



# THE Warbler

March/April 2010

News of the Audubon Society of Greater Denver

ISBN: 1531-2283 Volume 44, No. 2

41 Years of Service to the Greater Denver Community

## Join ASGD's Volunteer Naturalists Program

by Karl Brummert, Audubon Nature Center Director

ASGD Naturalists play a valuable role at the Audubon Nature Center and in our school, public, and adult programs. We provide interactive experiences for all ages with topics ranging from ecology, birding, plant identification, and outdoor skills. Our Naturalists assist at the nature center with programs and nature hikes, as well as teaching in the schools or leading nature hikes at locations throughout the Denver area.

### Benefits:

- Gain a valuable and rewarding volunteer experience
- Meet and socialize with other people interested in birds, nature and the outdoors
- Expand your knowledge of Colorado's natural history and ecology through ongoing workshops, trainings, programs, and hikes
- Know that you are making a difference in a child's – and adult's – life connecting them with nature and developing a sense of stewardship
- Have fun and enjoy the outdoor life!



*Young and old alike enjoy the outdoor learning opportunities at the Audubon Nature Center at Chatfield State Park.*

### Requirements:

- Attend the five core training sessions: Colorado Ecosystems, Denver Plants, Bird Identification, Teaching Techniques, and the Ecology of Chatfield
- Attend our Naturalist Gatherings & Continuing Education on the third Saturday of each month
- Attend at least five public programs each year (Outdoor Explorer Certification, Go Wild in Denver, etc.)
- Commit to a minimum 50 hours volunteer service per year (leading hikes, public programs, nature center activities, and/or school groups)
- Ability to adapt to many different audiences, weather situations, and time constraints
- Understand and support the mission, policies, and procedures of ASGD

For more information and to sign-up for the Spring Core Training Sessions beginning in late March, call Karl Brummert or Julie Dorosz at 303-973-9530.

## Kid's Birding Club off to a BIG Start

by Karl Brummert, Audubon Nature Center Director

Since the Audubon Nature Center opened in January 2009, we have met many parents, children and teens passionate about birding. This goes completely against the pop culture image of birders: either retired women or researchers in the field. How exciting! There are youth ages 6 to 17 skilled at identifying birds, keeping life lists, adept at using field guides, and wearing binoculars on all outdoor excursions. By the end of the year, we realized it was time to kickoff a birding club for youth.

On Sunday, January 31, 2010 we held our first meeting, and the turnout was higher than we had anticipated: thirty parents, children, and teens. Enthusiasm filled the room, and rather than discussing what we should call the club or what direction it would take, everyone preferred to go outside—no surprise there.

If you are a young birder or know any young birders, join us on March 28 for our monthly meeting from 1-3pm at the Audubon Nature Center at Chatfield. Please call to RSVP: 303-973-9530.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE-

At a special ASGD Board meeting recently, someone asked, "If we don't speak for the birds, who will?" The answer is that we must, and we must act regardless of whether anyone else acts or speaks.

During the 2009 Urban Denver Christmas Count, a Western Meadowlark was NOT seen for the first time in over 50 years. All perching bird numbers were down. Only 74 percent of a 21 year average were seen. It is getting quieter out there. I cannot imagine a quiet backyard feeder. One of the reasons is our cats.

House cats in the United States number around 80 million with as many as 53 million roaming outside. Feral house cats number 60-100 million. Collectively, these cats kill more than one million birds each day, over 365 million birds each year. (Steve Holmer, Director, Bird Conservation Alliance & Senior Policy Advisor American Bird Conservancy). We can reduce those deaths in our area by keeping our cats inside. We can increase the chances of song filled springs in the years to come.

Some say that it is natural for cats to kill birds, but our house cats are not natural predators of our birds. They are imports to our country, an invasive species. Our meadowlarks and Mourning Doves and their kin did not evolve with house cats as predators. It is not simply life in the jungle; it is an invading army with superior firepower and numbers.

We must do what we can. Please keep your pet house cats inside or put a bell on them or do something to save our birds. Please!



Tom Parchman, President

## ASGD WISH LIST

Wood Stove Pellets, Bird Seed & Suet, Gift Cards for local bookstores to expand our Children's Library

## Call for Nominations

The ASGD Board of Directors needs dedicated, enthusiastic volunteers to serve for three year terms on the Board. If you are interested in being considered, or would like to nominate someone, please call the office at 303-973-9530 or e-mail [rshank@denveraudubon.org](mailto:rshank@denveraudubon.org) or talk with a current Board member.

## ASGD welcomes New Friends Members

Thank you for joining ASGD. We hope you will take pride in the award-winning programs your "new" organization offers, and will join us at the Audubon Center at Chatfield for Outdoor Adventures.

Allen Staver, Bill Hopping, Carol & Werner Duecker, Carol Trueblood, Carol Weale, Cephas Rogers, Cia Wenzel, Connie Abramson, Cynthia Benegar, Deborah Gauchat, Elizabeth Karpinski-Vonne, Gail Granillo, Jason & Tracy King, Joann Pettinicchio, Kathryn & Bill Stewart, Kiki Widjaja, L. Dianne Sundet, Larry Amsler, Lynn Sibbet, Martha Fulford, Martha Keister, Nan Campbell, Patricia Cameron, Paulina Erices, Robert Montgomery, Sharon Erlacher, Susan Gambrill



9308 S. Wadsworth Boulevard  
Littleton, Colorado 80128  
303-973-9530 • Fax 303-973-1038  
[www.denveraudubon.org](http://www.denveraudubon.org)

### ASGD OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

#### President Tom Parchman

[tsp716@msn.com](mailto:tsp716@msn.com)

#### 1st Vice President

##### Arlene Raskin

[raskinarlene@comcast.net](mailto:raskinarlene@comcast.net)

#### 2nd Vice President Ann Bonnell

[abonnell@juno.com](mailto:abonnell@juno.com)

#### Treasurer Carol DeStefanis

[carmdstf@aol.com](mailto:carmdstf@aol.com)

#### Secretary Polly Reetz

[reetzfam@juno.com](mailto:reetzfam@juno.com)

#### Joe Bartell

[lesliezeus1938@yahoo.com](mailto:lesliezeus1938@yahoo.com)

#### Doris Cruze

[cruzeduo@aol.com](mailto:cruzeduo@aol.com)

#### Mackenzie Goldthwait

[kezungold@comcast.net](mailto:kezungold@comcast.net)

#### Ken Gordon

[ken@kengordon.com](mailto:ken@kengordon.com)

#### Doug Kibbe

[dpkibbe@msn.com](mailto:dpkibbe@msn.com)

#### Harriet Stratton

[hs10@comcast.net](mailto:hs10@comcast.net)

### ASGD STAFF

#### Executive Director

##### Carl Norbeck

[cnorbeck@denveraudubon.org](mailto:cnorbeck@denveraudubon.org)

#### Audubon Center Director

##### Karl Brummert

[kbrummert@denveraudubon.org](mailto:kbrummert@denveraudubon.org)

#### Office Manager

##### Rhonda Shank

[info@denveraudubon.org](mailto:info@denveraudubon.org)

#### Bookkeeper

##### Maile Jones

[finance@denveraudubon.org](mailto:finance@denveraudubon.org)

### MISSION

ASGD is a nonprofit group dedicated to maintaining the health of natural ecosystems through education, advocacy and research, with primary focus on birds and other wild-life and ecosystems of the South Platte River watershed.

### MEMBERSHIP

FRIENDS OF ASGD receive *The Warbler* and additional membership benefits. Members of the National Audubon Society in the Denver Metro Area receive 3 complimentary copies of the *The Warbler* annually.

The Warbler is published bimonthly by the Audubon Society of Greater Denver (ASGD).

Produced by C. Dale Flowers  
Flowers & Associates, Inc.  
[art@cdale.com](mailto:art@cdale.com)  
© 2010

# ASGD SPECIAL EVENTS

## The Owl And The Woodpecker

Monday, March 15

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Presenter: Paul Bannick – Birder, Photographer, and Author

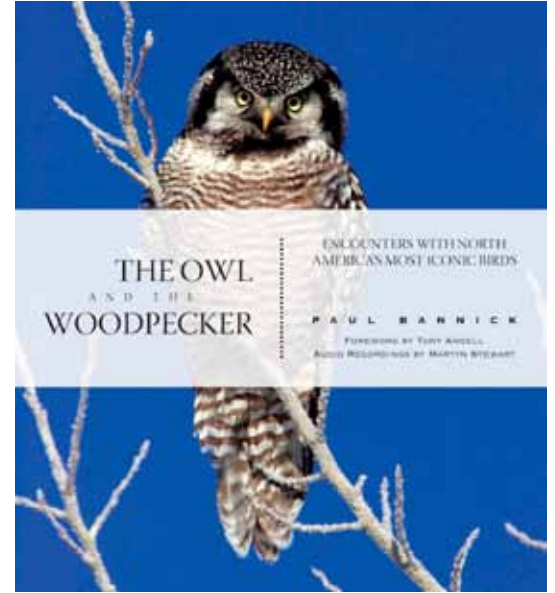
Pre-registration requested

Call 303-973-9530 or [rshank@denveraudubon.org](mailto:rshank@denveraudubon.org)

Donations to ASGD are appreciated.

**MEETING PLACE:** REI Flagship Store, 1416 Platte Street, Denver. Please check their website for directions; if you get lost on the way, their number is 303-756-3100.

**DESCRIPTION:** Paul Bannick is the author of *The Owl and The Woodpecker: Encounters with North America's Most Iconic Birds*. This is a comprehensive look at all 41 owl and woodpecker species in North America and the ways in which their life histories are intertwined with each other and with their habitats. The program consists of stunning images, powerful audio and stories from thousands of hours in the field. Check out his website at [www.paulbannick.com](http://www.paulbannick.com).  
**Copies of Paul's book will be on sale at the event.**



### WHAT IS A "BIRDATHON"?

It is an opportunity to have fun, challenge yourself, and raise money for a good cause. During any 24 hour period in May, Audubon Society of Greater Denver members and other birders survey the countryside looking for as many different bird species as possible. It's similar to a walkathon, except instead of walking, participants go birding in teams of two or more people to raise money for ASGD.

### HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

Form a team, pick a name (be creative!), and scour neighborhoods and natural areas for 24 hours on your selected "big day". Find sponsors for your team - ask friends, family members, neighbors, co-workers, businesses, or anyone willing to help you out. Can't make it on the big day? Join by pledging a contribution to an existing team!

### HOW MUCH SHOULD SOMEONE PLEDGE?

Sponsors pledge an amount per species identified, such as 25¢, 50¢, or \$1. Or, they can pledge a fixed amount such as \$25, \$50, or \$100. After the big day, teams collect from their sponsors and bring it to the ASGD office no later than June 15. "Per species" pledge amounts will be calculated based on the total species seen.

### WHY BIRDATHON?

The proceeds support a good cause: ASGD programs for all ages. Another good reason? PRIZES! This year, prizes will be awarded to the team that raises the most money and to the team that counts the most species within the 24 hour period. Youth teams (18 and under) are encouraged to participate. We'll have a prize for the youth team with the most species counted.

**So get out there, count birds, make a difference, and enjoy the excitement of Birdathon!**

**Rules, further details, and Birdathon forms available on the ASGD website in April or by contacting: Doug Kibbe at [dpkibbe@msn.com](mailto:dpkibbe@msn.com).**

# ASGD SPECIAL EVENTS

## Lois Webster Fund Annual Reception and Program

**Sunday, May 2**

**5:00 p.m.: Wine and Cheese Reception, 5:45-8:30 p.m.: Program**

**Location: Audubon Center at Chatfield**

**(For carpooling information and questions, call Margot at 303-733-2868.)**

Come and enjoy a glass of wine and appetizers while learning about the latest research projects funded by the Lois Webster Fund! The Fund hosts this annual event to say THANK YOU to all of our wonderful contributors and to introduce the Lois Webster Fund to others who are not familiar with its activities. We look forward to seeing you at the reception.

Dr. Robert Schorr will discuss his research on the rare Townsend's big-eared bat.

Dr. Boyce Drummond will reveal secrets of the life cycle of the endangered Pawnee montane skipper butterfly.

Dr. Victoria Dreitz will give us an Update on Mountain Plover Research.

---

## SAVE THE DATE

## ASGD's Spring Reception and Silent Auction

**Friday, May 14**

**6:00 - 9:00 p.m.: Reception and Silent Auction**

**Location: Pat McClearn's home, Cherry Creek Area, Denver**

**(Directions will be provided upon registration)**

**Cost: \$41 per person (That's one dollar for every year ASGD has been serving Denver)**

**RSVP to 303-973-9530 or [info@denveraudubon.org](mailto:info@denveraudubon.org)**

Back by popular demand! Last year ASGD's 40th Anniversary, and the Founder's Celebration hosted by Pat McClearn, turned out to be a great success! Join us again this year and enjoy an evening with friends, support the protection of birds and their habitat, and learn about the exciting new developments at ASGD and at the Audubon Nature Center.

**Hors d'oeuvres and sweets, wine and beer, and non-alcoholic beverages will be served.**



*Snow Goose from Birding the Bosque del Apache  
Photo by Marilyn Rhodes*



AUDUBON  
SOCIETY  
of GREATER DENVER

### Leave A Legacy

### Protect Birds! Protect Habitat! Educate the Next Generation!

The Audubon Society of Greater Denver has initiated a Planned Giving Program. Making a gift or a bequest is becoming a popular way to leave a lasting legacy. Protecting the birds, wildlife and places that make Denver special might be simpler than you think.

For more information, call ASGD at 303-973-9530 or send an e-mail to [cnorbeck@denveraudubon.org](mailto:cnorbeck@denveraudubon.org)

# Lavonne Axford, Friend of Audubon

*Memories compiled by Doris Cruze, ASGD Board Member*

On Friday, January 15, 2010, Lavonne Axford passed away quietly, surrounded by family. At her request, there will be no services and no public announcement of her passing. Her ASGD family will miss her, and plans are underway for a reception this spring to honor her memory.

Lavonne was recruited by ASGD founder Lois Webster to join the group. Although she was never a serious birder, Lavonne took Hugh and Urling Kingery's Beginning Birdwatching Class and went on to become president of ASGD. She respected the mission of the organization and the dedicated members passionate about protecting the environment. Working long hours as a law librarian, Lavonne still found time to serve on the board of directors, serve several terms as president, and get very involved in the Colorado Audubon Council, a group of leaders from Audubon chapters statewide. She knew all the leaders and attended meetings all over the state, gaining respect, successes, and collaborations with other chapters. Later, the Colorado Audubon office replaced the Council.

Susan Smith, former ASGD Executive Director, remembers Lavonne as a wonderful leader who had her own way of doing things. She would never stand at a podium or a microphone. She never wrote the president's message for The Warbler newsletter and never cut a ribbon for openings, always delegating these and other duties to Susan or one of the other officers. John Wright said, "She was quietly determined in her zeal for our organization. She didn't take much, if any, of the credit for the many accomplishments, preferring to shine the light on others."

Lavonne's greatest talent was her ability to get things done. She knew how to work with people and she ran board meetings in her own informal way, always doing all her research and preparations well before hand, talking to everyone about important issues and making sure she had the votes needed before an issue came on the board's agenda.

After her husband passed away, Lavonne adopted ASGD as her family. She was an inspiring mentor for ASGD staff, board members, and volunteers. At least twice in her many years of service to ASGD, she stepped

up and served as president when she was needed. Once in the 1980's when the president resigned, and again in the 1990's during an extremely stressful time, her leadership was needed and she responded. Only when her health began to fail did she even begin to slow down.

She grew orchids. She enjoyed travel and the opera. She converted an upstairs bedroom in her home to house a large loom for her weaving, and she even



wrote a book on textiles. Her greatest love was her dogs, Mikey and Calli. They were her "kids" and she thought nothing of loading them into her Volkswagen van and taking off for a romp at the Chatfield dog park or a three-month-long trip to Alaska. Karen Hollweg remembers attending a holiday party at Lavonne's home and enjoying the art and all the interesting pieces Lavonne collected in her travels. Margot Wynkoop and Urling Kingery remember the wonderful parties Lavonne hosted for Audubon, with Lavonne preparing the food herself. John says his memories include a huge plant that "Out of the corner of her living room, the plant (I think it was a rubber plant) climbed up the corner and then, with Lavonne's assistance of ceiling mounted supports, it

spread across the entire living room and even into the adjoining loft type living area. It had the feel of a tropical canopy and, given where we are, was wonderfully unique, as was Lavonne."

I remember first meeting Lavonne when I volunteered to recruit members for the Birdathon. Lois Webster and Lavonne encouraged me and were so supportive, I ran the Birdathon for three years and gained a great deal of experience and insight from working with those ladies. Later, as Lavonne realized it was time for her to slow down, she helped me make the transition from board member to ASGD President. Her enthusiasm, her positive outlook, and her genuine commitment to ASGD showed me how a president should do the job.

Thank you, Lavonne. We will miss you and we will keep you in our hearts forever.

**If you wish to contribute to a memorial fund in Lavonne's memory, please send donations to Axford Memorial Fund, Audubon Society of Greater Denver, 9308 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Littleton, CO 80128**



# Eagle Eye

*Watching Public Policy for the Environment*  
by Polly Reetz, ASGD Conservation Committee Chair

Many of the debates in this year's legislative session will center around money; the State has a constitutional mandate to balance the budget, and the hard fact is that not enough money has been coming in to fund state programs at the levels to which we are accustomed. That means cuts – again.

It's not a question of cutting waste and fraud – we're 'way beyond that now. All the cash funds the State has set up over the years, for example the Endangered Species Conservation Trust that funds recovery measures for endangered fish, have been cleaned out. Now we're down to bare bones: the severance tax on mineral extractive industries, and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), funded from lottery proceeds, among others, are getting a hard look as sources of revenue for various State programs.

For example, Senate Bill (SB) 98, sponsored by Sen. Tochtrop and Rep. Sonnenburg, would take \$7.5 million from GOCO revenues and give it to the Department of Agriculture for noxious weed control and funding soil conservation districts. There is nothing wrong with noxious weed control, but GOCO was not set up to fund that, or to support conservation districts. Audubon will be working with the Colorado Counties Inc. to block the bill and keep GOCO's funds where they are supposed to be. Note: In past years, legislators have proposed taking GOCO money and putting it into education. This is the main reason GOCO was put into the Colorado constitution, where legislators cannot change it from year to year.

## The main environmental bills this year will tackle:

- 1) Increasing the Renewable Energy Standard (RES) for the state, that now requires investor-owned utilities like Xcel to generate 20% of their energy from renewable sources by 2020. This bill would raise the standard from 20% to 30%. It also requires a graduated percentage of that energy to be from individual home systems – this is also referred to as distributive generation technologies. Rural Electrification Associations wouldn't be affected. The bill is Gov. Ritter's number one priority and his office will be pushing it hard. Audubon wants the bill to include standards for siting renewable energy facilities like wind turbine – we have been asking for this for years. If the bill doesn't include them, we will not oppose the bill but will not work for its passage either.
- 2) Defense of the new oil and gas regulations. In 2007 the Legislature passed measures dictating that the State Oil and Gas Conservation Commission rewrite rules governing oil and gas developments, to include measures to protect public health and safety, and wildlife habitat. After 18 months of stakeholder meetings, public hearings, and agency deliberation, the regulations were issued in 2009. The Colorado Oil and Gas Association immediately filed suit, claiming that there was no public input despite the fact that

oil company representatives often outnumbered everyone else in stakeholder meetings. Meanwhile the regulations have taken effect. Oil and gas interests are pushing receptive legislators to gut the new regulations; Audubon will spend whatever time and energy it takes to fight off such efforts.

- 3) Requiring water providers over a certain size to report annually on:
  - a) the population sectors they serve (residential, municipal, agricultural, recreational, etc)
  - b) the amount of water conserved, by sector, and
  - c) an overall population estimate. This puts data that is currently collected but widely scattered, into one data base. The providers have ample leeway in the manner in which they report the information – Denver Water, for example, already collects it and could simply send it on to the State. Such a centralized source will be of enormous help in evaluating water conservation efforts in Colorado. (House Bill 1051).
- 4) Mining waste cleanup. The Cotter Corporation wants to handle higher-level waste; there is a bill to require firms to clean up their waste before they can get a permit to expand operations.
- 5) The perennial question of whether rafting companies can float through private property. Floating on the stream itself is not considered trespass, but it's not clear whether a rafter who touches the bottom or bank or gets out to portage around an obstacle is trespassing on private land. Property owners and commercial rafters will face off on this one – it will be a huge fight.

As ever, if you want to read the bills themselves or get other information about the legislature, you can go to [www.leg.state.co.gov](http://www.leg.state.co.gov) for more information. You can also get on Colorado Audubon's alert list by contacting them: [www.coloradoaudubon.org](http://www.coloradoaudubon.org).



*Gambel's Quail from Birding the Bosque Del Apache*  
Photo by Marilyn Rhodes

# FIELD TRIPS, CLASSES & PROGRAMS

For all programs that require registration call 303.973.9530 or [info@denveraudubon.org](mailto:info@denveraudubon.org)

The Audubon Center is located on Waterton Road off S. Wadsworth Blvd 4.4 miles south of C-470.

## ~EARN A CERTIFICATE IN OUTDOOR ADVENTURE~

Do you wish you knew more about being prepared for outdoor adventures? Do you often wonder what those plants, birds, and other wildlife are that you encounter on the trail?

The Audubon Society of Greater Denver is kicking off a new series for people either hesitant to venture outdoors or who do hike often but want to know more about "what's out there."

### Your adventure includes

- Be Prepared for the Outdoors
- GPS for Beginners
- Map & Compass Basics
- Birding 101
- Mammals of Denver
- Front Range Habitats II: Prairies
- Front Range Habitats I: Ponds and Rivers
- Front Range Habitats III: Foothills
- Common Plants of Denver
- Reptiles & Amphibians of Denver

Bring along your family and friends and explore together with this lighthearted, fun and, of course, informative series. Go at your own pace – we'll offer multiple sessions each weekend throughout the year at the Audubon Nature Center at Chatfield. When you complete all ten sessions, you receive an official ASGD Certificate in Outdoor Adventure!

### Series begins

Saturday, April 3 - Be Prepared for the Outdoors

Saturday, April 24 - Map & Compass Basics

You must become an ASGD Friends member to participate  
For more information/details and to register, please call 303-973-9530

*Disclaimer: Our certificate does not prepare you for a solo journey across the Continental Divide, but hopefully will spark your interest in such epic possibilities.*

## ~PROGRAMS AT THE AUDUBON NATURE CENTER~

### Walk the Wetlands

Sunday, March 7, 9am

Sunday, April 4, 8am (note time change)

Leaders: Hugh and Urling Kingery (303-814-2723)  
and Master Birders

Pre-registration NOT required  
Donations to ASGD appreciated

**DESCRIPTION:** Walk along the South Platte River exploring ponds and habitats for spring migrants and residents. Dress for the weather. Bring: Water, snack, binoculars and field guides - loaners available.

### Bluebird Weekend

Saturday, March 27, 10am-2pm

Sunday, March 28, 10am-2pm

Pre-registration NOT required

**DESCRIPTION:** Experts from the Colorado Bluebird Project will be available to answer questions about bluebirds and other birds that use nestboxes. They'll describe the natural history and habitat needs of bluebirds, demonstrate how to monitor nest boxes with minimal impact, and perhaps convince you to help monitor a nest box trail or establish your own! Watch a short video that reveals happenings inside a nest box. There will also be activities for all ages.

**Cedar nestboxes for sale: \$25 each.**

# FIELD TRIPS, CLASSES & PROGRAMS

For all programs that require registration call 303.973.9530 or [info@denveraudubon.org](mailto:info@denveraudubon.org)

The Audubon Center is located on Waterton Road off S. Wadsworth Blvd 4.4 miles south of C-470.

## Bird Calls, Songs, and Other Noises

Saturday, March 27, 8am-11am

Leader: Alison Kondler, ASGD Master Birder

Fee: \$10/Friends member; \$12/non-members

Pre-registration required – Limit 25

**DESCRIPTION:** One of the more difficult aspects of birding is learning bird sounds. Luckily you don't have to rely on just your auditory memory to "tune-in" to the songs and calls of birds. Learn bird sounds using fun and creative memory techniques. We'll start with an indoor presentation then head out on an easy walk to listen to the birds. Bring binoculars, water and snacks.

---

## Dusk into Darkness Walk

Friday, April 2, 7:30–9:30pm

\$10/Friends member; \$12 non-members

Families: Friends members

(\$10 adults, \$5 children under 12)

Non-members (\$12 adults, \$7 children under 12)

Pre-registration required

**DESCRIPTION:** As dusk turns to dark, discover how nocturnal creatures have adapted to communicate with each other and their surroundings. Expand your senses as we walk along the ponds and South Platte River habitats. A campfire and snacks welcome us back from the walk. Unglue yourself from Friday night TV, get out, and explore nature near home.

---

## SPECIAL--Digiscoping Workshop

Saturday, April 3, 2-7pm

Leaders: Clay Taylor of Swarovski Optik and Tom Bush of Front Range Birding Company

\$8/Friends member; \$11 non-members

Pre-registration is required

**DESCRIPTION:** Clay and Tom give classroom presentations, demonstrate equipment in the field, and photograph live in-the-wild birds including raptors. After taking photographs in the field, a review of the experience takes place back in the classroom with a demonstration of Photo Shop software. On hand will be the latest equipment from Swarovski, Leica, Zeiss, and Vortex, at a minimum. No matter what your experience level, if you are interested in what's new in wildlife/outdoor photography and/or learning more about the exploding popularity of "digiscoping" then this is a perfect opportunity for you!

## Bird Courtship in the Rockies

Thursday, April 22, 6:30-9pm

Thursday, April 29, 6:30-9pm

Instructor: Tina Jones (303-906-5479)

\$30/Friends member; \$35/non-member

Pre-registration required

**DESCRIPTION:** Birdwatching is more fun when you understand why birds do what they do, particularly during courtship and nesting. Learn how Common Nighthawks, Wilson's Snipe, hummingbirds, and some grouse make bizarre courtship sounds with feathers and air sacs. Learn about strategies male and female birds use to attract each other and how birds raise their young. What Colorado birds mate for life and who sneaks around? Discover how to attract native nesting birds to your yard, no matter at what elevation you live.

---

## NEW – Mark Your Calendars – Pre-school Activity Hour!

For children ages 3-6 (and parents/guardians, too!)

Wednesdays in April & May, 10-11am

Friends members: \$5 per child and their adult;

\$2 each additional child

Non-members: \$8 per child and their adult;

\$4 each additional child

Pre-registration required

**DESCRIPTION:** Enjoy story time, songs, crafts, and outdoor activities focusing on nature themes such as rocks, seeds, birds, and frogs.

---

## NEW –Register Now – Audubon Adventure Summer Camp!

For children entering grades 3-5

Tuesday-Friday, July 6-9, 9am-3:30pm

Fee: \$265/child

Register with Colorado Academy Summer Programs  
Go to <http://www.coloradoacademy.org/> and choose  
"Beyond the Classroom – Summer Programs –  
Academic Camps"

**DESCRIPTION:** Spend a week hiking, pond mucking, and bird watching with the Audubon Society of Greater Denver at Chatfield State Park. Catch tadpoles, net bugs, search for animal tracks, examine nature artifacts, and make nature crafts. Learn how to use a compass and map to locate treasures during a nature scavenger hunt. Identify and count birds like a real scientist.

# FIELD TRIPS, CLASSES & PROGRAMS

For all programs that require registration call 303.973.9530 or [info@denveraudubon.org](mailto:info@denveraudubon.org)

## ~PROGRAMS AT OTHER LOCATIONS~

### Hints of Spring in Washington Park

**Saturday, March 6, 10am-11:30am**

**Leader: Barbara Masoner**

**FREE!**

**Pre-registration NOT required**

**MEETING PLACE:** Parking on the NW corner of South High School (on Louisiana and Franklin)

**DESCRIPTION:** Spring is in the air. On this urban hike we'll look and listen for signs of spring. How is nature preparing for this season of new beginnings? Dress in layers as the weather is variable this time of the year. Bring along binoculars and water.

### The Search for the White-tailed Ptarmigan

**Saturday, March 27, 9am-late afternoon**

**Leaders: MacKenzie Goldthwait and Doug Kibbe**

**\$10 donation suggested**

**Pre-registration required**

**MEETING PLACE:** Grant, Colorado - more directions when you register

**DESCRIPTION:** Join us for a unique trip to Guanella Pass to search for the elusive White-tailed Ptarmigan. Think SNOWSHOES. Participants should be in good physical condition, bring their own snowshoes and expect to hike up to 5 miles (round trip) at high elevation. Winter gear, appropriate clothing, and a packed lunch are needed. Be prepared to cope with current weather and birding conditions, including the possibility of cancellation. Limited to 15 participants.

### Nesting Raptors of the Front Range

**Chose One – Saturday, March 27, or Sunday,**

**March 28, 9am- 3pm**

**Leaders: Harold and Betty Oliver**

**(303-936-6902)**

**\$10/Friends member; \$12/non-member**

**Pre-registration required;**

**Limited to 14 participants**

**MEETING PLACE:** Exit 1-25 at Exit #225 at 136th Avenue. Meet at Walmart parking lot (north end) on west side of 1-25. Bring your lunch or buy at McDonalds.

**DESCRIPTION:** This trip is back by popular demand. The Oliver's, who scout nesting locations before the trip, can almost guarantee you'll see Bald Eagles, Great-horned Owls, and Red-tailed Hawks with hatchlings. Bring binoculars, a scope if you have one, and field guides. This is mostly a car trip with very little walking.

### Greater Sage Grouse on the Lek, Walden, Colorado

**Friday--Saturday April 9 and 10, 7pm (Trip #1)**

**Saturday--Sunday April 10 and 11, 7pm (Trip #2)**

**Leaders: Jessi Oberbeck and Dick Anderson**

**Pre-registration required**

**Option 1. Trip #1 or Trip #2. \$170 Friends member, double occupancy; \$195 Friends member, single.**

**Non-members add \$40. Includes one night's lodging at North Park Inn (a new Walden motel) and a hearty breakfast the next morning, as well as one day of guided birding.**

**Option 2. Trip #1 and Trip #2, combined. \$290 Friends member, double occupancy; \$340 Friend member, single. Non-members add \$40. Includes two nights lodging and two hearty breakfasts, as well as two days of guided birding.**

**MEETING PLACE:** North Park Inn, new log addition, Suite 32 - Walden, CO, 7 pm Friday night for Trip 1, 7 pm Saturday night for Trip 2

**DESCRIPTION:** Join Audubon Master Birder candidates to witness the Greater Sage Grouse on their traditional booming grounds. Rise early to locate the leks and to see and hear the male begin their pre-sunrise display. After breakfast, we'll bird throughout the day at area lakes and feeders. Trip #1 will be dismissed around 3:00 pm Saturday. Trip #2 will be dismissed around 3:00 Sunday. Participants provide their own transportation to and around Walden, a scenic 3-4 hour drive north from Denver. Plan for early morning cold weather with warm clothing and snacks. Bring binoculars, field guides, cameras, and 2-way radios if you have them.

*Curved-bill Thrasher  
from Birding the  
Bosque Del Apache  
Photo by Marilyn Rhodes*



# FIELD TRIPS, CLASSES & PROGRAMS

For all programs that require registration call 303.973.9530 or [info@denveraudubon.org](mailto:info@denveraudubon.org)

## Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch

Saturday, April 17, 9am-noon

Leaders: Dave Hill and Lois Levinson

\$10/Friends member; \$12/non-member

Pre-registration required

**MEETING PLACE:** Stegosaurus Lot, SE quadrant of Morrison Exit off I-70

**DESCRIPTION:** Join Audubon Master Birders on a traverse path at Dinosaur Ridge to be among the river of migrating raptors - you are eye level with or above the birds! With a magnificent Denver backdrop, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory biologist Jeff Birek will explain RMBO's Hawk Watch project collecting data on the hawks and eagles flying overhead. Dress for ascending a slope in weather. The walk is a bit steep but doable at your own pace. Bring binoculars, field guides, hawk guides, cameras.

---

## Atlas Training Trip

Sedalia Atlas Block: East Plum Creek

Sunday, April 25, 7:30 - 11:30am

Leaders: Hugh and Urling Kingery (303-814-2723) or [ouzels8@aol.com](mailto:ouzels8@aol.com)

We encourage you to call or email if you plan to come

**MEETING PLACE:** East Plum Creek Parking Area, Meadows Parkway, Castle Rock **From I-25** – Exit at Founders Parkway (Exit 184) and turn right (west). Continue about a half-mile, past the shopping area, past the overpass and traffic light, and turn left into the parking area just after you drop down from the overpass. **From U.S. 85** – At the intersection with Meadows/Founders Parkways, turn right and then left into the parking area just after you drop down from the overpass.

**DESCRIPTION:** We'll walk along the East Plum Creek trail through riparian habitat featuring Cooper's Hawk, three swallow species, Blue Grosbeak, and Lesser Goldfinch (of course, in April, only the hawk can possibly be there). Learn the rudiments of Atlas bird watching – a new and more interesting way to observe bird behavior. Learn Atlas techniques to adopt your own Atlas Block or help survey the ASGD blocks.



*Greater Road Runner  
from Birding the  
Bosque Del Apache  
Photo by Marilyn Rhodes*

## Water Bird Courting & Nesting Behavior

Sunday, April 25, 1pm - Dusk (time subject to change based on scouting reports)

Leaders: Marilyn Rhodes & Bob Santangelo,  
ASGD Master Birder Candidates

Fee: \$10/Friends members and Evergreen Audubon members; \$12/non members  
Pre-registration required

**MEETING PLACE:** Jim Baker Reservoir is located south of 64th between Lowell and Tennyson. Parking on Tennyson Street, just north of the railroad tracks and south of 64th.

**DESCRIPTION:** View water birds, herons and raptors at the reservoir and nearby areas. Species sighted last year included Osprey and Bald Eagle. Since we observed the Grebe courting ritual here in April 2009, in the hours just before sunset, we hope to repeat the experience this year. The Grebe and Heron viewing location is an easy 3/4 mile walk from the parking lot. Bring binoculars, field guides, scope, camera, water and a snack. Call Marilyn Rhodes, 303-674-6580, with questions.

---

## ~PROGRAMS OFFERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHERS~

### Book Signing – Rosalie Edge

Hawk of Mercy: the Activist who Saved Nature  
from the Conservationists

Saturday, March 6, 9:30am (doors open at 9am)  
No Fee

Pre-registration NOT required

**MEETING PLACE:** American Mountaineering Center, 710 10th St, Golden.

**DESCRIPTION:** Denver author Dyana Furmanky's new biography covers the life of Rosalie Edge, the environmental activist of the '30's into the 50's who shook up Audubon, The Sierra Club, The US Forest Service, The National Park Service, and other environmental groups. She was instrumental in creating Olympic National Park, saved Redwoods and Sugar Pines in California, and founded Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, plus many other "hellcat" conservation quests. There will be refreshments. Dyana will be signing books before and after the program. After Dyana's presentation, Jason Beason of the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory will talk about local hawk migration and the Hawk Watch near Dinosaur Ridge. Arranged by Plan Jeffco. ASGD is one of the sponsors.

# FIELD TRIPS, CLASSES & PROGRAMS

For all programs that require registration call 303.973.9530 or [info@denveraudubon.org](mailto:info@denveraudubon.org)

## Waterfowl Walk at Quincy Reservoir

Saturday, March 13, 8:30--10:30am

Leader: Mary Ann Bonnell,

City of Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space

No Fee

Pre-registration required

Registration, Directions, and Meeting Place

Information: 303-739-2428 or [nature@auroragov.org](mailto:nature@auroragov.org)

**MEETING PLACE:** Directions provided at registration.

**DESCRIPTION:** Aurora Parks naturalist will lead registrants into non-public area for winter waterfowl. Portable facilities available.

## Bird Walk at Ponderosa Preserve

Saturday, April 10, 8:30--10:30am

Leader: Mary Ann Bonnell,

City of Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space

No Fee

Pre-registration required

Registration, Directions, and Meeting Place

Information: 303-739-2428 or [nature@auroragov.org](mailto:nature@auroragov.org)

**MEETING PLACE:** Directions provided at registration

**DESCRIPTION:** This special ponderosa pine savannah habitat is not open to the public, so take advantage of an Aurora naturalist leading and watching for birds unusual to the Aurora list.

## Kayak the Niobrara in Nebraska

July 6-9, 2010

Join us for the 5th repeat of this great adventure. This is an abbreviated version of the description of the trip listed in the January/February Warbler. The Niobrara River in Nebraska is a deep cut through the Sandhills with many waterfalls along the route. Five ecosystems are represented here including Northern Boreal Forest and Eastern Deciduous Forest. We enjoy the slow moving river in single person recreational kayaks (no fancy skirts or Eskimo Rolls needed). We do some birding and basic plants. Two days on the river covers 25 miles plus one day to explore The Nature Conservancy Niobrara Reserve and Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge. The trip fee includes your meals from breakfast July 7 through lunch July 9, furnished cabins at Niobrara River Ranch for 3 nights, kayak rentals and shuttles, river permits, state park fees and TNC donation. You may call Ann Bonnell, your volunteer trip leader for more details at 303-979-6211. Our super chef Carolyn Adam is back

## ~LOOKING AHEAD~

### Migrant Birds at Chico Basin Ranch

Thursday, May 6, 6am at meeting place

(birding 7am to approximately noon)

Leader: Laurie Duke and Bill Maynard

Fee: \$25/Friends member; \$27/non-members  
(includes Chico Basin Ranch fee of \$10 to support

banding station)

Pre-registration required

**MEETING PLACE:** I-25/Founders Pkwy (Exit 184) in Castle Rock, NW corner of the King Soopers parking lot on the east side of I-25

**DESCRIPTION:** Audubon Master Birder candidates will lead a carpooling trip to Chico Basin Ranch, an 87,000-acre working cattle ranch 35min southeast of Colorado Springs. Well known to birders as a migrant trap, 5 ponds and riparian and spring-fed streams attract migrating warblers, waders, and waterfowl. Bill Maynard, Chico Basin Ranch birding expert, will lead the group to discover local rarities, best seen early in the morning. RMBO banding station may be visited. Dress for variable weather, and bring a lunch, binoculars, scopes, and field guides.



ASGD members enjoy kayaking the Niobrara River in Nebraska.  
Photo by Ann Bonnell

by popular demand and her husband Jacques will help Ann on the river. Trip limited to 20 participants. Get your summer plans in order now, as this trip usually fills and has a waiting list. Fee \$550.00 per person for Friends of ASGD, or \$580.00 for those not Friends members. A \$275 non-refundable deposit is due April 14, with the balance due by June 9. If you find a replacement for yourself or someone is able to replace you from a waiting list, your full fee can be refunded. To register call ASGD at 303-973-9530.

# Update – Denver Urban Christmas Bird Count

by Hugh Kingery

## LOTS OF BIRDS – MOSTLY GEESE

The Denver Urban Christmas Bird Count set a new record for total number of individuals – the 54,485 birds exceeded the previous high count of 49,037 by 11%!

Blame it on geese: of the total, Canadas comprised 40% and Cackling 10% — half of the birds we saw on the whole count. With the leaders cautioned to count only before 9 a.m., we tried to avoid over-counting these ubiquitous birds. At Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge the total mounted to 12,383 geese — 45% of all geese; most headed out of the count circle to feed. Another 17% came from the three groups along the South Platte (4,553).

The other top ten species, as usual, reflected the urban nature of this count: they include starling, Rock Pigeon, House Sparrow, Ring-billed Gull, crow, and House Finch.

## FEEDER REPORTS

Feeder watchers added 1,334 birds to the total – only 2 per cent – of 32 species. For some species, feeder counts added significant numbers: 32 of the 39 Cedar Waxwings; half the Blue Jays and Common Grackles; over a fifth of flickers, Black-capped Chickadees, Spotted Towhees, and House Finches; and over 10 % of seven other species.

Feeder counts matter – even if you find only a few birds. For instance, Tom Batt had only two birds (a robin and a House Sparrow) and Mary Beth Twining had 7 House Finches. Bruce Paton, Mary and Dave Driscoll, and Errol Rowland counted over 100 birds in their yards/blocks (although 200 of Bruce's and 106 of Errol's were Canada Geese). Dave and Mary saw a bunch of Mallards (40 on the count) trek in to a neighbor's pond and feeding trough.

## NEW SPECIES \_ ONE

Dick Schottler and Dick Pratt scored the only new species for the count when they watched three Wild Turkeys amble down to a marsh for a drink. A passerby told them that usually he saw four turkeys there. Jackie King and Dave O'Reilly saw a Goshawk near Commerce City.



*Wild Turkey  
Photographer  
unknown*

## HIGH SPECIES COUNTS

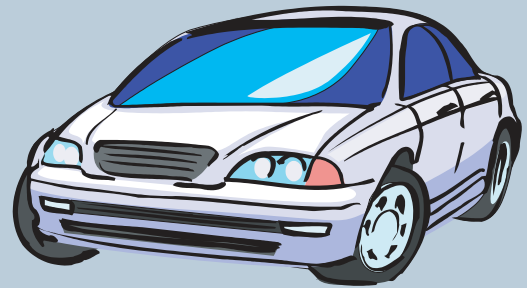
We tallied record high counts of several ducks: Mallard, Pintail, Shoveler, Bufflehead, and Hooded Merganser (actually 2 less than the 118 seen in 2001). Our total 9,204 ducks, second-highest, came despite Bob Brown finding a paltry 72 at totally frozen Cherry Creek Reservoir. The three South Platte groups counted 6,470 ducks; Brad Parks Denver Zoo group counted 1,383 ducks, all but 18 were Mallards.

Raptors – 214, second highest; 74 Red-tails a new high count. Mindy Hetrick counted 31 Bald Eagles that came in to roost at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal.

This winter many observers are lamenting a lack of passerines. Excluding crows and starlings, we counted only 74% of our average (third lowest). Magpies, crows, and jays still haven't recovered from their peaks at the beginning of the decade—apparently West Nile zapped their numbers. We found fewer of the commonest passerines (except crows and starlings). We did parallel one recent Denver phenomenon: a record high of (48) Bushtits – but only 80 Eurasian Collared-Doves (111 last year).

## BIRDERS

I don't seem to have kept a record of the total number of people on the counts – a shame because one CBC objective is to get people looking at birds in early winter. But – I think that the 93 counters this time sets a record, and the total of 90 plus 21 feeder observers does too. We had a great day.



## Donate a Vehicle

### Help Birds! Help Kids!

**The Audubon Society of Greater Denver (ASGD) and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado (BBBSC) have joined forces. When you donate a vehicle to ASGD, you also benefit BBBSC. Here's how it works: ASGD handles the initial calls; BBBSC handles the details.**

**To donate a vehicle**, call ASGD at 303-973-9530 or send an e-mail to [info@denveraudubon.org](mailto:info@denveraudubon.org).

# backyard birds....

by Hugh Kingery



**A SNOWY OWL** became Colorado's ultimate backyard bird. Spotted in late December in Prairie Vista subdivision northeast of Colorado Springs, the owl has thrilled hundreds of observers into February. A breeder in the Arctic tundra, it's probably the most photographed bird in the State's history. Its selected subdivision has 5-acre lots, short grass, and a few horses. It favors rooftops for daytime perches (a real House-List bird) and allows close approach.



*Snowy owl*  
Photo by Bill Eden

**A COBIRDS' DISCUSSION** wondered whether it succeeded in finding food there. An owl specialist thought it looked skinny but several people watched it catch prey. Mary and Dave Driscoll said, "We got to watch him fly down in the field near us, grab a mouse, return to his perch on a neighbor's house, and instantly, he swallowed the mouse."

**KIRK HUFFSTATER**, west of Castle Rock, has savored a steadily growing flock of Evening Grosbeaks – from five on Jan. 5, they increased to 13 on Jan. 7 and to 42 on Jan. 29. Lately few Coloradans have reported these voracious seed-eaters. Kirk says that they feed "primarily on safflower seeds, and secondarily on sunflower seeds." Right after his Jan. 5 sighting, he looked out his "windows to see [the grosbeaks] but there were no birds in sight. Right then a beautiful Northern Goshawk flew lazily past the window, only 15-20 feet from my face! I got a good look at the gorgeous barring on his chest, his bright golden legs/feet, and his brilliant red eye, all without binocs."



*Evening Grosbeak*  
Photo by Hugh Kingery

**MERIKAY HAGGERTY**, in Littleton, had a flock of a different hue. She counted 51 Northern Flickers in her yard Jan. 4 – 18 "at the buffet" and 33 more perched in three trees with a photo to prove it.

**BEHAVIOR OCCUPIED** several backyard posts. Roy Hohn saw a Blue Jay land on a mulch pile. "It spread its tail and wings like it was making a tent, and ducked its head beneath the wings. It stayed motionless for 30 seconds and then flew away. A few minutes later I watched a repeat of the same behavior. . . What was the Blue Jay doing?" Several people – Tony Wilk of Longmont, SeEtta Moss of Canon City, and Tina Jones of Denver, theorized that it was either "anting" or "sunning." Roy thought sunning, because the mulch pile has no ants. "The mulch is wood chips and it wasn't composting. Perhaps the jay needed a safe place to spread its wings for an extended period

to deal with mites or parasites." Somebody from Minnesota said, "Sunning involves doing exactly what he described and is meant to allow sunshine to get into the exposed parts of the back; this is why the jay put its head down. The sunshine drives out parasitic insects such as mites. It might also help in feather maintenance."

**CYNTHIA MADSEN** watched a "female House Finch grab an apple tree leaf at its base where it was attached to the bark and with her bill rip it off. Then she pecked at the spot where the leaf had been attached. I wondered if she was getting some reserve sap or if insects were there."



*House Finch*  
Photo by Dick Vogel

**NORM LEWIS** watched a junco flock in December. "When a Sharp-shinned Hawk suddenly appeared in the tree, all the birds disappeared into shrubbery or over the horizon. Two juncos under the little platform noticed the sharpie too late to fly. The sightline from them to the accipiter was blocked by the platform, but they knew it was there. They froze right in place, and did not so much as move a feather. They might have been made of plaster – frozen practically in mid-peck. They stayed that way, clearly in (my- not the hawk's) view for fully ten minutes while the sharpie perched fifteen feet above them. As soon as the sharpie took off, the juncos resumed feeding as if nothing had happened. A few days later I saw a similar event with a Cooper's and a Downy Woodpecker. The downy made a quick move to the opposite side of a small branch from the hawk, and froze in place until the Cooper's looked the other way. Then the downy made a break for it and escaped unnoticed."

**KEVIN CORWIN** watched a flicker "mugging. A male flicker landed at the edge of my deck. As he leaned over slightly to peer over the edge, a second male flicker, which had just landed about 6 feet behind him, flew at him quickly and bit him on the butt, sending up a small shower of fluff feathers. The victim flew to the fence while the attacker rubbed his beak on the deck to remove the feathers that were still stuck in it."

**Breeding bird atlasers see interesting behavior – in fact look for it. Praise for Audubon's Atlas efforts came from Steve Jones, Atlas Regional Coordinator. "I'm just checking in to thank you for the superb job you and the Audubon Society of Greater Denver did completing the Conifer block. The confirmed spotted sandpipers, sapsuckers, three-toed woodpecker, olive-sided flycatcher, bluebirds, and evening-grosbeak all got my attention. The list definitely qualifies as a work of art! Please pass along my congratulations and appreciation to your co-conspirators."**

**Join ASGD on field trips this spring and summer (see this Warbler for an Atlas training trip, and the next Warbler for Atlas trips) to explore the Elbert and Pine Atlas blocks. In working Elbert last summer we found 60 species and confirmed 26 of them. We'll go back a couple of times this summer to complete the block. Pine has 61 species, only 13 confirmed.**

*Backyard Birds continued on page 14*

[Backyard Birds continued from page 13](#)

**WALT HAGGERTY**, lured into looking at backyard birds by Merikay, on Christmas Day, spotted at the suet feeder, and identified (with her help) a Ruby-crowned Kinglet and saw it again on Jan. 4. Meredith Anderson, Jan. 6, north of Denver, "noted (out newly-washed windows) a Ruby-crowned Kinglet enjoying the fruit of the hawthorn tree west of our house." Meredith also says, "I've been frustrated to watch Eurasian Collared-Doves take an aggressive posture with the juncos that like to glean seed fallen from our backyard feeders; these once-rare doves are not always welcome guests, and I feel for the juncos." Ron Kmiecik, a mile south of the Franktown traffic light, on Jan. 19 counted 20 doves eating under his feeder.

**MEREDITH'S OBSERVATIONS** address a question many of us share: what effect will the burgeoning numbers of Collared-Doves have on native species? Most speculation wondered about competition with Mourning Doves, but Meredith saw a different kind of contact.

**THIS COLUMN'S BUSHTIT REPORT** includes regulars at Bill Eden's (south Denver), Gail Evans' (southeast Denver), Flo deCesare's (Greenwood Village), us in Franktown, the South Platte at Florida (Master Birders), and the aquarium at Confluence Park (visitor Paul Hicks). Gail also saw a Spotted Towhee Jan. 6-7. Two Pygmy Nuthatches surprised Tina Jones (Bowmar) on Jan. 12; they pecked on "my house shingles and then on a crack of my car's rubber bumper. They were totally disinterested in my feeders." She also has a Mountain Chickadee for the fourth month and a Brown Creeper, along with her usual diversity of urban backyard birds.



*Bushtit*  
Photo by Glen Walbek

Jan. 12; they pecked on "my house shingles and then on a crack of my car's rubber bumper. They were totally disinterested in my feeders." She also has a Mountain Chickadee for the fourth month and a Brown Creeper, along with her usual diversity of urban backyard birds.

**COOPER'S HAWKS** found good feeding at feeders. Dick Anderson watched Dec. 14 as "resident chickadees stayed very quiet in a hedge five feet west of where a Cooper's Hawk terrorized cowering House Sparrows. After five minutes the chickadees made sorties to the feeders to come back to crack open the sunflower seeds. The House Sparrows simply disappeared. Shortly the hawk dropped to the ground and was peering up into the pftzers at the back of the neighbor's house."

**ELIZABETH SMITH**, "walking near the old Cooper's nest in Prospect Park (Wheat Ridge green belt) saw and heard a Great Horned Owl near the old nest and saw a second owl sitting on the nest. The Cooper's may lose out this year." Upon sitting down to Thanksgiving dinner, Amy Law (Littleton) saw a Cooper's inspecting, not their turkey but a squirrel. In October I saw a Common Raven eating a freshly killed squirrel, while our resident flock, 20 or so, of crows screamed at it from the nearby tree."

**BOB SPENCER PHOTOGRAPHED** a different visitor after 150 Red-winged Blackbirds settled into three nearby cottonwood trees on Dec. 27-28 and gobbled up seed at his feeder. On Jan. 19, with "lots of seed left on the cable drum feeder, I looked and there was a young buck deer eating seed at a nice height

(27"). When I got home from Tuesday Birders all the seed was gone and the three rocks I used to cover holes had been pushed aside. I guess the deer came back and finished it off."

**CHAR GOTTLIEB REPORTS** "one entry for Backyard Birds – a pair of Wilson's Snipes in our yard Dec. 30. With the cold weather we have had 50 or more Mallards in our yard. They have discovered the bird seed and are hungry. Funny to watch their food fights." Miscellaneous backyard birds included Flo's Red-breasted Nuthatch (Dec. 9) and Pine Siskins (Dec. 24), and Cassin's Finches at Nan Brehmer's (Green Mountain).

**IN CASTLE ROCK** an extension of Ridge Road passes three houses away from Shirley and Buzz Bowers; "I'm getting disturbed by the lack of birds since the road building. We have a pair of White-breasted Nuthatches, but no Hairy or Downy woodpeckers or Steller's Jays, which we had last year. We have hordes of Blue Jays and Collared-Doves. No juncos or White-crowned Sparrows. Still quite a few Spotted Towhees and House Finches."

"**THE JOHNSONS**, who live in the only house with a driveway off the new road, wonder about the only two wild turkeys left in the valley. They roost at night on the Johnson's deck. They are two toms and have become quite feisty, it seems, chasing people away from the house." On the Urban Christmas Count, Dick Schottler and Dick Pratt saw three turkeys come down to water just north of Riverside Cemetery. (See separate article about the results of that count.)

**I WELCOME YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS** to this column. Send a note or post card to P.O. Box 584, Franktown 80116, or Email me: ouzels8@aol.com.

*Its' .....SPRING....ING....!*



**Binocular**

**&**



**Spotting  
Scope**

**SALE... ITS STILL ON**

@ S & S OPTIKA

6579 South Broadway

303-789-1089 Toll Free:877-396-3352

**Store Hours:**

Tues-Fri 10 am - 6 pm

Saturday 10 am - 5 pm



# ASGD recognizes our valued Donors...

**Benefactor Circle:** Karin Heine, Hugh & Urling Kingery, Sharon Wilkinson

**Director Circle:** Lynne & Kelly Forrester, Peter & Yvonne Griffiths, Dave & Cheryl Hill, Meredith McBurney, Polly & Gene Reetz, Allen & Brenda Stokes

**Contributor Circle:** The Front Range Birding Company, Ed & Judy Butterfield, Robert Collins, Benjamin & Laurie Duke, Mackenzie Goldthwait & Doug Kibbe, Lois Levinson, Barbara Masoner & Scott Goodman, Bill Russell, Frank & Barbara Shissler

**Direct Donors:** Scott Jacobs, Tom & Isabel Abbott, Helen Achatz, Esther Achziger, Richard Ahrenkiel, Catherine Anderson, Dave & Nan Anderson, Robert & Ruth Anderson, Alan & Deb Armer, Gretchen Armstrong, Mary J. Armstrong, John Ashworth, Lavonne Axford, Jane Axtell, Robert Backus, Joshua & Kathy Barnum, Ursula Barsch, Kirk Bateman, Jim and Jan Beattie, Robert Beck, Karen Bellina, Kenneth Bennett, Leona Berger, Jerry & Linda Berry, John D. Bert, Bill & Joan Bevington, George and Geraldine Biram, John Stamper & Sue Bishop, Jane Blankenbuehler, Steve & Jane Boand, Barbara Boardman, Ann Bonnell, William M. Brady, Shirley Bredine, Kathleen Brigham, James A. Broderick, Coralie Brown, Richard Brune, Rogene A. Buchholz, Ed & Judy Butterfield, Perry Butterfield, Pam Metz & Charlene Byers, Catherine Campbell, Nan Campbell, Josephine E. Carpenter, Lois Caviness, Lorraine Chappell, Ruth Char, Georgia Chase, Lucille Clark, Ben & Ann Cooper, Kevin & Connie Corwin, Richard Creswell, Doris Cruze, Harvey Curtis, E.M. Davis, Janet Decker, Carol DeStefanis, David DeVries, Katharine Dickson, Carolyn DiGuseppi, David Dominick, Melissa Dove, Victoria Dreitz, Kayleen Drissell, Bruce Ducker, Jeff & Kathleen Mihm Dunning, Patty Echelmeyer, John & Barbara Eckler, Esther Eicher, Leo Eisel & Nina Churchman, Fran Enright, Mariana Enriquez-Olmos, Jack & Leslie Ferguson, C. Dale & Karen L. Flowers, Kathy Ford, Ford & Ann Frick, Amy Galperin, Bonnie J. Gavin, Jody Georgeson, Gina Gerken, Miranda Glasbergen, Mackenzie Goldthwait, Mackenzie Goldthwait & Doug Kibbe, Marcus L. Goodbody, Marla Graber, Robert S. Graham, Gertrude Grant, Lyn Graves, Celia Greenman & Michael Seal, Frederic Griest, Ann Groshek, Julia A. Grundmeier, Marilyn Hackett, Linda Hackley, Merikay Haggerty, Sonja Hahn, Helen Hale, Susan Halstedt, Dorothy Laura Hampton, Stuart & Kat Haskins, A. Lorraine Hatcher, James & Anne Hautzinger, Connie Hauver, Mike Henwood, Arthur Hertel, Samuel N. Hicks, Dave & Cheryl Hill, Doug & Jan Hodous, John & Lucy Hoffhines, Roy & Arlene Hohn, Karen Hollweg, Richard & Janet Holman, Christy Honnen, Barbara Hoover, Michael Hope, Kate Horan, Gertrude Hutchinson, Haruko Ishiyama, Gordon James, Jerry Jargon, Sally Jessee, Tim & Candice Johnson, Maxine Johnson, Roger L. Johnson, Steve Johnson, David & Janet Johnston, Ellie Jones, Tina Jones, Jan Justice-Waddington, Norma Kamby, Martha Keister, Mary Keithler, Andrea Keleher, Kathy Kelley, Shannon M. Kerth, Keith Ketner, Kris Koff, Gene Kohls, Barbara Gillett & Kay Kotzelnick, Robert J. Kuster, Willam Lamberton, George & Sheryl Larsen, Allan Larson, A. Sylvia Lewis, John & Sue Lillie, C. Maxine

Litzo, Scot & Patricia Locke, George & Bobbie Lohr, Thomas Loucks, Caroline Lowsma, Ellie Ludvigsen, Kris Lykins, Diane Mabbitt, Cynthia Madsen, Andrew & Janet Mallory, Debra Mallory, Barbara Masoner & Scott Goodman, Jon & Elissa McAlear, Patricia McClearn, Elaine McCoach, Sigrid McGinty, Robert McLaughlin, Evan Metcalf & Mary Crawford, Judith B. Mills, Bridget Milnes, Charlotte Mirabella, Stephen Mohr, Bob Montgomery, Ray R. Moorhead, Maralee Nobis-Jacobsen, Carl Norbeck & Diane Matt, Cynthia Nunnelee, Cynthia Tinkham Nunnelee, David Nykerk, George I. Ogura, Harold and Betty Oliver, Tom Parchman, Bruce Paton, John & Cassie Pazour, Mary Ellen Peckham, Gretchen Platt, Nancy Priest, Georgia Ptacek, Roberta N. Quiat, David & Linda Rea, John Reber, Polly & Gene Reetz, Heidi Rhodes, Carl L. Rich, Susan L. Richardson, Jennie Ridgley, Carolyn Roark, Betty L. Robertson, Cephas Rogers, Marianne Rose, Nina Routh, Gayle Salazar, Herbert Samenfeld, Mary J. Schmit, Sandra Schnitzer, Ruth Schoening, Dan Schwartz, Jocelyn Seller, Robert & Carla Shaver, Richard Shearer, Nancy A. Sherman, Gerald & Janet Shin, Jeff Shoemaker, David & Carol Shouldice, Douglas Sikes, Paul Slingsby, Margaret Smith, Mary Spofford, Larry Stanley, Allen Staver, Ellen Steger, Bill & Evelyn Steinkuhler, Allen & Brenda Stokes, Jenene Stookesberry, Ken Strom, L. Dianne Sundet, Dorothy Sutherlin, Lou & Katherine Svoboda, Martha-Ann Sylvester, Mark & Wendy Tarletsky, Mary Ann Tavery, John & Debra Taylor, William Titus, Candy Tomlinson, Scott & Linda Trauth, Bill & Mary Turner, Marian Vander Ark, Peggy Vedder, Patsy Venema, B.J. Walker, Carley Warren, Charles Warren, Mary Washburne, Wayne Wathen, Carol Weale, William A. West, Eleanor Whitehurst, Ralph & Emily Wiersma, Joseph & Barbara Wilcox, Charles R. & Nancy L. Williamson, John Williamson, Diana Wilson, John A.C. Wright, Bill & Suzanne Wuerthele, Steve & Margot Wynkoop, Sean Yates, Pat Zeller

## In-Kind Donations

- Perella's East Coast Pizzeria donated pizza for the Volunteer gathering on January 16.
- Robert White donated photographs to the Audubon Center

**Memorial Donations:** Lynne Forrester donated in memory of Lavonne Axford

## Thanks to Our Volunteers

**Office Help:** Julie Dorosz, Suzy Hiskey, Kathanne Lynch, Phil Reynolds, Carolyn Roark, Grace Weber

**Audubon Center Hosts:** Dotty Biggs, Suzy Hiskey, Kathanne Lynch

**Field Trip Leaders:** Mike Henwood, Dave Hill, Mary Keithler, Hugh & Urling Kingery, Lois Levinson, Katie Morrison, Harold & Betty Oliver, Candace Ruiz, Sheridan Samano, Harriet Stratton, Karen von Saltza



AUDUBON SOCIETY of GREATER DENVER

9308 S. Wadsworth Boulevard  
Littleton, Colorado 80128

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Denver, CO  
Permit 1008



Citizens of the  
Scientific & Cultural  
Facilities District

*Making It Possible.*

**Sponsored by SCFD**

♻️ Printed on recycled paper



**Become a FRIEND of  
the Audubon Society  
of Greater Denver**

*Become a Friend of ASGD at the following levels*

**INDIVIDUAL \$25**

**Benefits:**

- Satisfaction that all of your Friends membership dues will stay at the local level.
- The award-winning, bi-monthly newsletter, the *Warbler*, to keep you informed on ASGD projects and activities.
- Invitations to Friends' only events.
- Friends discounts on ASGD field trips, classes and workshops for one person.

**FAMILY \$35**

All the benefits listed above, plus:

- Friends discounts on ASGD field trips, classes and workshops for an additional adult and the member's children or grandchildren under the age of 18.

**YES! I am a FRIEND of the Audubon Society of Greater Denver.**

Individual (\$25)  Family (\$35)  I have included an additional donation of \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

(optional) (optional)

Enclosed is my check payable to **Audubon Society of Greater Denver**  
**9308 S. Wadsworth Boulevard**  
**Littleton, CO 80128**

Please charge my: \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ Mastercard

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ **Thank You!**

Please do not share my name with affiliated organizations or other groups.

**OPEN HOUSE SET FOR MAY 1ST**  
**All - Day Event 10am - 5pm**

- Hawkquest Returns With 5 Raptors on Display**
- Bald Eagle • Peregrine Falcon • Harris Hawk
  - Great Horned Owl • Burrowing Owl
  - You will see a Harris's Hawk Fly
- Dove Race**
- 200 Homing Pigeons Released for the Captain Jason Dahl Scholarship Fund
- Arts & Crafts Fair**

JOIN OUR  
**DIGISCOPING  
WORKSHOP**  
SUNDAY, MARCH 7  
See Page 8 for Details

**A GREAT ENTERTAINMENT & MOTHER'S DAY SHOPPING  
EVENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY. COME ON OUT!**

**ASGD  
Members  
Receive  
15%OFF  
Storewide  
Purchases**

Just Mention This Ad  
Expires May 1, 2010

**the front range  
birding  
company**

Open 7 Days A Week  
M-F 10-6 Sat 10-5 Sun 12-5

**Kipling**  
C-470

**9956 West Remington Place**  
(NE Corner of C-470 & Kipling)  
**303-979 BIRD (2473)**  
[www.frontrangebirding.com](http://www.frontrangebirding.com)  
**A nature center for you and your family!**