

THE BUZZ



KIDS IN ACTION



Spotting Ladybugs

Last spring, six-year-old Alyson Yates read in *Ranger Rick* about The Lost Ladybug Project. She learned that scientists at New York's Cornell University are trying to solve an important puzzle: Why are some native ladybug species disappearing? The scientists have been asking people to hunt for ladybugs and send them photos of any they find. The team then examines the photos for clues as to which species live where.

Alyson began looking with her mom for "ladies" in her Oregon backyard. Before long, she discovered a huge number of nine-spotted ones. Turns out, these are a native species that the Cornell scientists were interested in. The scientists were so excited that they sent a team to Oregon to collect some of Alyson's nine-spots.

"Alyson's ladybugs seem small," says one team member. "So maybe the native species aren't getting enough to eat—and that's why they're dying out."

Rangers: To find out more, visit lostladybug.org online. —R.R.

AMAZING ANIMALS

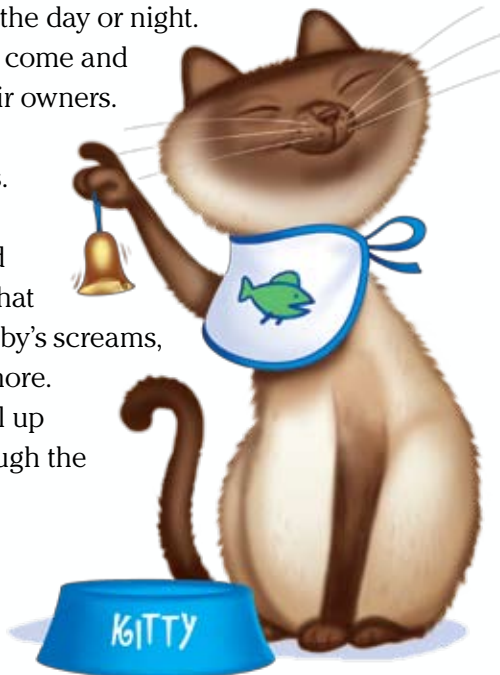
Being Catty Pays Off

Scientists have recently proved what many cat owners already know: Some house cats are able to trick their people into feeding them at almost any time of the day or night.

When hungry, these cats come and sit really, really close to their owners. Then they start calling. But they don't use just any calls. These are an annoying combination of purring and crying. And, although not that loud, the cat calls, like a baby's screams, are nearly impossible to ignore.

So, the owners rush to fill up kitty's food dish—even though the cat's normal dinner time may be hours away.

Guess the cats have their humans wrapped around their paws!



MARK THIS DATE!

Ribbiting News

April 30 is Save the Frogs Day. Visit savethefrogs.com/day online to find out why frogs need saving and what you can do to help them. And while you're at this site, check out how to enter the froggie art, poetry, and essay contests.

