



Trailside Museum entrance, Crawford, NE

August 21, 2022
Crawford, NE to Bridger-Teton National Forest,
Moran, WY

The prairie agate was a decoy. We spent several hours this morning investigating the matter in the Fort Robinson Natural History Museum. Our suspicions were aroused as we went through the exhibits of bird-footprints and pseudo-fossils, and heightened even more as we walked through the gift shop ...



Ominous souvenirs at Trailside Museum gift shop

It was clear we were being watched.

This paranoia was confirmed when we returned to our research vehicle and found a taunting note tucked within our checkout materials, a single wing scrawled above the words “Nice Try.”

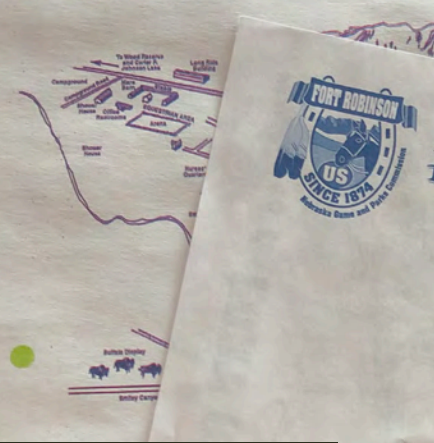
It was a long and demoralizing day of travel through the badlands and northern Wyoming. Not much to report. Tensions have been mounting among the three of us since the fiasco in Crawford. Hoping that a good night’s sleep and fresh mountain air will do all of us some good.

Depiction of "testosterone-crazed" bull mammoths at the Trilside Museum



sdakotabirds.com

Welcome to **FORT ROBINSON**



Taunting note found on windshield

NEBRASKA
- GAME

Nice

Prairie Agates

Much more common than Fairburn agates with more disorganized banding and patterns, but many are really spectacular. Note we have many "tweener" agates that defy easy classification, so some of those are below as well. Here are a few samples. [Click to view an entire page devoted to Prairie Agates.](#)

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | | |
| "Egg Sandwich" - sprinkled with "paprika" | "Jupiter" - Big red spot, get it? :-) | "Purple Drusy" - large, egg-shaped agate with drusy purplish centers |
| | | |
| "Rainbow Prairie" - Showing the variety of colors a prairie agate can have | "Big Red" - A favorite. Most prairie agates we find primarily have rusty or creamy tones, but this guy has a gorgeous array of red colors, and some really intricate patterns. | "The Mut" - An agate that doesn't know what it wants to be. Eyes like bubblegum agate, some like Fairburnish bands, and prairie agate features. |

[Many more Prairie Agate photos found here \(click\)](#)

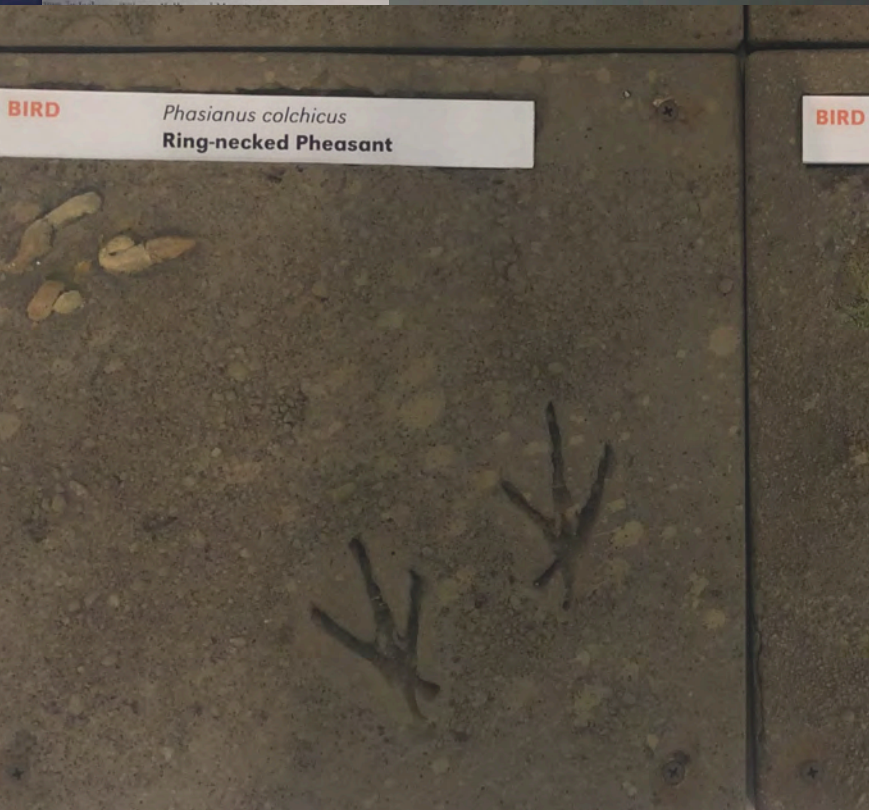
The other common bubblegum agate. Here are a few examples. [Click to view an entire page devoted to Bubblegum Agates.](#)

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| | | |
| "Hidden Beauty" - The final product of three months of continuous polishing, taking a featureless, lumpy little black stone, and revealing this gorgeous interior. | "Red Fox" - Reddish and creamy tones seem to be the most common colors on bubblegum agates we find, some with red "eyes" on a creamy background, some vice-versa. | "Brain Coral" - A raw, unpolished bubblegum agate just as it was found on the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands |
| | | |
| "Holy Crap!" - The most appropriately named stone out here. This was a little black chunk before throwing it in the polisher. It's one of those stones that when you first open the polisher and see it, you let out a loud "Holy crap!", given the unexpected beauty that resulted from the polish. A small stone, but one of my absolute favorites. | "The Imposter" - Polished bubblegums often seem to have these thin, parallel bands. They're often "Fairburn-like", with very thin, parallel bands, even having the fortification pattern of a Fairburn. But the patterns are always very fine, with very thin banding. | |



Book by potential associate of The Order of the Third Bird (excerpt)

NORTHERN FLICKER
Colaptes auratus
Berbortons and moratral and piedmont forests. Widespread and common in deciduous trees Around Moose, Colter Bay, and on trails in Jerry and S...





Ominous souvenirs at Trailside Museum



nps.gov

Landbird Monitoring at Agate Fossil Beds National Monument

Agate Fossil Beds National Monument



Photograph at agate fossil beds of sturnella neglecta, a red herring



BERT RAYNES is an amateur birder. He finds birdwatching enjoyable, and wishes you the same.

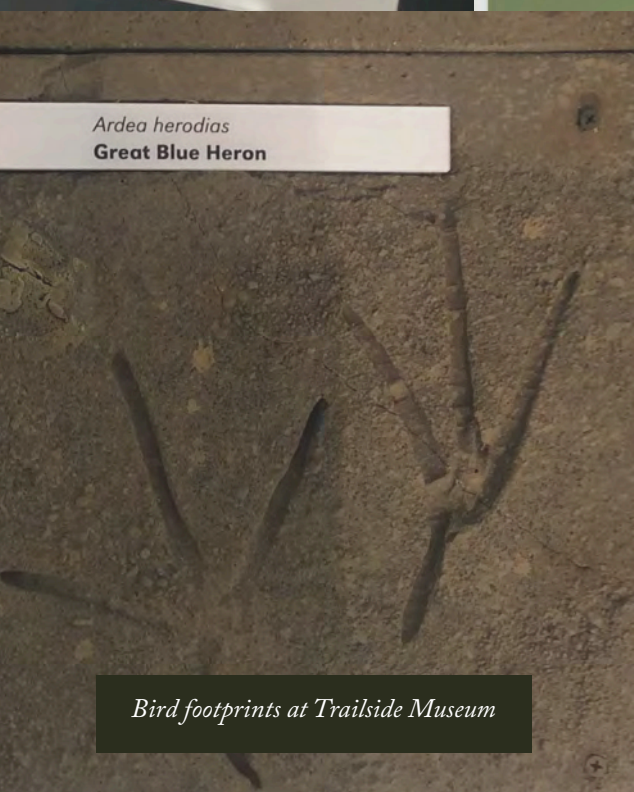
WHAT WE HAVE HERE is a book that I can't categorize. But then that is to be expected. I defy anyone to categorize the author, Bert Raynes. It is a book for the browser as well as useful to the bird fanatic. More importantly, it will be most useful for the majority of us who just want to enjoy birds by learning more about new species or familiar species in different situations without the threat of cerebral overload.

This book features sixty species that have obviously been carefully chosen. The featured species will give the reader a good cross section of common species, the "high profile" birds; the unique species for which one has as good or better chance of observing in the Jackson Hole area as anywhere else in the United States; and some of Uncle Bert's favorites. This cross section gives serious birders, novices, or the experienced hobbyist, a decisive head start on enjoying and learning more about the avifauna of this unique area.

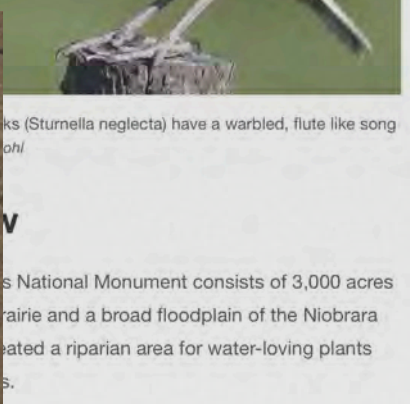
BOB OAKLEAF (excerpt from the Foreword)
Non-game Bird Biologist, Wyoming Game and Fish Department

ISBN 978-0-931895-00-5

Book by potential associate of The Order of the Third Bird



Bird footprints at Trailside Museum



Fossils of "testosterone-crazed" bull mammoths at the Trailside Museum





Above: G. Willikers, Beaver Creek, WY

Below: G. Willikers, Orrin S. Underwood, and Stevie Knauss (left to right), Beaver Creek, WY





Above: Jackson Lake, Bridger Teton National Forest
Below: G. Willikers and Orrin S. Underwood at Jackson Lake, Bridger Teton National Forest

