

CAT PRINTS



Wildcat Audubon Society - Serving the Nebraska Panhandle

Officers 2009

Co-Presidents

Dr. Don Gentry
Meredyth Gentry
308-436-2495
drdon21@embarqmail.com

Co-Vice Presidents

Donna Davey
308-632-5767
cddavey@embarqmail.com
Connie McKinney
308-632-5153
bcmckinney@charter.net

Secretary

Alice Kenitz
308-436-2959
akenitz@prairieweb.com

Treasurer

Kathy De Lara
308-632-3047
renosmom@charter.net

Board of Directors

Ray Boice
308-436-4872
rayann@actcom.net

Dean Drawbaugh
Phyllis Drawbaugh
308-632-4869

Ann Duey
308-632-3544
dduey@actcom.net

Helen Hughson
308-632-4765
hhughson@scottsbluff.net

Brad McKinney
308-632-5153
bcmckinney@charter.net

Ruben Siegfried
308-436-7859
rubens69341@yahoo.com

Rod Smith
308-632-1973
rsmitquest@embarqmail.com

Historian

Julie Edwards
308-632-6291

Kenitz Corner

By Alice Kenitz

We had some great field trips in May and June!!!! We were working on the Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas II in Garden, Dawes, Sioux, Banner, and Morrill Counties. It was especially enjoyable this summer because of all the beautiful wildflowers and the green, green, green pastures. Sometimes it was hard for me to remember that we were supposed to be looking for birds!!!

We visited Crescent Lake in May. A few of the more interesting species were American Bittern, Black-necked Stilt, Long-billed Curlew, Barn Owl, Hammond's Flycatcher, MacGillivray's Warbler. This is one of our favorite field trip destinations.

We found new areas to look for birds in Banner, Dawes, and Morrill Counties. An area south of the North Platte River in the Broadwater area of Morrill County was a very pleasant surprise. We heard Northern Cardinals and Dickcissels. One of the big surprises of the summer was the number of Great Crested Flycatchers seen. We saw them in this Morrill County area, and they have been seen in several places in Scotts Bluff County.

The Pine Ridge is always a fun place to bird. We found some new areas in the Chadron State Park area. We saw nesting Eastern Phoebes, Bobolinks, Dickcissels, Bell's Vireo, another

Great Crested Flycatcher, and Ovenbirds.

Another weekend we visited Sowbelly and Monroe Canyons north of Harrison. This is another favorite field trip spot. We saw Willow Flycatchers, Plumbeous Vireos, Pygmy Nuthatches, American Redstarts, Ovenbirds, Western Tanagers, and Dark-eyed Juncos. I do a lot of birding by listening to bird songs, and the similar songs of American Robin, Western Tanager, Plumbeous Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, and Black-headed Grosbeak led to a couple of very confusing days for me!!! (I'm normally confused enough without such a challenge!!)

I continue to be amazed at the beauty and diversity of many areas in Banner County. There are a lot of places in that county that have nesting Cassin's Kingbirds. And Blue-gray Gnatcatchers can now be found in many spots in both Banner and Scotts Bluff Counties.

Several of us are helping make arrangements for the 2010 spring Nebraska Ornithologists' Union meeting which will be May 14-16 at Camp Norwesca which is adjacent to Chadron State Park. It should be a fun time with good birding, beautiful scenery, and interesting people!! Put it on your calendar.

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

New Public Lands Opened

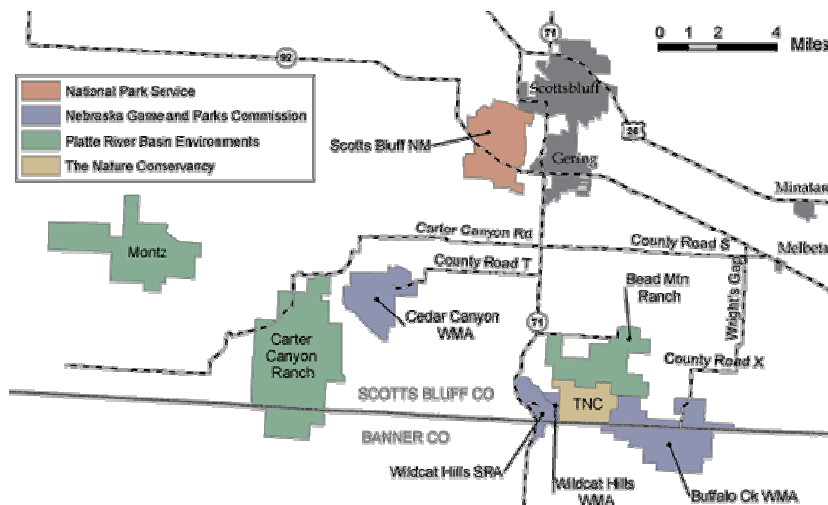
As of August 29th two new areas of public lands in or near the Wildcat Hills are now open and will be great areas for birding. The two are; **The Montz Ranch**, located 14 miles Southwest of Morrill, Nebraska and 3 miles East of the Wyoming-Nebraska border.

The ranch is accessed off Stegel Road with two parking lots available. The topography of the ranch varies from rolling sand sage prairie hills to steep sandstone escarpments. There are natural springs that originate in two woody canyons coming off the west slope of the escarpments. These springs supply a dependable source of water for a variety of wildlife and livestock and previously for ancient humans. The ranch has a rich cultural and archaeological importance for its fossil and artifact discoveries.

Carter Canyon Ranch is located southwest of Gering and is accessed by two parking lots along Carter Canyon Road. It consists of about 5,700 acres in the Wildcat Hills. It encompasses a unique ecosystem containing an unusual diversity of prairie and mountain plant species. The virgin sod is supported by pristine soil ecosystems uniquely linked to native plant communities. There is a wide diversity of wildlife species supported by this vegetation and the topography is enhanced by the escarpments located in the middle of the continental split between eastern and western bird species.

Other public lands along the hills include Bead Mountain Ranch, Cedar Canyon WMA, Buffalo Creek WMA, Wildcats Hills WMA & SRA and others.

This and additional information can be found at www.nebwild.org



Welcome!

A note from our co-presidents

As Wildcat Audubon starts its fall programs, we want to welcome you to participate in any or all the programs available.

Whether it is the birding activities or the evening programs, you are always welcome. Wildcat Audubon tries to make the programs interesting and educational. They are there for you to enjoy.

We therefore welcome you all to participate in any of the Wildcat Audubon activities.

Don and Meredyth Gentry
Co-presidents
Wildcat Audubon Society

Membership information in on the back of the newsletter. 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;

Jerette Dally
Andrew Pierson
Bruce Ludwig
Mr & Mrs Ed Harms,
Fred & Lynn Charles

Thanks for your support

RECYCLE

Bring your aluminum cans to any Wildcat Audubon event or meeting. Please bring your ink jet 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.

Calendar of Events 2009

September 19th

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

Kathy Welfi will have a program on reptile & amphibians or "Herps" as they may be better known. They are fascinating creatures with amazing senses and adaptations. Around before the dinosaurs they are true survivors. Riverside Zoo will present a live animal program with various reptiles and amphibians including an American alligator, ball python, African spurred tortoise, Great Plains toads and more. Participants will see and touch the animals as well as learn interesting biofacts and more about these incredible critters

September 19th

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

September 26th

Bird Banding at the Wildcat Hills Nature Center by RMBO/Nebraska Prairie Partners
Bird banding will begin at 7:30am and continue until about 11:00am.

September 25th -27th

Nebraska Ornithologists Fall Field Day
Valentine NE, open to anyone interested in birds, membership not required to attend. For more information call Alice Kenitz at 308-436-2959 or <http://rip.physics.unk.edu/NOU/> use the newsletter link to Sept 2009

*****FRIDAY*********October 16th*******

General Meeting at the Gering Civic Center, 7:30pm We are having a very special program so have changed the location for this one
Our speaker will be **Michael Forsberg**, renowned conservation and wildlife photographer. He will give a presentation about his new book, "Great Plains-America's Lingerin Wild". His first book, "On Ancient Wings-The Sandhill Cranes of North America" was published in 2004.

His work has appeared in publications such as Audubon, National Geographic, National Wildlife and others. He was also featured on PBS in "Crane Song" This program is free and open to the public, you won't want to miss it. For more information on Michael Forsberg check out his website <http://www.michaelforsberg.com>

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 and the cornfields for Sandhill Crane. We should be back by 1pm

November 21st

General Meeting at the RWMC South Plaza meeting room, 7:30 pm. Kim Nielsen will give a program on fossil fish of the Green River Formation in Wyoming. He will discuss two techniques for finding fossil fish and examples of fish and other fossils will be displayed. Kim and his son Brad have work as fossil hunters at this Kemmerer, Wyoming site for many years.

No General Meeting in December

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

FAIR-TRADE PRODUCTS

Regular Coffee	\$8	_____
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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,
Public Education and other projects through out the year

**If you would like to continue to receive the newsletter by mail please send in this form.
If you want to have it sent to you by email, send an email with "CatPrints Newsletter"
in subject line to Kathy DeLara at renosmom@charter.net**



Wildcat Audubon Society
Membership 2010 or Cat Prints Subscription by Mail

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There is no charge for the Cat Prints Subscription

If you would like to become a local member send \$5.00 to
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NL-0909



Wildcat Audubon Society

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

Save the Date Friday, October 16th
****Michael Forsberg****
See program schedule for more information