

CAT PRINTS



Wildcat Audubon Society - Serving the Nebraska Panhandle

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Kenitz Corner

By Alice Kenitz

We've had a lot of fun working on the Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas II this summer. All of our June field trips were planned for that purpose. It is fun to go beyond just listing each species we see to try to figure out if they are involved in any kind of nesting behavior—carrying food, carrying nesting material, agitated behavior, etc. Plus we saw some spectacular scenery in favorite birding areas as well as in new areas.

June 2 we visited Long Canyon and Wright's Gap in Banner County. Highlight species were Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cassin's Kingbirds, Rock Wrens, and Mountain Bluebirds.

June 9 was a trip to Agate Fossil Beds. We had hoped to see a lot of wildflowers, but a hard freeze a couple of nights before took care of that.

But we did see Brown Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow Warbler, and Grasshopper Sparrow feeding young. We weren't so excited to see Eurasian Collared-Doves there!!!

On June 16 we drove the ditch road through Scotts Bluff National Monument which is always a good birding trip. Highlights of that trip were finding 2 sets of magpie young, a baby Wood Duck, Rock Wrens, Spotted Towhees, and Lark Sparrows carrying food.



Fledgling Magpie at Scb Ntl Monument

The big highlight of the summer was being able to observe 2 Sandhill Crane chicks & their parents at Facus Springs in Morrill Co. on June 23.

We also saw young Upland Sandpipers, Barn Swallows, House Wrens, American Robins, Lark Sparrows, and Common Grackles.



Upland Sandpiper Chick in Morrill Co.

A trip to Monroe and Sowbelly Canyons in Sioux Co. on June 30 gave us looks a quite a few Pine Ridge specialties—Cordilleran Flycatcher, Plumbeous Vireo, Pygmy Nuthatch, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, and Ovenbird.

Bluebird nesting in the Wildcat Hills in 2006 seemed to be successful. At least 32 of the houses were used by either Mountain or Eastern Bluebirds. Many houses were broken or otherwise in poor shape and were replaced. Many thanks to Dave Duey for making new houses.

Plan to join us for our fall field trips!!!!

Visit our web-site at

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

Cat Prints Newsletter Subscription

In the past we have sent out Cat Prints newsletters to all members, including national Audubon members that are assigned to our chapter. We have no way of knowing if they want to receive the newsletter, and with the rising costs of printing, paper and postage, and environmental concerns we are asking that if you do wish to receive a copy to let us know. You can do this either by sending the subscription form below or by email.

We will be sending 'Cat Prints' by e-mail in the PDF format. Most computers have a program that can open the PDF file called Adobe Reader or it can be downloaded from the web site at no charge. If you want a printed copy you can simply print it at home.

If you wish to receive a printed copy by mail you will have to send in the subscription form below.

Local members will automatically receive the newsletter either by e-mail or regular mail. Your local membership expiration date is on your mailing label above your name.

If you would like to sign up for the emailed version send an e-mail to Kathy at renosmom@charter.net or check the box on the local membership form on the back of this newsletter.

Please put "Cat Prints Newsletter" in the subject line of your e-mail.

If you use a spam control for your email enter the above email address as an "allowed sender" on your computer so it isn't sent to the junk mail. 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 www.wyoneb.net/-delara/WildcatAudubon.htm

Cat Prints Subscription Form

Yes, I would like to receive a printed copy of the newsletter by mail.

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Please send to:

Wildcat Audubon, c/o Kathy DeLara (Editor)
170188 Spring Creek Rd, Mitchell, NE 69357

NL -0807

Eurasian Collared-doves

As people notice more and more Eurasian Collared-doves many questions arise. They want to know if they are displacing native birds, if we should be concerned about their spread, & if there is anything we should/could do about it. Is it legal to shoot them? Or do you think there will be a hunting season for them. Joel Jorgensen, Nongame Bird Program Manager for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission out of Lincoln has this to say;

"I think it remains to be seen (or proven) that Eurasian Collared-Doves are displacing native wildlife. I do not know of any obvious or suggestive patterns, they even seem to co-exist quite well with Mourning Doves, but again, I think the jury is out. Even though Collared-Doves are a non native species and not afforded protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, people cannot shoot them at will. The state game law that sets the hunting season for Mourning Doves uses the language "doves" in the statute. The decision was made a couple of years ago that this language included Collared-Doves. So you can shoot Collared Doves, just within the (Mourning) dove season and with a upland hunting permit. Please let me know if you have further questions and if the people with questions want more info., they can certainly call me at 402-471-5440"

Joel Jorgensen

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.

Accepted ink-jet cartridges are Apple, Cannon (no BCI), Compaq, Dell, HP, Lexmark and Sharp. No Epson or laser cartridges are accepted.

Proceeds from your recycling will help pay for Audubon Adventures in local schools.

Calendar of Events

September 22nd

Scotts Bluff County Fall Bird Count

Meet at 7 am, Arby's Scottsbluff
We should be back about 1:00.

September 22nd

General Meeting

RWMC South Plaza Meeting Room 7:30 pm. Program by Bart Bly w/ Nebraska Prairie Partners on his research on Tiger Salamanders in tall grass prairies. Refreshments; Al & Lois Herbel

September 28-30th

Nebraska Ornithologists' Union

Fall Field Days, Halsey National Forest

<http://rip.physics.unk.edu/NOU/>

October 20th

Lakes and Ponds Field Trip

Meet 8 am, Arby's Scottsbluff. We will check out the local lakes and ponds looking for migrating waterfowl. We should be back around 1:00.

October 20th

General Meeting

RWMC South Plaza Meeting Room 7:30pm. Taldi Walter, Audubon's Alaska Field Coordinator, will have a program that includes "a stunning presentation showcasing some of the brilliant birds and vistas found in wild Alaska." She will also "share the opportunities that we have to protect these magnificent places for current and future generations." Refreshments; Brad & Connie McKinney

November 17th

Meeting

RWMC South Plaza Meeting Room 7:30 pm.

Ken Mabery, Superintendent at Scotts Bluff National Monument, will have a program on the "National Parks in the Republic of Georgia (former Soviet Union)." He will have pictures of his detail there this fall and tell us about his trip.

Refreshments; Bonnie Schoen

December 15th

Scottsbluff Christmas Bird Count

Meet 6:30 am, Arby's, Scottsbluff
Call Alice Kenitz for more info.

January 19th

Meeting

RWMC South Plaza Meeting Room 7:30 pm Wayne Molhoff, will give a presentation on the Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas II.

He will also report on a first time ever Nebraska breeding species that he found in the panhandle this summer. As of press time species and nesting area where it was located is still a secret and he won't tell me a thing. You will have to come to the meeting to find out.

February 16th

General Meeting

RWMC South Plaza Meeting Room 7:30 pm. Brad Mellema, director of Rowe Sanctuary, will have a multimedia presentation on Sandhill Cranes in Nebraska.

Visitors are always welcome

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Sandhill Cranes in Morrill County

For the third year a pair of Sandhill Crane have nested at Facus Spring WMA near Chimney Rock. Last year they were featured in the

2007 Jan - Feb NebraskaLand Magazine, with many pictures, taken by Bob Grier, of the progress of the two chick which were successfully raised and migrated.

This year the pair also had two chicks, unfortunately one died in July. It was sent to NGPC lab but results aren't back yet on the cause of death.

The second chick began flying around the 1st of August and can still be seen now and then with it's parents, according to Dennis and Rhalene Katus, who live near the refuge. Dennis reports that the first year they nested there, in 2005, they had one chick but it was killed by coyotes when it was about half grown.

Other cranes have been seen in several locations in Nebraska this summer but no other chicks have been reported.

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.

New/renewed local members since the last newsletter are:
Marcine Bice, Ernie & Nancy Prickett, Charlotte Pettijohn,
Don & Charlotte Herrel, Jean Snocker & Cindy McIntosh

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Wildcat Audubon Society
Membership 2007

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