 21st, Kimball County (Blocks K404 & K409)**  
Meet at SunMart in Gering at 6am, this will be an all day  
trip bring a sack lunch and drinks
- **June 28th, Sioux County (Block S816)**  
Meet at 27th & Ave I (RCI) in Scottsbluff at 6am, this will  
be an all day trip bring a sack lunch and drinks

## October 18th

*Field Trip to Lakes for Sandhill  
Crane/Waterfowl*  
Meet at Arby's at 7am, should be  
back by 1:00

## October 18th

*General Meeting*  
RWMC South Plaza Meeting Room  
7:30pm.

## November 15th

*October 18th  
General Meeting*  
RWMC South Plaza Meeting Room  
7:30pm.

## 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.

## Field Trip Committee

Alice Kenitz 436-2959  
[akenitz@prairieweb.com](mailto:akenitz@prairieweb.com)

Kathy DeLara cell 631-2792  
[renosmom@charter.net](mailto:renosmom@charter.net)

Helen Hughson 632-4765  
[hhughson@scottsbluff.net](mailto:hhughson@scottsbluff.net)

Dean or Phyllis Drawbaugh  
632-4869

Ann Duey 632-3544  
[dduey@actcom.net](mailto:dduey@actcom.net)

Bonnie Schoen  
[bschoen@bbc.net](mailto:bschoen@bbc.net)

*Visitors are always welcome*

If you would like to give a program or know someone that would,  
please contact Connie McKinney 632-5153 or Donna Davey 632-5767

## *Join the Wildcat Audubon Society*

Membership dues are only \$5.00 per year  
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  
Membership 2008 / Cat Prints Subscription

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive my newsletter by e-mail  by mail

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

There is no charge for the Cat Prints Subscription  
If you would like to become a local member send \$5.00 to:  
Wildcat Audubon % Kathy DeLara  
170188 Spring Ck Rd, Mitchell, NE 69357

NL-0408



### **Wildcat Audubon Society**

c/o Kathy DeLara  
170188 Spring Creek Road  
Mitchell, NE 69357-5319