

CAT PRINTS



Wildcat Audubon Society - Serving the Nebraska Panhandle

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Kenitz Corner

By Alice Kenitz

Birding seems to have been a little slow this past winter, unless you were looking for Canada Geese!!!! We had an all time high number of them on the Christmas Count on Dec. 20 — 19,877. We had a total of 55 species on that day, plus 5 more during the count week. Other species seen in higher than usual numbers were Northern Harrier 13, Red-tailed Hawk 29, Ferruginous Hawk 4, Rock Pigeon 525, and Eurasian Collared-Dove 207. This was the first year we had a Greater White-fronted Goose.

The bluebird boxes on Stage Hill south of Gering have all been cleaned. There are about 89 boxes and 57% were used by either Mountain or Eastern Bluebirds. I don't know exactly how this compares with numbers in previous years, but it is a good percentage. House Wren is the other species that uses the boxes. We haven't had any usage by Black-capped Chickadees for several years. We recorded 69 species of birds on March 20th. Most of these were seen on our waterfowl trip

to the North Platte NWR. Several people went out on their own in the afternoon to add a few more species.

The best find of the day was a Glaucous Gull at Winters' Creek Lake. This was a life bird for several of us and a Scotts Bluff county bird for the rest.

It was very nice to see several hundred Sandhill Cranes and one Bald Eagle in the Winters' Creek Lake area.



We will be working on the Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas II again this summer with field trips planned to Banner, Sioux, Dawes, Garden, and Morrill counties. We hope many of you will be able to join us.

A complete list of birds seen on the March 20th field trip, and previous trips for the past 3 years, can be found at the website listed below. Just click on the field trips page link and then on the Kathy's web site link.

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

Members Page

The Members Page will be a new feature in the Cat Prints newsletter to encourage members to tell their stories of birding adventures and interesting sightings. If you have a story or sighting that you would like to share please email it to me at reno-mom@charter.net or mail to the address on the back of the newsletter.

We are always interested in unusual or interesting bird sightings so feel free to call or email Alice Kenitz, Kathy DeLara or any of the members listed on the front of this newsletter. If you feel that the bird sighting is very unusual please call right away as others may like to see the bird and they usually don't stay around very long.



This Mountain Chickadee was seen in January and February at Brad & Connie McKinney's in Scottsbluff

Connie was able to take this picture of it after several attempts to get it to cooperate.

Below is a Black-capped chickadee for comparison, Connie also took this picture. The face pattern is different and also, their call is a little different.



It is March 24th and the second day of "Spring Fury", according to the Weather Channel. This morning we had a female "Varied Thrush" in the Conifer Tree outside our kitchen window. She was hanging on for dear life in the wind but soon was on the ground under the bird feeder. I don't believe I have ever seen one here before so it gave us something to do to identify her.

Shirley Gillespie

Between Broadwater and Dalton

Larry Snyder with Nebraska Prairie Partners would like volunteers to help in Kimball County with Mountain Plover surveys and nest marking. If you would be available a day or even a half day between mid-May though June to help out in the field please contact him and he can give you the details. Larry.Snyder@rmbo.org or phone him at 308-235-7175

Don Herrell saw 4 Burrowing Owls south of Mitchell on March 27th.

David and Helen Hughson had a small flock of Mountain Bluebirds take refuge in their barn during the blizzard on March 23rd-24th.

RANDY ROOSTERS

This morning (March 28th) two ring-necked cock pheasants had an encounter in our backyard. For fifteen minutes, we watched them face each other off while bobbing their heads furiously. Three times one flew at the other, making him back off. Twice we thought the fight was over because they turned their backs to each other and walked opposite directions; then suddenly one would turn and fly at the other, starting the head bobbing ritual all over again. At last they turned a final time and stalked away from each other, the battle of the wrangling ring-necks to be decided another day.

Ann Duey

Hawaiian Trip Report

Charlotte Herrell

Don and I recently spent 8 days in Poi'pu, Kaua'i, Hawaii. We were awakened each morning with the singing of a Northern Cardinal (lighter red than birds on the mainland); the Common Myna; and Zebra Doves. Each day we watched mother whales and their babies frolic in the ocean and one day a Monk seal slept on the beach. The Monk seal is an endangered species and when they come up on the beach, ropes are immediately put up to keep people from getting too close to the seal.

We went to the National Tropical Botanical Garden where we met Basil. He is a volunteer on the island, and we learned all about flowers, growing bananas and many tropical plants. The next day my sisters and I went to Kilauea Point NWR. There we literally ran into Basil again, and he gave us a great lesson about the birds on the refuge.

We saw many Laysan Albatross including a nesting pair; courting Red-Tailed and White-Tailed Tropic-birds. It was exciting to see them flying as they have two central tail feathers, elongated into streamers. We also saw several hundred Red-Footed Boobys. The females were sitting on the cliffs while the males were bringing them nest building materials. The summer marine birds were just coming in and several more will be there by the first part of April. The state bird, Nene, also known as the Hawaiian Goose, is only located on the island at the National Wildlife Refuge.



Monk Seal

Photo by Charles Piazza, Don & Charlotte's brother-in-law

The Pacific Golden-Plover or Kolea is a winter visitor on the island. We saw many of them around the south side of Kaua'i and one morning walking along the beach in front of our house. They leave the island in April and nest at the Arctic Circle and return in August. We also saw many Cattle Egrets, Rock Doves, and chickens. The chickens were released during the 1982 hurricane and now populate the island. We saw roosters, hens and little chicks scattered everywhere.

We went to a luau at Smith Farms one evening beginning with a cruise to the Fern Grotto. At the farm we saw the Common Peafowl in full courting plumage, Mallard Ducks, Ring-Neck Pheasant, Spotted & Mourning Doves.

The most beautiful bird we saw was the Red-Crested Cardinal. It is a gray & white bird with a bright red head, crest and breast found all over the island. The female is rust colored. We saw several pairs.

We had a wonderful trip and got back in time to experience a spring blizzard in Western Nebraska!!!

Other Local Events

April 25th

Riverside Zoo's Party for the Planet

Celebrating Earth Day, Arbor Day and Migratory Bird Day

There will be crafts and coloring pages for the kids, drawings for zoo memberships and other fun things to do. Lunch will be available for a nominal fee. Prairie Partners and Wildcat Audubon will be there along with other environmental agencies.

The Zoo will be handing out information about recycling and how everyone can do their part to help the environment, how to plant trees and other information.

Admission will be only \$1.00 for the day for anyone visiting the zoo. Contact Kathy Welfl at the zoo for more information. 308-630-6236

May 16th

Wildcat Hills Nature Center's 2nd Annual Wildcat Hills Wildland Days

Events include landowners workshops, hikes, crafts, and other activities. A Nebraska state park permit is required and may be purchased the day of the event at the Nature Center. For information call 308-436-3777

FAIR-TRADE PRODUCTS

Regular Coffee	\$8
Decaf Coffee	\$9
Earl Grey Tea (24bags)	\$4
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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, or dduey@actcom.net or contact any WAS Member.

RECYCLE

Bring your aluminum cans to any Wildcat Audubon event or meeting

The prepaid envelopes for the ink cartridge recycling have been discontinued.

Please bring your 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.

Cat Prints Subscription Membership Information

If you would like to join Wilccat Audubon see the form on the back of the newsletter.

If you wish to receive a copy of the Cat Prints Newsletter by mail please send in the subscription form on the back page. If you would like to help lower the expenses of postage and printing and have it emailed to you instead sign up for the emailed version by sending an e-mail to 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

New and renewed members

since the last newsletter;

Charles Maxwell, Jane Bauer ,
Charlotte Pettijohn,

Frank & Ethel Valla,

Walter Johns ,Helen Hughson,

Ruben & Patricia Siegfried,

Ken Gilles, Julie Edwards,

Shirley Gillespie,

Chuck and Donna Davey,

Steve and Pamela Frantz,

Amanda Keep, Norma Long,

Dean & Phyllis Drawbaugh,

Lee & Alice Kenitz, Gary &

Vicki Enlow, Jan Foster,

Don & Charlotte Herrell,

Judy & Greg Hinze,

Sharon Sievers, Wilber Weitzel,

& Carol Vallier

Thanks for your support

Calendar of Events 2009

April 18th

General Meeting will be held at the Regional West Medical Center's South Plaza meeting room, 7:30 pm

We do not have general meetings during the summer months or in December

May 23rd

Scotts Bluff Co. Spring Bird Count, meet at RCI building, 27th & Ave I, Scottsbluff at 6am.. We should be back in town by 1pm

May 30th

Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge (Breeding Bird Atlas Blocks G206, G208) Meet at the old Gering SunMart at 6am. Bring a sack lunch and drinks. We will be home late

June 6th

Banner County Breeding Bird Atlas Blocks B103, B101, B106 & B104 including Wildcat Hills, Hackberry Canyon, Twin Tree area and Wright's Gap. Meet at the old Gering SunMart at 6am, bring a lunch and drinks. We should be home by early afternoon

June 13th

Chadron State Park, Dawes County Breeding Bird Atlas Blocks D204, D212 including Chadron State Park and Chadron Creek WMA. Some of us will stay overnight at the park and do an additional block or two (D205, D210) on the 14th. Meet at RCI, 27th & Ave I, Scottsbluff at 6am, bring a lunch and drinks, we will be home late

June 20th

Gilbert Baker WMA, Sioux County Breeding Bird Atlas Block S807, including Monroe Canyon and Gilbert Baker WMA. Meet at RCI, 27th & Ave I, Scottsbluff at 6am. Bring a lunch and drinks, we will be home late

June 27th

Morrill County Breeding Bird Atlas Blocks, blocks TBA. Meet at the old Gering SunMart at 6am, bring a sack lunch and drinks. Return time will depend on the blocks we do

August 16th

Annual Picnic at Bob and Kathy DeLara's, 170188 Spring Creek Rd, Mitchell, 5pm Bring a covered dish and table service, drinks will be provided

September 19th

General Meeting at the RWMC South Plaza meeting room, 7:30 pm.

September 19th or 26th TBA

Scotts Bluff County Fall Bird Count, meet at Arby's at 7am. We will count birds within the county, we should be back in town by 1pm

October 24th

General Meeting at the RWMC South Plaza meeting room, 7:30 pm

October 24th

Lakes and Ponds Field Trip, meet at Arby's at 7am, we will check out local lakes and ponds for waterfowl and other migrating birds, we should be back by 1pm

November 21st

General Meeting at the RWMC South Plaza meeting room, 7:30 pm

December 19th

Scottsbluff Christmas Bird Count, meet at Arby's at 6:30am for this all day count, contact Alice Kenitz for information. 308-436-2959 akenitz@prairieweb.com

*Visitors are always welcome
at any of the meetings, programs, field trips
or other Audubon events*

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

**If you would like to continue to receive the newsletter please mail this form or
email Kathy DeLara at renosmom@charter.net**



Wildcat Audubon Society
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