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**(Neb.)-Scotts Bluff Monument Visitors To Learn About The Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory**



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 07/05/2013 11:38 AM

(GERING)-Visitors to Scotts Bluff National Monument this weekend are invited to discover how the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory helps protect birds. The observatory monitors and researches bird ecology as well as educating the public and partners with local, state and federal agencies, private citizens, schools, universities and other organizations for bird conservation.

Maggie Vinson with the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory will talk about the observatory's past 25 years and its future on Saturday, July 6th at the ScottsBluffMonument. Her presentation, which begins at 3:00 p.m., will include handouts and pictures of birds that are native to the area. The program will take place inside the visitor center.

Vinson relocated from southwestern New Hampshire to join Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and the Nebraska Prairie Partners team in Scottsbluff in June 2011. She coordinates the Nebraska education and outreach activities, focusing on the wildlife habitat of the ponderosa pine and shortgrass prairie ecosystems. Vinson received her bachelor's in Russian language and literature from SmithCollege in 2005 and her master's in environmental studies/environmental education from Antioch University New England in 2010. She has worked at a variety of field and educational facilities including The Centre for Rainforest Studies in Yungaburra, Australia; Stonewall Farm in Keene, NH; and the Tulsa Zoo.

The monument visitor center is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The summit road is open from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. All trails are open from sunrise until sunset. Feel free to inquire about the Bi-Park Annual Pass valid at both Fort Laramie National Historic Site and Scotts Bluff National Monument. Additional information on monument programs and schedules may be obtained at the visitor center or by calling 308-436-9700.

--Scotts Bluff National Monument