

CAT PRINTS



Wildcat Audubon Society - Serving the Nebraska Panhandle

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Kenitz Corner

By Alice Kenitz

Winter birding is definitely here!! Dark-eyed Juncos have become one of our most numerous birds once again. It's fun to study them just to see how many different plumages you can see in your yard.

Red-breasted Nuthatches seem more numerous than usual. This is apparently being noticed across the state—an indication of failure of their food supply in part of their normal wintering areas. Purple Finches and Mountain Chickadees have also been seen in the area.

Other interesting species reported this fall include Harris's Sparrows, Barn Owl, and Osprey in higher numbers than most falls.

Wildcat Audubon Society will be hosting the annual Spring Meeting of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union May 16-18, 2008. Meetings and lodging will be at the Trails West YMCA Camp. The new facilities there are beautiful and we look forward to 'showing it off' to birders from across the state.

All Wildcat Audubon members are invited to attend and we will have more information available in the next newsletter.

Keep your eyes open for unusual species and let someone on the Field Trip committee know if you see something different.

Happy Winter Birding!!!!

Christmas Bird Count

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. The Scottsbluff CBC will be held on December 15th this year. It 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. See the calendar for other Christmas Bird Count dates and contact information.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT IS GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH NATURE

People of all ages and experience levels are invited to take part wherever they are-at home, in schoolyards, at local parks or wildlife refuges, even counting birds on a balcony. Observers count the highest number of each species they see during at least 15 minutes on one or more of the count days. Then they enter their tallies on the Great Backyard Bird Count web site at www.birdcount.org These reports create an exciting real-time picture of where the birds are across the continent and contribute valuable information for science and conservation now and for the future.

"These volunteers are counting not only for fun but for the future," said Tom Bancroft, Chief Science Officer for Audubon. "It's fun to see how many different kinds of birds can be seen and counted right in your backyard or neighborhood park. Each tally helps us learn more about how our North American birds are doing, and what that says about the health and the future of our environment."

Already, the count results show how the numbers of some birds species have changed in recent years. In 2007, Great Backyard Bird Count participants made history, breaking records for the number of birds reported, and the number of checklists. Participants sent in 81,203 checklists tallying 11,082,387 birds of 613 species.

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To order contact Ann Duey at 632-3544, or dduey@actcom.net or contact any WAS Member.	

Lake Minatare Wildlife Watch

The USFWS will be sponsoring the annual Wildlife & Eagle Watch at Lake Minatare in December or January. Watch the paper for the announcement of the date and time. The lake is closed from Oct 1st to Jan 15th to provide a sanctuary for migrating waterfowl, Bald Eagles and other birds and wildlife. For more info contact Steve Knode, NPNWR office at 635-7851

To many catalogs in your mail box?

Here is a way to unsubscribe to many of the catalogs or duplicates that you receive and help the environment in the process. Check out this web site and get signed up. www.catalogchoice.org

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

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

REMINDER:

Membership dues are only \$5.00 To make it easier to remember when your membership is due you can just pay in January for the upcoming year.

New and renewed members

since the last newsletter; Frank & Ethel Valla, Ken Gilles, Pete Gardner, Ray & Ann Boice Wilber Weitzel, Tia FulkSchawe Kathleen Sullivan

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.

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

December 15th

Scottsbluff

Christmas Bird Count

Meet 6:30 am at Arby's

This is an all day count but we can use help for any part of the day. Also feeder watchers within the count circle are needed.

Contact Alice Kenitz for more info at 436-2959

akenitz@prairieweb.com

December 29th

Lake McConaughy

Christmas Bird Count

Meet at Valentino's restaurant in Ogallala at 5:30pm on Friday for dinner and count assignments or contact Steve Dinsmore at 515-294-1348 cootjr@iastate.edu

December 29th

Crawford

Christmas Bird Count

Meet at the Snack Shop, 301 Main St. Downtown Crawford at 7:30am Contact Donna and Bruce Walgren Piranga@bresnan.net

December 30th

Sioux County/Harrison

Christmas Bird Count

The Harrison CBC will be held Sunday Dec 30 (barring severe weather). Meet at the Coyote Cafe in Harrison at 8 AM. The Coyote Cafe is the A frame cafe next to the Sage Motel (308-668-2441) on highway 20 near the east edge of Harrison. There is also a B&B Main Street (the Harrison House 307-668-2166). If you're interested in staying in Harrison and want to start earlier than 8 AM, I can email you a copy of the count circle.

Contact Donna and Bruce Walgren Piranga@bresnan.net

Visitors are always welcome

January 19th

General 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.

Come to the meeting and find out more about this new breeding species.

February 9

Scottsbluff National Monument together with the Wildcat Audubon Society

will host a Great Backyard Bird Count Information Seminar and Bird Id Class at the Scottsbluff National Monument Visitor's Center at 10am.

Get ready for the GBBC the following weekend or just learn how to id the birds in your yard. For more information contact Valerie Newman at the monument, 436-4340 valerie_newman@nps.gov

February 15-16-17-18

Great Backyard Bird Count

For information on this annual event go to the website at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>

Field Trip Committee

Alice Kenitz 436-2959
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Ann Duey 632-3544
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February 15-16

Scottsbluff National Monument

Great Backyard Bird Count

Help the rangers count the birds on monument property. Meet in front of the visitors center at 8am on Friday and again on Saturday. Different areas will be counted each day. Members of the Wildcat Audubon will be assisting in identifying the birds. No experience is necessary to help with the count and it's a great way to learn about birds that are around in the winter.

See February 9th for bird class and information seminar and contact.

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 central Nebraska.

March 15th

Birding at the Lakes

Join us for a fieldtrip to the local lakes and ponds to look for migrating waterfowl and other birds. Meet at Arby's at 8am.

March 15th

General Meeting

RWMC South Plaza Meeting Room 7:30pm Don & Meredyth Gentry will have a program, with lots of pictures, of their trip to Holland and Belgium.

April 19th

General Meeting

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

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
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Wildcat Audubon Society

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