

# CAT PRINTS



*Wildcat Audubon Society - Serving the Nebraska Panhandle*

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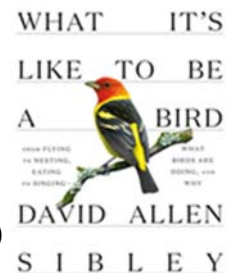
## Kenitz Corner

By Alice Kenitz

I love books, and I love birds. So when I found a book about birds under the Christmas tree, I was excited!!

My new book, "What It's Like to Be a Bird" is written by David Allen Sibley, the author of one of the top bird field guides, "The Sibley Guide to Birds". My new book is full of David A. Sibley's marvelous bird illustrations with a lot of interesting little facts about birds and their lives. I'd like to share a few of those little facts with you.

Small songbirds usually have about 2000 feathers—more in winter and fewer in summer. Larger birds usually have bigger feathers—not more feathers. Water birds have more feathers than land birds—especially in the areas that have more contact with water. Swans have more than 20,000 feathers on the neck alone!!



The fastest animal in the world is the Peregrine Falcon, clocked at 242 mph. The fastest running bird in North America is probably the Wild Turkey at 25 mph. The fastest running bird in the world is the Ostrich—top speed of 60 mph and sustained of 45 mph. And, yes, the coyote is faster than the roadrunner. Fastest wingbeats belong to hummingbirds at over 70 wingbeats per second in the smaller species. Gulls are very versatile and are very good at walking, running, and swimming.

Birds lose 10% of their body weight every night. No wonder birds spend most of their day devoted to finding and consuming food. A single robin can eat about 14 feet of earthworms in a day (Yum!!!!). If you "ate like a bird" you might eat more than 25 large pizzas a day.

Hope you enjoyed some of these very interesting facts about birds. More later!!

## Participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count

(from Project Feeder Watch e-News)

Join bird enthusiasts worldwide next Friday through Monday, **February 12 through 15**, to report birds you see anywhere to the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC).

Similar to Project FeederWatch, the GBBC helps scientists learn about the distribution and abundance of birds. But the GBBC works a little differently. For the GBBC, you count the number of individuals of each species you see during a single counting session, and you submit a checklist for each counting session (not a two-day tally like you do for FeederWatch). You can count in more than one location—just submit a separate checklist for each location each time you count. You can report the same birds to GBBC that you are reporting to Project FeederWatch as well as any other birds you see, even those birds flying overhead that don't count for FeederWatch.

Join thousands of participants around the world, and watch observation lists become glowing lights on the GBBC's bird sightings map. Learn more about the Great Backyard Bird Count at <https://www.birdcount.org/>

The GBBC is an inter-organizational effort between the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the National Audubon Society, and Birds Canada and is made possible in part by founding sponsor Wild Birds Unlimited.

### Interesting Sightings

A Snowy Owl was seen east of Crawford in late December and early January.

The first documented Common Raven in Nebraska was seen south of Harrison on January 1st through January 4th.

Several Mountain Chickadees have been seen in the area the past few months.

A flock of 27 Pinyon Jays have returned to a ranch north west of Dalton this winter.

Gray-crowned Rosy-finches have been seen north of Henry and near Toadstool Park. A few Black Rosy-finches were seen with them.



Snowy Owl by Kathy DeLara

## *Calendar of Events 2021*

We will not have any programs this spring. Hopefully by fall we will be able to schedule some again.

If you would like to give a program, or have an idea for one, please let us know.

Many Audubon Societies across the country have free online programs each month. You can go to Audubon.org and checkout the websites for more information.

<https://www.audubon.org/about/audubon-near-you>

### *Field Trips*

*February 12-15, 2021*

#### **Great Backyard Bird Count**

See previous page

*March 13, 2021*

#### **Crane and Waterfowl Field Trip**

Meet at the RCI parking lot, Ave I and West 27th Street at 8:00am.

We will be birding north of town around the lakes and fields.

We should be back in town by 1:00pm.

*May 22, 2021*

#### **Scotts Bluff County Spring Bird Count**

Meeting time and place to be announced. If the scheduled Nebraska Ornithologists meeting in Gering takes place, our spring bird count will be held in conjunction with the NOU field trips.

*June 5, 2021*

#### **Crescent Lake NWR Field Trip**

Meet at Fresh Foods in Gering at 7:00am. Bring a sack lunch and drinks, we will be back late afternoon. We have scheduled this field trip in previous years and had to cancel because of flooding or bad roads at Crescent Lake. If we can't do it on this day we may change it to sometime in July. Please RSVP for this field trip in-case changes have to be made.

Fall and winter field trips will be scheduled later in the year.

Contact Alice Kenitz or Kathy DeLara for more information on field trips or the bird counts.

## *Join the Wildcat Audubon Society*

**Membership dues are only \$5.00 per year and due in January**

Your dollars help pay for CatPrints newsletter, Public Education and other projects through out the year

**If you would like to get the newsletter by email, send an email with “CatPrints Newsletter” in subject line to Kathy DeLara at [renosmom@charter.net](mailto:renosmom@charter.net) or return the form.**



Wildcat Audubon Society  
Membership 2021

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