

CAT PRINTS



Wildcat Audubon Society - Serving the Nebraska Panhandle

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Scottsbluff Christmas Bird Count

The 52nd Scottsbluff Christmas Bird Count was held Saturday, December 16th, 2006 with 10 participants, Phyllis & Dean Drawbaugh, Ann Duey, Helen Hughson, Michelle Hoff, Ed Newberry, Ruben Seigfried, Bonnie Schoen, Kathy DeLara, and Alice Kenitz and two feeder watchers, Brent Nelson and Bob DeLara.

Good thing we did it that weekend as some of the roads would not have been suitable for 'stop-and-look' birding the other available weekends due to the weather!! We ended with 59 species, about 20,000 individuals, plus 3 additional species during the count week.

These are the results:

Great Blue Heron 4
Trumpeter Swan, (Count Week, (first)
Snow Goose 4
Cackling Goose 56 (high)
Canada Goose 6381
Gadwall 18
American Wigeon 355
Mallard 8123
Northern Shoveler 2
Northern Pintail 133
Green-winged Teal 15
Canvasback 1
Redhead 2
Ring-necked Duck 37
Greater Scaup 1
Lesser Scaup 8
Common Goldeneye 508 (high)
Hooded Merganser 6 (high)
Ruddy Duck 1 (1st time)
Bald Eagle 5 adults, 1 immature
Northern Harrier 5
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 3
Rough-legged Hawk 2
Am. Kestrel 21
Ring-necked Pheasant 2
Wild Turkey 10 (Lowest since 1987)
Am. Coot 49
Ring-billed Gull 1
Rock Pigeon 250
Eurasian Collared-Dove 88 (High)
Eastern Screech-Owl 3 (High)

Great Horned Owl 1
Belted Kingfisher 4
Red-bellied Woodpecker (Count Week)
Downy Woodpecker 10
Hairy Woodpecker 2
Northern Flicker 27
Northern Shrike 1
Blue Jay 34
Black-billed Magpie 6 (Lowest since 1976)
American Crow 19
Horned Lark 120
Black-capped Chickadee 10
Red-breasted Nuthatch 1
White-breasted Nuthatch 1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1 (first since 1966)
Townsend's Solitaire 5
American Robin 384
European Starling 1764
Cedar Waxwing 17
American Tree Sparrow (Low)
Song Sparrow 2
White-crowned Sparrow 3
Dark-eyed Junco 102
Northern Cardinal 1
Red-winged Blackbird 1111
Meadowlark species (Count Week)
House Finch 239
Pine Siskin 76
Am. Goldfinch 400
House Sparrow 234

Submitted by Alice Kenitz, compiler

Visit our new web-site at

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

Kenitz Corner

By Alice Kenitz

Birding seems a little slow this winter. Maybe that's just because it's been more 'wintery' than we are used to and it has been hard to get out. The most unusual bird I've seen is a Turkey Vulture which is normally far south of here in the winter. Brent Nelson saw one at Riverside Zoo in early January. He even checked to make sure it had not escaped from the zoo!!! Lee and I saw one south of Gering a few days later. I'm assuming it was probably the same bird. It was pretty cold then, & I'm thinking the bare head of that bird could get mighty cold!!

We've had more reports than usual of Ferruginous Hawks, Prairie Falcons, and Eastern Screech-Owls. I don't know whether this indicates an increase in the numbers of these raptors, or if we have just been in the right place at the right time.

Most of the bluebird boxes in the Wildcat Hills have been checked, and many have been replaced. Many thanks to Dave Duey for making over 30 new houses. So far it looks like we had very good use by bluebirds last summer. Mountain Bluebirds should be arriving any day now.

We will all be glad for spring with its warmer temperatures and spring migrants. We have some good field trips lined up starting in mid-March. Summer field trips will concentrate on helping with the Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas. The last atlas project was 20 years ago, so it will be interesting to see what changes have taken place. We know we will add Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eurasian

Collared-Dove, and Great-tailed Grackle to the nesting species in Scotts Bluff County.

Happy Spring to all!!! We hope to see you on upcoming field trips.

A Check for Wildlife



You can help conserve wildlife in Nebraska by donating to the Non-game Species Conservation Fund. Just look for the "Check for Wildlife" symbol on your state income tax return and designate all or a portion of your refund to the fund. Donations can also be made online at the Nebraska Games and Parks Commission's website. All donations are tax deductible and go directly to benefiting wildlife.

Over 2000 species of birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians and plants and trees of thousands of insect species are considered non-game species in Nebraska-species that are not hunted, trapped or fished. These constitute 99% of all species in Nebraska. By law, revenue from hunting and fishing licenses cannot be spent on non-game species. This makes the Nongame Species Conservation Fund the state's primary source of state funding for monitoring, researching, managing and conserving the vast majority of our wildlife. The fund allows everyone to be a part of conserving our state's wildlife and wild places for the future. Any donation amount is helpful and every dollar goes directly into the fund. We can all make a difference for our future.

<http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us>

Fossil Freeway

Geologic wonders, including world-class fossil finds, make the paleontology corridor from the Wildcat Hills south of Gering, to the Black Hills and Bad lands of South Dakota a great tourist destination for the entire family.

"Nebraska is famous for vertebrate fossils over the last 40 million years," paleontologist Bruce Bailey said. "Many deposits remain because it is so arid." The fossil collections at Agate Fossil Beds in northwest Nebraska are remarkable because scientists found entire skeletons in one location, Bailey said.

But a fossil site in Wildcat Hills near Gering is probably the richest in terms of diversity.

In the remains of an ancient river there, scientists have identified bones of 44 different species, including at least two that are new to science. a large beaver and a gopher.

"There may be others, but we haven't analyzed them enough," Bailey said. "We're hoping to find more."

For more information and other website links on this project and others check the website at; <http://classrooms.esu13.org/fossilfreeway>

A Wildcat Hills Paleontology Fund has been established at the [Oregon Trail Community Foundation](#) to receive grants and donations for excavating and exhibiting fossils from the site discovered in the Wildcat Hills south of Gering.

For more information or if you would like to donate to this fund you can contact the foundation at 308-635-3393

Tagged Vultures

Researchers at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, together with colleagues in Venezuela, recently placed color wing tags on more than 100 Turkey Vultures over-wintering in north-western Venezuela. The tagged birds are members of the meridionalis, or western North American, subspecies. The birds were tagged to study long-distance migration in the species. They are expected to begin migrating back toward their breeding areas in February. Their movements should take them through Central America and Mexico and into the western United States and Canada. Reports of these birds will help Hawk Mountain scientists determine the timing and geography of migration in Turkey Vultures, as well as the breeding areas of the birds. Some of the birds have red tags with white numbers, others have light-blue tags with black numbers. Please report the date and specific location of your sighting, color and number of the tag, the wing (right or left) to which the tag is attached, and the circumstances of the sighting, including whether or not the bird was alone or in a group of vultures, flying or perched, feeding or roosting, etc. Dead birds also should be reported. Report sightings to Keith Bildstein, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Acopian Center for Conservation Learning, 410 Summer Valley Road, Orwigsburg, PA 17961; Bildstein@hawkmtn.org; 1-570-943-3411 ext. 108. All reports will be recognized, and individuals reporting tagged birds will receive summary information about the study.

More information and pictures of the wing-tagged birds can be found at <http://www.hawkmountain.org>

Cat Prints Newsletter Subscription

Beginning with the next issue, if you wish to continue to receive the Cat Prints Newsletter by mail you will need to let us know by sending in the subscription form below. If the form is not received a newsletter will not be mailed to you. There is no additional charge for this at this time.

To save printing, paper and postage costs we now have 'Cat Prints' available 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.

Local members will 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. 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

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.

Crawford Christmas Bird Count

The Crawford CBC was conducted on Wednesday January 3, 2007 with six participants: Kathy DeLara, Phyllis Drawbaugh, Ruben Siegfried, John Flavin, Donna and Bruce Walgren. We also had one feeder watcher: Marilee Cargill. Thanks to all who participated.

Temperature range was from 26 degrees in the morning to 36 degrees in late afternoon. Skies were mostly cloudy until late in the day when partly cloudy skies produced a magnificent sunset. Most ponds were frozen while the running water creeks and the White River were mostly open. Snow cover was from 0 to 6 inches - the Crawford area didn't receive as much snow as areas of the southern panhandle did.

Thirty-five species and 1,349 individual birds were counted. The seven American Kestrels and 25 Ringed-neck Pheasants were highs for the count while the species numbers and total individuals were below average for the 13 times that the count has been done.

The results: Mallard 79, Bald Eagle 1, Northern Harrier 2, Cooper's Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 4, American Kestrel 7, Merlin 1, Prairie Falcon 1, Ring-necked Pheasant 25, Wild Turkey 80, Rock Pigeon 99, Eurasian Collared-Dove 46, Eastern Screech-Owl 1, Downy Woodpecker 8, Hairy Woodpecker 4, Northern Flicker 1, Horned Lark 79, Blue Jay 4, Black-billed Magpie 11, American Crow 46, Black-capped Chickadee 62, White-breasted Nuthatch 5, Pygmy Nuthatch 10, Townsend's Solitaire 2, Northern Shrike 6, Starling 154, American Tree Sparrow 113, Dark-eyed Junco 19, Dark-eyed Junco (Slate) 29, Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon) 21, Dark-eyed Junco (Pink-sided) 3, Dark-eyed Junco (White-winged) 2, Red-winged Blackbird 34, Western Meadowlark 1, House Finch 12, Red Crossbill 6, Pine Siskin 14, American Goldfinch 191, House Sparrow 205, For a total 1349 birds.

Submitted by Bruce and Donna Walgreen, compilers

Harrison Christmas Bird Count

The Harrison CBC (Sioux Co) was run on 2 Jan 2007, in good weather, with a temperature range 16 - 46 F. Participants were Bruce & Donna Walgren and Wayne Mollhoff.

The following birds were tallied:

Ferruginous Hawk 1, Rough-legged Hawk 14, Golden Eagle 1, American Kestrel 1, count week, Wild Turkey 52, Wilson's Snipe 1, Rock Pigeon 5, Eurasian Collared-dove 10, Eastern Screech-owl 2, Great Horned Owl 3, Downy Woodpecker 1, Hairy Woodpecker 2, Northern Shrike 1, American Crow 60, Horned Lark 53, Black-capped Chickadee 9, Red-breasted Nuthatch 2, White-breasted Nuthatch 4, Pygmy Nuthatch 20, Townsend's Solitaire 2, American Robin 5, European Starling 56, American Tree Sparrow 37, Song Sparrow 1, Dark-eyed Junco 45, Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon) 3, Snow Bunting 21, Red Crossbill 8, Am. Goldfinch 54, House Sparrow - 56

Submitted by Wayne Mollhoff

FAIR-TRADE PRODUCTS

Regular Coffee	\$8
Decaf Coffee	\$9
Earl Grey Tea (24bags)	\$4
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Hot Cocoa Mix	\$6
Milk Chocolate Bar	\$3
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****NEW PRODUCTS****

Dark Chocolate Mint Bar	\$3
Dk Choc w/ Cocoa Nibs Bar	\$3

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 Wildcat Audubon Society Member.

Products will also be available at the general meetings and other Audubon events.

Neal Anderson Program

Renowned artist Neal Anderson of Lincoln is a will hold an art show and present a program on various stages of developing a piece of art. The show will be held March 23rd, 2007, 7:30pm at the WNCC Harms Technology Center located just south of the Western Nebraska Community College.

This event is sponsored by the USFWS, in conjunction with PRBE, Twin Cities Development and the Wildcat Audubon.

Neal Anderson will be judging Federal Jr. Duck Stamp/Nebraska State Waterfowl Stamp contest earlier in the day.

Neal has his paintings featured on the 1989-90 (Lesser Scaup) and 1994-95 (Red-Breasted Mergansers) Migratory Bird Stamps/aka Federal Duck Stamp. He will have pieces of his art for sale.

This show is open to the public and admission is free. Don't miss this special event.

Calendar of Events

March 16th-18th

Rivers and Wildlife Celebration

Rowe Sanctuary, Kearney NE

www.Nebraska.Audubon.org

March 17th

Waterfowl Fieldtrip

Meet at Arby's at 8:00 am. We will bird around the local ponds and lakes and should be back to town by 1:00

March 23rd

Neal Anderson Art Show and Program

see details on page 4

March 24th

General Meeting

Regional West Medical Center South Meeting Room 7:30pm. Blanca Alvarez Stransky, Superintendent at Agate Fossil Beds National Monument, will give her program "So You Always Wanted To Be A Ranger?". Hosts Dean & Phyllis Drawbaugh

April 21st

General Meeting

Regional West Medical Center South Meeting Room 7:30pm. The program by Neil Powers, Crescent Lake Refuge Manager, will take us behind the scenes on a journey through the Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge. We will learn why the refuge is important what issues they face and how the habitat is managed for wildlife benefit and for people to enjoy. Neil will have lots of pictures of this journey. Q&A will follow.

April 28th

Kiowa WMA Field Trip

Meet at 7 am at Arby's, Scottsbluff We will be looking for shorebirds, waterfowl and grassland species

*Visitors are always welcome
at any of our meetings,
events or fieldtrips*

May 5th

Community Conservation Day

Riverside Zoo 10am-2pm. Stations hosted by local environmental and wildlife agencies will be throughout the zoo. Event sponsored by the zoo and the Wildcat Hills Nature Center. The AAZK will be selling hotdogs and there will be prizes for the kids.

May 12th

International Migratory Bird Day

Birding around the Riverside Park and Zoo area. Meet at 8 am at the Riverside Zoo Parking lot.

May 18th-20th

Nebraska Ornithologists' Union

Spring Meeting, North Platte NE
<http://rip.physics.unk.edu/NOU/>

May 26th

Scotts Bluff Co Spring Bird Count

Meet at 6 am, RCI parking lot, 27th & Ave I, Scottsbluff

Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas II Project Field Trips:

June 2nd Banner County

Meet at the old SunMart Parking lot, 10th and M St, Gering, 6 am, bring a sack lunch, water and snacks

June 9th

Scottsbluff National Monument
Meet in the parking lot 6am

June 16th

Morrill County
Meet at the old SunMart parking lot, 10th & M St. Gering, 6 am, bring a sack lunch, snacks and water

June 23rd

Kimball County
Meet at the old SunMart, 10th & M St. Gering, 6 am, bring a sack lunch, snacks and water

June 30th Sioux County

Sowbelly & Monroe Canyon Areas
RCI Parking lot, 27th & Ave I, Scottsbluff, 6 am, bring a sack lunch, snacks and water

August 5th

Annual Picnic—Bob and Kathy DeLara's, 4 pm, bring a covered dish and a friend

We will lead trip to Wildcat Hills for poorwills at dark

September 22nd

Scotts Bluff County Fall Bird Count

Meet at 7 am, Arby's Scottsbluff
General Meeting
RWMC South Plaza Meeting Room 7:30 pm

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
General Meeting
RWMC South Plaza Meeting Room 7:30pm

November 17th

Meeting

RWMC South Plaza Meeting Room 7:30 pm

December 15th

Scottsbluff Christmas Bird Count

Meet 6:30 am, Arby's, Scottsbluff

Field Trip Committee

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akenitz@prairieweb.com

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renosmom@charter.net

Helen Hughson 632-4765

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Dean or Phyllis Drawbaugh
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Join the Wildcat Audubon Society

Membership dues are only \$5.00 per year.

Your dollars help pay for Audubon Adventures in local schools, postage and printing of the newsletter, Beginner Birding Classes, Public Education and other projects

We would like to thank all of our local members for their support.

New local members since the last newsletter are:

Charles & Ann Stratton, Tina Carlson, Carol Orr, Mr & Mrs Edwin Harms,
Michelle Hoff, John Flavin, Faulene Main



Wildcat Audubon Society
Membership 2006

Name _____

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Send along with \$5.00 membership dues to:

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