

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Caleb Caton began working Dec. 7 at the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office in Imperial as a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist.

The Fremont, Neb. native will be increasing and promoting wildlife habitat through government programs such as EQIP and CRP.

He replaces Travis Runia, who accepted a job in South Dakota this fall. The position is overseen by the NRCS, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory.

The 26-year old graduated from Fremont High School in 2002, then received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology in 2007 from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

He received a Masters Degree in Biology last spring, with a study of the effects of dam closures on cottonwood growth.

Caton has also done an internship with the National Science Foundation in South Carolina with a dietary study of coyotes on gray and red fox.

For two years he was employed by the Corps of Engineers in Yankton, SD as part of his Master's program. This past summer he mapped the bottom contours of the Missouri River for the Missouri River Institute.

Caton enjoys hunting, fishing and training dogs. He is living in Wauneta. His family lives in central Iowa.