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Take Wing...



at our Spring Fling

**Audubon Society of Greater Denver Spring Benefit**

**Saturday, April 16, 2011 • 6:00 – 9:00 pm**

**Hosted by Pat McClearn • 444 Cherry Street, Denver 80220**

**Silent & Live Auction**

**Dinner Buffet catered by As You Like It • Wine & Beer Bar**

**\$45/ticket • \$80/pair • \$250/block of 6**

**Available at: [www.denveraudubon.org](http://www.denveraudubon.org) • 303-973-9530 • [info@denveraudubon.org](mailto:info@denveraudubon.org)**

**It's Time to Give Back!**

## Don't Miss Out!

The Warbler is now an electronic newsletter to cut down on costs and put your membership dollars to better use.

If you would still like to receive a hardcopy of the newsletter, please call us at 303-973-9530.

If we do not have your current email address, please call us at 303-973-9530. Once we have it you will then receive notices when each issue is available online.

Thank you for supporting this conservation effort!

**Celebrating  
42 Years of service  
to the Greater  
Denver Community**

## Silent Auction Wish List

We will soon have an opportunity to give back to our favorite nature organization at the Audubon Society of Greater Denver Spring Benefit - Silent Auction. The Auction Committee has a Wish List for successful donations. Gifts of experience are precious commodities and create bidding frenzies. Share your skill or a passion by offering an experience that includes a piece of your expertise. For example, offer a tour of your greenhouse with 6 tomato starts to take away. Lead a birding trip to a special habitat or under special conditions. Owling, anyone? Offer a Greek cooking class and some baklava to take away. Show how you process beer and offer a six pack of your homebrew. Offer a class session in jewelry making, metal working, or wood turning.

**Handmade arts and crafts are always welcome. Consider offering a commissioned work. Wouldn't you enjoy choosing the colors of your new knit hat?**

**Here are some other wish list ideas:**

- Out of print or special edition books, such as the Breeding Bird Atlas
- Homemade food is an auction favorite
- Season tickets to any of Denver's sporting events or performing arts events
- A brand new kayak
- Brand new mountain bike
- Antique or contemporary jewelry
- A get-away in your vacation home, time share, cabin or condo

**Have a wonderful experience or item to donate?**

**Contact Rhonda Shank at 303-973-9530.**

**Thank you in advance for your generous contribution!**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ~

We are off to an energetic start at ASGD. Your enthusiastic support of the Annual Appeal has given even greater incentive for planning exciting ways to reach our goal: engaging each and every one of you in our activities. Thank you to our friends, both new and long-time supporters.

With Karl at the helm and Suzy planning education programs and outreach, we hope to see you all this spring. Visit the reorganized Audubon Nature Center at Chatfield and participate in a variety of new events, such as the Welcome Home Bluebirds Party on March 26, and Earth Day Celebration on April 23. Of course in May, don't miss our popular Banding Station and watch volunteers in action in the early mornings when bird activity is peaking. Bid and socialize at the Spring Fling Benefit on April 16 while enjoying the wine and dinner buffet. Join our hard working volunteers as they lead tours and walks, weed and plant in our native plant gardens at the Audubon Center, geocache, and Walk the Wetlands. Get your team organized for May Birdathon; the competition will be keen. Photographers, check your gear as we plan a grand contest for you in June covering the gamut of wildlife subjects with fabulous prizes for the winners.

The Field Trip Committee has fabulous plans for Spring. Pack your suitcase and cameras and travel with us to private ranches in South Texas for fantastic photo opportunities with Wendy Shattil and Bob Rozinski. Scout Southeast Arizona in May with Bill Turner and a wonderful local guide, join us for the Mountain Plover Festival in Karval, CO or hop the bus to see Greater Prairie Chickens and Sandhill Cranes in Nebraska with Hugh and Urling Kingery.

The Conservation Committee continues to remain active on hot topics to protect birds, other wildlife, and habitats. The Legislative Forum in February was once again a success. We are engaged with the Chatfield reallocation and encouraging home owners to prevent birds from hitting their windows. Visit [http://www.denveraudubon.com/documents/BirdWindowCollisions\\_1-2011.pdf](http://www.denveraudubon.com/documents/BirdWindowCollisions_1-2011.pdf) for more information.

Our Lois Webster Fund research committee is sitting down to select projects to fund for the upcoming year. Join us on May 5 in Room 200 at St. John's Cathedral for presentations of the 2010 research projects. It is a great opportunity to learn about important research on nongame wildlife.

It is another exciting year with many opportunities for you to join us. We look forward to seeing you soon...and often!



Arlene Raskin  
Board President



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### MISSION

**Audubon Society of Greater Denver  
advocates for the environment,  
connecting people with nature  
through education, conservation and  
research.**

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# Conservation Report

by Polly Reetz, ASGD Conservation Committee Chair

**CHATFIELD UPDATE.** The publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has now been pushed back until at least June 2011. This has given us a breathing space to contact other organizations and members of the Colorado Congressional delegation to express our concerns. ASGD members should talk to their friends and neighbors who love and use Chatfield, to let them know about the project, officially known as the “Chatfield Reallocation.” Our major points:

- Although the environmental community initially thought that the impacts of storing more water in Chatfield would be relatively benign, it appears that they will be substantial.
- FULL mitigation of all recreational and environmental impacts must occur.
- The Corps of Engineers should allow ample time for public comment, at least 90 days and more likely 120. The DEIS will be over 2,000 pages long!
- All reasonable alternatives should receive serious consideration, not just the proposed reallocation.

Please devote some time and energy to this project over the coming months – get out and visit Chatfield, read the documents on the website, [www.chatfieldstudy.org](http://www.chatfieldstudy.org), and express your concerns to your US Representatives and Senators!

**IN THE COLORADO LEGISLATURE,** several bills have been introduced that you should know about.

**GAME CASH RAID.** In an attempt to deal with the \$1 billion budget shortfall, Rep. Jon Becker is proposing to divert \$5 million from the game cash fund annually, for ten years, and put it in the Colorado Water Conservation Board construction fund. Money in the game cash fund comes from hunting and fishing license fees and is controlled by the Colorado Division of

Wildlife, whereas the purpose of the CWCB construction fund is to issue low-interest loans to water providers for building water supply reservoirs. Problem: If the Division of Wildlife loses the \$5 million, it will also lose matching federal monies to the tune of \$20 million/year, so this scheme would cost the state of Colorado \$200 million over the 10-year period. Plus, the \$50 million would have to be repaid WITH INTEREST, so the diversion ends up costing the State big money in the long term. The federal government requires that any funds so diverted have to be spent to benefit wildlife, so we can anticipate arguments that water supply reservoirs benefit wildlife. However, water levels at these reservoirs usually fluctuate greatly, riparian vegetation can’t get established, and wildlife benefits are few.

## BRINGING BACK THE SPRING BEAR HUNT

Rep. J. Paul Brown plans to introduce a bill to repeal the ban on hunting bears in the spring, when the cubs are still highly dependent on their mothers. The ban was approved by a state-wide vote some years ago, by a margin of about 2-1. Increased bear populations and problem bears are the rationale behind this bill, but the Division of Wildlife has the authority to deputize people to deal with problem bears, if that’s an issue. Audubon’s position on bear population numbers is that the Wildlife Commission can handle it, without a repeal of the ban, by increasing allowable “take” – killing – of bears in the fall.

This bill demonstrates why so many issues end up being put in the state Constitution – the voters pass a measure and then find that legislators change it, contrary to the public’s mandate. Great Outdoors Colorado is in the constitution for that very reason.

**WATER. HB 1026** would streamline the inspection process for stormwater discharge by creating a list of administrators who have training in stormwater inspections to supplement the

Colorado Health Department employees in inspecting projects that handle storm waters. HB 1068 would give more flexibility to Arkansas River basin farmers to lease some of their water to other uses. Audubon is watching both of these bills.

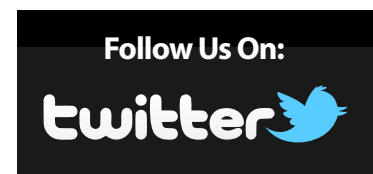
You can read the reports by Audubon lobbyist Jen Boulton at

[www.auduboncolorado.org](http://www.auduboncolorado.org).

On the National scene, the new Congress is indicating a definite enmity towards the environment. Audubon expects the House Energy and Commerce Committee to introduce a bill to reduce EPA’s authority to regulate pollution from power plants, and a similar bill may show up in the Senate. These bills will “favor big polluters over public health and hamstring EPA’s efforts to control global warming pollution” (Audubon Advisory 1/11). Stay tuned on this one.

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act did not get renewed funding in the last Congress, so it will be up for a vote this year (we hope). While funding for the bill is small, \$5 million, it is parlayed into important projects to protect migratory bird habitat.

**We urge you to keep informed via email, newspaper, TV, and radio. Remember the squeaky wheel gets the grease – contact your legislators, and subscribe to the Audubon Advisory at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)**



## Research

# Lois Webster Fund Annual Reception and Program, Thursday, May 5

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the Lois Webster Fund's annual reception and program on Thursday, May 5, in Room 200 at St. John's Cathedral on 14th and Washington St. in Denver. Use the Washington St. entrance and follow the signs to Room 200. Parking is available in the lot on Washington St., or in the lot just north of the Cathedral between Washington and Clarkson St.

Join old and new friends at 6:00pm for a wine and light supper reception. At 6:30pm we will have a program featuring presentations from the LWF's three grantees from last year. They will discuss: Avian Communities' Changes in a Riparian Habitat, Ecological Role of Free-ranging Domestic Cats, and Hybridization Threats on Two Colorado Native Catostomids (suckers). It is always an informative and fun evening. The LWF

Committee looks forward to thanking our long time supporters and welcoming new friends.

The Lois Webster Fund supports Colorado non-game wildlife research and education. For additional information on the Fund and its grant program, please visit the ASGD website and click on research. For questions about the reception please contact Margot Wynkoop at 303-733-2868 or [margotw@ix.netcom.com](mailto:margotw@ix.netcom.com).

## The Denver Urban Christmas Count

The Denver Urban Christmas Count, sponsored by ASGD, found 48,539 birds of 83 species, an average number of species for the 23 counts but higher than average individuals.

### Lots of birds – mostly geese, as usual.

This year, Canadas and Cackling together totaled 48% of the birds recorded: 19,422 Canadas, 2,924

Cackling. Northern Shovelers ranked as the second most numerous species, though, at 3,201.

The top 20:

South Platte North and Rocky Mtn Arsenal tied for the most species, at 55, but South Platte North had, by far the most birds,

12,381, followed by South Platte South's 9,880. Ducks concentrate along the river in impressive numbers. (You could go out today and see those shovelers, mallard, and pintails in hefty quantities.) Among the water-challenged parties,

Aurora with 3,022 birds and Fairmont, with 3,027, topped the list. Aurora had 43 species, and South/Hampden and Botanic Gardens/Denver Country Club both had 32.

Several parties had species that no other groups saw: South Platte North 6, including Turkeys counted not by sight, not by sound, but by their recent tracks;

**Feeder reports:** Twenty-one observers at 15 feeders added 1148 birds. Besides geese, 202 House Sparrows and 164 House Finches topped their list of 26 Species.

**New Species:** One new species materialized in the Middle South Platte section, a Lesser Goldfinch (they usually have headed south by October). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at the Denver Country Club caused a flurry of emails to ascertain its identity. Out-of-state experts confirmed the ID. Three of our early counts recorded this species, but none since 2004.

**Birders:** South Platte south, RMA, and the

Denver Country Club group had the most observers, and eight hikers trekked along Cherry Creek from the reservoir to University.

1. Canada Goose	19,422	11. House Finch	812
2. Shoveler	3,201	12. House Sparrow	715
3. Red-winged Blackbird	3,158	13. Gadwall	562
4. Cackling Goose	2,924	14. American Crow	550
5. Rock Pigeon	2,606	15. Green-winged Teal	474
6. Starling	2,130	16. American Robin	471
7. Mallard	2,098	17. Common Goldeneye	392
8. Ring-billed Gull	2,077	18. Black-billed Magpie	291
9. Common Merganser	1,112	19. Ring-necked Duck	202
10. Pintail	950	20. American Tree Sparrow	194

Rocky Mtn Arsenal 5, including the 9 Long-eared Owls counted by Refuge biologist Mindy Hetrick; Park Hill found the only Bushtits. The only pheasants flew up at Cherry Creek Res., and the only grackles (23) patronized the Denver Zoo.

# ASGD Birdathon May 2011

It's not too soon to start planning!

For some it's a "walk in the park", for others it may be their "Big Day" of the year, but no matter how you approach it, the day you select to conduct your ASGD Birdathon is a red letter day for the Audubon Society of Greater Denver and for the birds. The Birdathon is an important fundraising event for ASGD and it is imperative that as many people as possible participate by either 1) soliciting sponsors and then going afield to see as many species as they can, or 2) by pledging their support to one of the many teams that will be afield.

Either way, you benefit ASGD and the environmental programs that we offer.

As past participants on many birdathon excursions, we can assure you that the most fun is derived by lining up pledges and then going afield to see how many species you can find. Your supporters then "owe" the society their pledged amount multiplied by the number of species you see. Even if your birding skills are barely fledged, we urge you to participate. If you honestly believe you are unlikely to see a huge number of species, and cannot find an eagle eyed "ringer" to guide your field effort, convince your supporters to pledge a

little more per species. If they don't want to gamble (suspecting perhaps that you'll subsequently get Hugh Kingery to show you how he saw more than 180 species in Denver\*) then ask them for a lump sum donation to support the effort. The event is to be enjoyed by all participants, and the greatest pleasure is derived by those who actively participate. We encourage all ASGD Friends Members to seek out pledges and spend a few hours afield, enjoying our favorite outdoor activity while benefitting our favorite nonprofit.

## THE RULES ARE STRAIGHTFORWARD AND SIMPLE:

1. Get your pledges lined up before the date you conduct your outing (these may be either as \$ per species, \$ per species not to exceed a specified dollar amount, or as a lump sum). Some donors may even seek to challenge you further, offering, for example, extra dollars for every species you find breeding.
2. Plan your outing to encompass the best weather and the habitats you like to bird.
3. Conduct your tally (species seen or heard only, no need to count individuals) within any 24 hour period in May in Colorado.

4. Then let your supporters know how you did, and let them share in your excitement while you collect the pledged amounts. We like to let them know everything we saw, the surprises we found, including the missed "sure bets" we thought we had pinned down, and the excuses we generate en route (e.g "our navigator fell asleep so we were lost for an hour", "we were so mesmerized by the Bobolink that we couldn't tear ourselves away". etc)
5. All pledges are tax deductible and donors will, upon request, be given a receipt.

Last year's teams, The Great Railed Tackles, The Kingbirds, and Three Vets in Search of a Bird, plan to improve on their performances this year, and we hope that they will be joined by many other ASGD members forming teams of their own with equally catchy names. Regardless of how much money you raise or how many species you see, we will all have fun and appreciate the effort which translates directly into benefits to the Audubon Society of Greater Denver and its wonderful programs.

\* Hint: It took him a lifetime, and Hugh is nearly as old as I am.

## The B.I.G. Day

Saturday April 16, 8:30am-12pm,  
Audubon Center at Chatfield

**WHAT IS THE B.I.G. DAY?** The **B.I.G Day** stands for **Be Involved, Give**. It is a volunteer service day sponsored by the South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce. The program's goal is to supply approximately 500 volunteers or 2,250 person hours in one day to support area non-profits. Give your time to improve and maintain the Audubon Center



at Chatfield by building a new gate for the bird banding station, maintaining trails, gardening, or cleaning up the classroom. There is something for any age and ability.

Find more information and view a video by clicking on the B.I.G. Day logo at <http://www.bestchamber.com/> or contacting ASGD at 303-973-9530

## Events

# Summer Camp at the Audubon Center at Chatfield

This summer, the Audubon Society of Greater Denver is partnering with Thorne Natural Science School to bring rewarding outdoor adventures to three to fifteen year old children. Spend the summer catching frogs, getting muddy, biking down mountain trails, and exploring Colorado's wild places with the Thorne Natural Science School!

TNSS offers fun, hands-on environmental camps for children aged 3-15 in two stunning locations; in Littleton and in Boulder. Kids will have a blast practicing important survival skills, exploring forests and streams, learning about local plants and animals, and getting their hands on tadpoles, crawfish, grasshoppers, and more! Our experienced, CPR and first-aid trained instructors help facilitate student learning and appreciation for the outdoors while keeping them safe. Students complete the



program with a newfound respect and awe of nature, increased understanding of the environment, and a desire to get back outside. Thorne and ASGD wish to extend this opportunity to every student who craves a summer of fun and exploration, and offers a Student Scholarship Fund to families facing economic hardship.



For more information about TNSS Summer Camps: <http://thorne-eco.org/summercourses.htm>

For the TNSS Scholarship Application, please visit: <http://thorne-eco.org/documents/ScholarshipApplication2011.pdf>  
303-499-3647  
P.O. Box 19107, Boulder, CO 80308  
[info@thorne-eco.org](mailto:info@thorne-eco.org) • [www.thorne-eco.org](http://www.thorne-eco.org)

## Volunteer Naturalists Needed



*Volunteer naturalists working in the field with children at the Audubon Center at Chatfield*

Do you like meeting new people? Love working with children? Can't get enough of the outdoors?

Join our Volunteer Naturalist program leading hikes, staffing the nature center, running or assisting with weekend programs, and leading activities for school field trips. ASGD Naturalists get to work closely with our May bird banding station. Mark your calendars for the following training dates.

Not all sessions are required for everyone.  
Saturday, March 19, 9am-2pm  
Thursday, March 24, 6pm-8pm  
Monday, March 28, 9am-2pm  
Saturday, April 2, 9am-2pm  
Wednesday, April 27, TBA  
Contact Suzy Hiskey at 303-973-9530 or [shiskey@denveraudubon.org](mailto:shiskey@denveraudubon.org) for more information.

## Photo Contest

**Photographers! Get Ready for ASGD's new and improved Nature Photography Contest coming in June 2011. Complete details will be available in the May/June Warbler. It is a great opportunity to showcase your best work and win great prizes. In the next few months, begin thinking about what photos you would like to submit.**

## Mother's Day Bird Banding Breakfast

**Sunday, May 8 from 9-11 am  
Audubon Center at Chatfield  
Mothers Free!**

***\$12/additional adult, \$6/child  
Registration required – 303-973-9530***

Treat your mother to a one-of-a-kind experience! After a light continental-style breakfast, enjoy a leisurely spring hike and a visit to our popular bird banding station. It is the perfect gift and a wonderful opportunity to see songbirds up close.



# Ready, Set, Plunge – Audubon Master Birder Class is beginning again!

Are you ready to take your birding skills to the next level AND share your passion for birds with others? Are you ready to wow your friends and relatives with your amazing birding knowledge? Do you want to learn what makes birds tick as well as how to identify those tricky species groups? Then join us!

Beginning in May 2011, we are accepting applications for the fourth Audubon Master Birder class. This year-long program, the only one of its kind in the US, offers an incredible learning opportunity for intermediate birders. In return for a series of college level classes and extensive field trips from the Denver area to Pueblo, Pawnee National Grassland, Rocky Mountain National Park, Shrine Pass, and other prime spots, Audubon Master Birders volunteer for 48 hours with ASGD each year for 2 years after graduation. They provide inspiration to others interested in birds and help connect people with nature.

During Monday evening class sessions twice a month, students explore bird

related topics in depth, such as migration, habitat, advanced identification, sound identification, and conservation issues. They also spend an average of two days per month birding with some of the best birders in the state! After certification, Audubon Master Birders put their skills to work as ambassadors for ASGD. They volunteer in a wide variety of activities: leading field trips, participating in bird counts, answering questions from the public, and teaching school and family programs.

Mark your calendars for May 25 at 7pm. The Audubon Master Birder committee is hosting an informational open house at the Audubon Nature Center. Anyone considering applying for the program is encouraged to attend. Application deadline is Monday, June 13 and all applicants are asked to participate in an entrance test on June 21 at 7pm at the Audubon Nature Center. The test consists of sight bird identification using slides. Don't be nervous! These will be common

Colorado birds.

Visit [www.denveraudubon.org](http://www.denveraudubon.org) for more information. Be sure to review the list of certification requirements and download your application. Tuition: \$500

Special thanks to our Audubon Master Birder mentor committee members, who continue to put in endless hours of work to make this the best programs of its kind: Hugh and Urling Kingery, Bill Eden, Ann Bonnell, Tina Jones, Karen von Saltza, Mackenzie Goldthwait, Dave Hill, Alison Kondler, Mike Henwood and Bob Andrews.

If you have questions about becoming an Audubon Master Birder, contact members of the mentor committee by email:

Mackenzie Goldthwait, Admissions Committee Chair, [Kezgold@comcast.net](mailto:Kezgold@comcast.net)

Hugh and Urling Kingery, [ouzels8@aol.com](mailto:ouzels8@aol.com) or [urling8@aol.com](mailto:urling8@aol.com)

Karen von Saltza, [kvonsaltza@carlsonwagonlit.com](mailto:kvonsaltza@carlsonwagonlit.com)

Upon completion, you will truly be a "Master Birder"!

## Sustainable Community

Practical solutions for health and the environment

The 29th National Pesticide Forum

<http://www.beyondpesticides.org/forum/index.htm>

This national conference will be held at the Colorado School of Public Health in Denver and will cover topics such as pesticides and public health, impacts of pesticides on pollinators, organic food and farming, healthy communities, organic land care, policy change, and more.

Maria Rodale, CEO of Rodale Inc., publisher of Organic Gardening and Prevention magazines, and the author of Organic Manifesto will be a conference keynote speaker.

**Register online at <http://www.shopbeyondpesticides.org/29napefo.html> or call 202-543-5450**







**Special Recession Rate: \$35 Student/Senior Rate: \$35**

**Standard Rate: \$75 (includes one-year membership)**

**Business Rate: \$175 (includes one-year membership for non-members)**



## NEW CODING ICONS USED TO BETTER UNDERSTAND PROGRAMS

-  Photography
-  Audubon Center at Chatfield
-  Audubon Office
-  Field Trip
-  Adults only
-  Easy to No Walking
-  Moderate Walking/Hiking
-  Extensive Hiking

## Walk the Wetlands

**Sunday, March 6, 9am**  
**Sunday, April 3, 8am**

Everyone welcome, members and non-members alike! Hike along the South Platte River looking for early spring migrants and lingering winter birds. This is a wonderful adventure for all ages. **BBFGWS**. We can lend you binoculars and field guides if you don't have them.

**Meeting Place: Audubon Center parking lot**  
**Leaders: Karen von Saltza and Master Birders**  
**Registration NOT required: No Fee**

## Little Fledglings Preschool Nature Hour

**Wednesdays, March 9, 23 and April 6, 20, 10-11am**

**Saturdays, March 2, 16, April 23, 10-11am**

Explore a different theme each month with stories, songs, crafts, and activities exploring wildlife and the natural world. This program introduces science skills and encourages active outdoor play. In March, children "Grow As We Go" by exploring the life cycles of familiar wildlife. In April, children have a "Backbone Bonanza" learning about vertebrates and characteristics that distinguish them.

**Registration required: Friends members: \$5 per child and their adult; \$2 each additional child**  
**Non-members: \$8 per child and their adult; \$4 each additional child**

## Nesting Raptors of the Front Range

**Sunday, March 20, 9am - 3pm, Saturday, March 26, 9am - 3pm**

Follow experienced raptor lovers Harold & Betty Oliver on a car caravan to view Bald Eagles, Great-horned Owls, and Red-tailed Hawks tending their nests. What's actually in that nest? This is a car trip with stops along public roads; very little walking. Stops are brief and not suitable for extended photo studies. Bring your lunch or buy at the Safeway deli where we'll eat lunch and discuss trip highlights. **BBFGWS**. Limit 12.

**Meeting Place: 1-25 to Exit #225 at 136th Ave. Meet at WalMart parking lot on west side of 1-25.**

**Leaders: Harold and Betty Oliver (303-936-6902); Kris Koff will assist**  
**Registration required: \$10/Friends member; \$12/non-member**

## Welcome Home Bluebirds Party

**Saturday, March 26, 10am-2pm**

Celebrate the return of spring by learning about bluebird nesting behaviors. Tour current nesting boxes during guided hikes and decorate bluebird houses. Experts from the Colorado Bluebird Project will be available to answer questions about bluebirds and other birds that use nesting boxes.

**Registration NOT required: No Fee for the event: Class and Craft fees may apply**

## It's a Bluebird Life

**Saturday, March 26, 11am-12pm**

Find out why Bluebirds are so special to Colorado. Learn about Bluebird behavior and nesting, as well as how to invite this beautiful bird into your neighborhood. Kevin Corwin shows you real bluebird eggs, nests, and video of a nesting bird, then shares information about a variety of other birds that use Bluebird nesting boxes.

**Registration preferred: Participants receive a \$5 Off Coupon for an ASGD Bluebird House**

## Owls of Colorado

**Wednesday, March 30, April 6, 7-8:30pm**

Learn about the different owls that call Colorado their home and some who visit in winter: Northern Saw-whet Owl, Burrowing Owl, Boreal Owl, Flammulated Owl, Short-eared Owl, Great Horned Owl, along with additional species. Habitat preferences of each species and characteristics such as sight, calls, hearing, thermoregulation, and hygiene are some of the topics presented. Bring your bird field guide to the class as a reference. Limit : 20 participants

**Meeting place: ASGD office, upstairs classroom. Call for directions**  
**Leader: Tina Jones, long time Colorado wildlife teacher and Audubon Master Birder**  
**Registration required: \$15/Friends member, \$18/nonmember**

## Beginning Bird Watching

**Classroom Session at the Audubon Center: Thursday, April 7, 7-9 pm**

**Field Trips: Saturdays, April 9, 16, 23, May 7, and June 4, 11. 8am-2pm**









Hugh and Urling Kingery, Colorado's foremost birding couple, introduce you to this popular outdoor hobby like no one else can. Learn how to identify birds, choose a good pair of binoculars, select field guides, and much more. We'll take trips to the best birding spots in the Denver metro area. Be forewarned - this class has hooked hundreds on the lifelong adventure of bird watching!

**Registration required; \$150/Member, \$175/non member (includes individual membership)**

## Nature Hike & Book Signing with Robert Michael Pyle

**Sunday, April 17, 12-3pm**

Celebrate connecting kids & families to nature with author Robert Michael Pyle. After a leisurely hike around the

LEGEND:  Photography  Audubon Center at Chatfield  Audubon Office  Field Trip  
 Adults only  Easy to No Walking  Moderate Walking/Hiking  Extensive Hiking

\*\*\* **BBFGWS = Bring binoculars, field guides, water, and a snack.** \*\*\*



ponds, head back to the Kassler Center for treats and a special presentation on the re-release of Pyle's popular book, *The Thunder Tree*. Sponsored by CANOE - Chatfield Area Network for Outreach & Education - which consists of Denver Botanic Gardens, Audubon Society of Greater Audubon, Denver Water, Thorne Ecological Institute, and the Rocky Mountain Land Library.

**Registration required**









## Water Bird Courting & Nesting Behavior

**Saturday, April 23, 1pm - Dusk**  
**Backup Rain Date Sunday, April 24 - Dusk**  
**(time subject to change based on scouting reports)**

Backup rain date: Sunday, April 24  
View water birds, herons & raptors at Jim Baker Reservoir. Species sighted in previous years: Clark's & Western Grebes, Red-breasted Merganser, American White Pelican, Black-crowned Night Heron, nesting Great Blue Heron, Franklin's Gull, Double-crested Cormorant, Osprey & Bald Eagle. We observed the Grebe courting ritual here in April 2009 and April 2010, after noon and in the hours just before sunset. We hope to repeat the experience! The Grebe and Heron viewing location is an easy 3/4mi walk from the parking lot. BBFGWS. Call Marilyn Rhodes, 303-674-6580, with questions. Leaders can be reached before and during the field trip on their cell phones: Bob, 720-641-3899; Marilyn, 720-333-2551.

**Meeting Place: Access Jim Baker Reservoir on the east side of Tennyson and 60th. Parking is limited at Jim Baker, so we've made arrangements with Mark VII Equipment to park in their empty lot. Their address is 5981 Tennyson, just west of the Jim Baker lot.**

**Leaders: Audubon Master Birders Marilyn Rhodes & Bob Santangelo**  
**Registration required: \$10/ASGD Friends and/or Evergreen Audubon member; \$12/nonmember**

**LEGEND:**  Photography  Audubon Center at Chatfield  Audubon Office  Field Trip  
 Adults only  Easy to No Walking  Moderate Walking/Hiking  Extensive Hiking

**\*\*\* BBFGWS = Bring binoculars, field guides, water, and a snack. \*\*\***

## Earth Day Celebration

**Saturday, April 23, 10am-2pm**  
Celebrate the earth by learning about pond invertebrates and Denver habitats, becoming a citizen scientist, or taking action with local governments. This informational event has a combination of classes, hikes, crafts, and speakers to help you get involved at the local level. Classes are part of our Certificate in Outdoor Adventure series— see inset for more information.

**Registration NOT required: No Fee for the event: Class and Craft fees may apply**

## Bird Banding Station Open

**April 25-May 30**  
**(station closed May 20-21)**  
**Saturdays & Sundays, 8am-12pm**

The Audubon Center opens weekend mornings during the operation of Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory's bird banding research station. Visitors are treated to the unique experience of watching research in action and seeing warblers, sparrows, woodpeckers, thrushes, and other songbirds up close. We encourage you to visit the station as often as possible to see resident and migrant birds – each day brings a different mix of species! Easy to moderate walking required on flat trails to reach the station.

**Registration NOT required. However, if the station is busy, there may be timed sessions.**



*Audubon Classroom – Audubon Center at Chatfield. Photo by Mike Hiskey*

## PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CITY OF AURORA PARKS & OPEN SPACE DEPARTMENT

### Quincy Reservoir

**Saturday, March 12, 8:30am**  
Look for migratory waterfowl, kingfishers, raptors and more as we explore the shores of Quincy Reservoir. **BBFGWS**  
**Information and registration: 303-739-2428**

### Star K Ranch

**Saturday, April 8, 8:30am**  
Look for migratory songbirds and raptors along the Sand Creek corridor. **BBFGWS**  
**Information and registration: 303-739-2428**



*BirdBandRelease – A Scientist helps children release a White-capped Sparrow at the Bird Banding Station. Photo by Mike Hiskey*



*GuidedHike – Volunteer Naturalists lead guided hikes into Chatfield State Park. Photo by Mike Hiskey*

# Travel

## Greater Prairie Chickens and Sandhill Cranes: Spring Magic in Nebraska

March 31-April 3, 2011

**Leaders:** *Hugh and Urling Kingery*

**To register:** *Please call 303-860-6045 or email Sheridan@ReefstoRockies.*

**Full trip payment is due at registration.**

Each spring, more than 80 percent of the world's population of Sandhill Cranes converges on Nebraska's Platte River Valley. Along with them come millions of migrating ducks and geese in the neighboring Rainwater Basin—covering the vast expanse of open sky with millions of flapping wings and a chorus of calls. At the same time, in the grasslands of Nebraska, male sharp-tailed grouse and greater prairie chickens are vying for the attention of hens. Their raucous lek displays include clucks, whoops, gobbles, exposed tail coverts and balloon-like air sacs flashing orange and yellow. Join Hugh and Urling Kingery on a 25 passenger bus bound for the magic of spring in Nebraska. Overnight at the Switzer Ranch Prairie Reserve (near Bursell, Nebraska) to bird the leks then on to Kearney for the Sandhill Crane fly-ins and blind viewing at the Rowe Sanctuary.

**\$880/Friends member (double occupancy); non-members \$940. Single supplement available upon request. Price includes round-trip motor coach transportation, guide services, three nights of accommodations, lek viewing at Switzer Ranch, two blind sessions at Rowe Sanctuary, and most meals. Deposit of \$200 due at registration with the balance due March 4, 2011. Limited to 22 participants.**

**For a detailed itinerary visit <http://reefstorockies.com/destinations/special-trips/> or contact Sheridan Samano [Sheridan@ReefsToRockies.com](mailto:Sheridan@ReefsToRockies.com) or 303-860-6045.**

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

Friday, April 8, 7pm – Saturday April 9, 3 pm (Trip #1)

Saturday, April 9, 7pm – Sunday April 10, 3pm (Trip #2)

**Leaders:** *Jessi Oberbeck and Dick Anderson*

**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/Friends member, single. Non-members add \$40. Includes two nights lodging and two hearty breakfasts, as well as two days of guided birding.**

Join Audubon Master Birders to witness the Greater Sage Grouse on their traditional booming grounds. Early risers locate the leks and first hear then see the male grouse perform their courtship display. After breakfast, bird throughout the day at area lakes and feeders. Trip #1 dismisses around 3:00pm Saturday. Trip #2 dismisses around 3:00pm 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 predawn snacks. Bring binoculars, field guides, cameras, and 2-way radios if you have them.

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

## Mountain Plover Festival - Karval, CO April 29, 30, May 1

**Leaders:** *Hugh and Urling Kingery*

Experience the prairie. From the Friday night ice cream social to a home grown beef BBQ, you are made to feel like a local as you explore private ranchland where the elusive Mountain Plover nests. We'll stay at a ranch, all meals will be provided, as well as school buses and wagons or tours. Guides are bird experts. We'll carpool to Karval. Visit the web site: [www.karval.org](http://www.karval.org).

**\$475/Friends member; \$500/nonmember; Single supplement available upon request**

**Pre-registration required; Deadline: March 18, 2011**

## Bird Photography Hot Spots in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas

April 13 - 19, 2011

**Leaders:** *Wendy Shattil and Bob Rozinski*

Join us for photography and bird watching in south Texas. Our emphasis is on photography, but it is also a unique opportunity to observe bird behavior and learn more about exotic species.

Wildlife photography in South Texas is unlike any other location you've experienced and this trip provides a sampling from the rugged interior to the tropical Gulf Coast. To see a large number of species, we'll concentrate on three locations - two ranches in the interior plus South Padre Island along the Gulf Coast. Our dates are selected to coincide with spring migration, when birds in breeding plumage and a maximum number of beautiful species should be plentiful.

We'll photograph on private ranches that host small groups of photographers and bird watchers in customized blinds maintained year-round to attract wildlife to approach within camera range. We will have the exclusive use of each ranch, with a resident guide preparing the settings just for us. We'll utilize a variety of blinds so everyone in our small group will have multiple opportunities to view the diversity of subjects and settings.

A 300mm or longer lens is certain to generate outstanding wildlife images at the ranches. With input from professional wildlife photographers, the ranches have developed habitats that are magnets for wildlife and ideal shooting conditions for photographers. Wildlife is acclimated to water features and feeding stations situated adjacent to established blinds. Most blinds are recessed for an eye level view of approaching subjects. Shooting locations are optimized for the best lighting and backgrounds. Likely birds include colorful tropical species whose names roll off the tongue and are as beautiful as they sound: green jay, kiskadee,

crested caracara, painted bunting, and pyrrhuloxia, as well as roadrunner, oriole, harris hawk, and turkey. Possible mammals include coyotes, rabbits, white-tailed deer, javelina and bobcats. We're also likely to see and photograph reptiles, amphibians, butterflies and insects.

Spring migration across the Gulf of Mexico is an arduous route for birds, and the first groves of trees along the Texas coast provide welcome rest stops. South Padre Island is one of the places where exhausted warblers, orioles and tanagers can appear in multitudes, particularly following a storm. Anytime from mid to late April the birds can appear. Wading birds, shorebirds and raptors also find sanctuary in the wetlands reserved for them at several locations on the otherwise developed island. The contrast between bird sanctuaries and human activity is remarkable, but not so much as the wealth of photogenic subjects within camera range. 300mm lenses are suitable for wading birds, though a longer focal length is beneficial for smaller birds.

**\$2150/person. Maximum Participants: 6. \$150 will be donated to the Audubon Society of Greater Denver for each member registered for our Texas workshop. To inquire about this trip, contact wendy@dancingpelican.com or phone Wendy and Bob at 303-721-1991.**

## Brazil Birding Adventure

July 31-August 15, 2011

Leader: Bill Turner

Travel to the Amazon Basin, the Pantanal (the world's largest freshwater wetlands), and the scenic mesas and cerrado of Chapada dos Guimaraes Cruise up a jungle river looking for the Amazonian umbrellabird, razor-billed curassow, sunbittern, king vulture, giant otter, Brazilian tapir, and anaconda Our accommodations in the Amazon are at the comfortable Cristalino Lodge where we may see five species of macaw in one day The lodge's 150 foot tower gives us a bird's eye view of rainforest canopy life such as red-fan parrots and white-whiskered spider monkeys.

The Pantanal is a wildlife paradise offering sightings of numerous herons and egrets, the southern screamer, the spectacular hyacinth macaw, nesting jabiru, toco toucan, all five species of South American kingfishers, sungrebe, wattled jacana, red-legged seriema, and many species of woodpeckers and antbirds, to mention only a few of the birds we're likely to see Among the mammal possibilities are capybaras, agoutis, giant anteater, crab-eating foxes and raccoons, ocelot, neotropical and giant otters, brocket deer, black-tailed marmosets - and jaguar On our 2010 tour, we saw a mother puma and her two half-grown kittens We'll be visiting a site where there is a good chance for a harpy eagle.

Paulo Boute, an outstanding English-speaking birder/naturalist, will be our guide throughout the trip Paulo has guided Roger Tory Peterson and American Birding Association notables among his clients.

**\$4995/person double occupancy based on a maximum group size of nine The single supplement is \$750 Travel in the Pantanal and Chapada will be in a 21 passenger coach with large viewing windows Roundtrip air fare from Denver, including several**

**internal Brazilian flights, is approximately \$1600. For further information and a detailed itinerary, please contact Bill Turner at (303) 795-5128 or e-mail: [toursbyturner@aol.com](mailto:toursbyturner@aol.com)**

## Ecuador Hummingbirds and More

September 9 – 16, 2011

This trip is designed to reach some of the most fantastic hummingbird locations in Ecuador over a nine-day trip. Besides finding 50 to 60 hummingbird species, the trip bird list should be 350 to 400 species (including 60 plus tanager species, Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, and maybe both Umbrellaba birds). Our trip will be guided by one of South America's top guides, Lelis Navarrete and sponsored by the Audubon Society of Greater Denver. Harriet Stratton will be the trip host to assure good company and good fun. Excellent lodges (such as Sacha Tamia, Bellavista, San Isidro and Wild Sumaco) sets the stage for a great trip.

**\$2,290/person; a great value for hummingbird enthusiasts and all bird watchers! \$500 deposit holds one of 8 spots on the trip. Contact Charles Thornton-Kolbe at the Partnership for International Birding at 720-320-1974 or ASGD at 303-973-9530. Charles would be glad to answer any questions you have about the trip, as he and Lelis designed this trip especially for ASGD. Learn more from our "Ecuador Hummingbirds and More" website at <http://www.pibird.com/EcuadorHummdetails-1.html>**

## North Dakota Grasslands and Minnesota's Boreal Forest with Bill Schmoker

June 4 - 11 or July 11 - 18

This trip covers the prairie potholes habitat in North Dakota and the boreal forest in Minnesota. Numerous other habitats are visited, resulting in a productive birding trip. Bill Schmoker leads with Michael Francis (who has lead numerous trips for local Texas Audubon groups) and John Drummond (one of Colorado's top world birders). Some of the species you should see include Yellow Rail, Piping Plover, Sedge Wren, Sprague's Pipit, Baird's Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Black-backed Woodpecker, Ruffed Grouse, Northern Hawk Owl, Red-necked Grebe, Boreal Chickadee, Great Gray Owl, Spruce Grouse. We should also see as many as 20 species of nesting warblers, including Connecticut Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Canada Warbler and more.

**\$1,390, including a \$300 deposit (which holds one of 10 spots on the trip). Contact Charles Thornton-Kolbe at the Partnership for International Birding at 720-320-1974 or ASGD at 303-973-9530. Charles would be glad to answer any questions you have about the trip. Learn more from our North Dakota and Minnesota website at <http://www.pibird.com/NorthDakota-2011-1.html>**

# Backyard Birds



by Hugh Kingery

**BACKYARD FEEDERS SUSTAIN BIRDS** that eat seeds – and sustain birds that eat birds that eat seeds. This Backyard Birds column has several tales of the latter.

**BUZZ BOWERS SENT** some rather gory pictures of a Sharp-shinned Hawk that caught a Eurasian Collared-Dove in his yard, and ate it right there. The hawk tore open the dove's insides and Buzz's pictures confirmed that it had a grain-filled craw.



Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

**CHUCK ANDREWS: "WHILE HAPPILY FUSSING** with my new camera lens on November 20, I spotted a male Sharp-shinned Hawk which had just grabbed a sparrow from our bird bath. Off and on at this time of year, we've seen small hawks in our backyard (near Yale & Peoria), but had never actually seen a successful hunt/kill, until now. He must have come back again, as we have had very few sparrows around recently."

**DAVE CAMERON ON JAN. 23** sent an email, "Patience in the face of danger. I stepped out the back door to meet, nearly face-to-face, a male Downy Woodpecker on one of the sticks of my homemade bark-butter feeder. He was glued to it, it seemed, his belly and chin right down on the stick, not feeding. He did not flush as I stepped out,



Downy Woodpecker  
Photo by Dick Vogel

only 10 feet away. I heard a rustling toward the fence and spotted the juvenile Cooper's Hawk. (I've had more backyard Coopers' this year than ever). The Downy was clinging, frozen, to the stick exactly 180 degrees opposite the hawk.

**"WHEN THE HAWK FLEW** to the rear of the yard, the Downy scooted around to point his red spot directly at me, again keeping the stick between him and the hawk. When the hawk finally flew off one way, so did the Downy, the other way. Smart little bird, knew enough to freeze and not dare fly, even with me right there, given the greater danger of doing so. To steal a line that's the title of a recent book, a 'rare encounter with ordinary birds.'" Others who saw or photographed bird hawks in their yards: Dennis Morales' daughter, Joy Scheiving, four feeder-watchers on the Urban Denver Christmas bird count (CBC), and us.

**JACKIE KING "WATCHED** the most amazing thing between a Sharpie and a squirrel. The sharpie perched on a stump—the squirrel stood on its hind legs and stretched toward the hawk. The hawk flew up then landed. This happened three times in 15 minutes. Finally the hawk flew to a nearby tree and waited for dinner at another place."

**WINTER RARITIES EXCITED** many of us. After Sharon Logan's Varied Thrush in Parker last fall, Dan and Marcia Ferguson discovered another one Jan. 4 in their Ken Caryl yard. Sharon's stayed about a week, and so did the Fergusons' -- both took good pictures. The Fergusons' thrush fed on pieces of suet cake knocked off a suspended basket by flickers, and hairy and downy woodpeckers. It came alone, as did Sharon's.



Varied Thrush  
Photo by Dan Ferguson

**CYNTHIA MADSEN PHOTOGRAPHED** a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker that came to her Centennial yard on New Year's Day,

the same day that Bob Santangelo and Randy Raak photographed one at the Denver Country Club on the Urban CBC. These sapsuckers offer an easy ID in winter: juvenile Yellow-bellied don't molt into adult plumage till spring; Red-naped molt in the fall.

**BOB ALSO PHOTOGRAPHED,** in his Wheat Ridge yard, a Bullock's Oriole that came daily Dec. 21-31; this one "liked 'Birdacious



Bullocks Oriole  
Photo by Bob Santangelo

Bark Butter' – pricey, and the starlings love it too (Such sophisticated taste in such an undesirable species). The oriole never touched the orange halves or grape jelly (nor Marilyn Rhodes' peach preserves – that's okay, it's my personal favorite). I've put out extra suet feeders just for this bird. He does slip down on the tray of one of my screen-tube feeders and takes some seed."

**LEE CROISSANT DROPPED BY** with two stunning photographs of a Canyon Towhee that stayed in his Parker yard for two months – they normally live south of Pueblo.

**E.B. ELLIS, IN JANUARY,** saw "a Gray Catbird at his suet feeders in Roxborough Village. The bird fed for a few minutes and left." Less unusual, Patty Echelmeyer's Wheat Ridge Hermit Thrush that she saw four times in December/January – they occasionally show up in winter here.



Gray Catbird  
Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

**JAY BREESE SAW** a “weird bird” at Civic Center park in December. After perusing bird books he identified it: Western Meadowlark. Right size, right head stripes, white feathers on the side of the tail – but totally out of place downtown.

**PATTY PERRON REPORTED** from Parker



*Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Photo courtesy of  
Wikipedia*

on Dec. 22, that “for the past two weeks a Yellow-rumped Warbler has been a frequent visitor. It goes to a suet feeder my husband made which has a small wooden tray below the suet. It cleans up whatever has

dropped. Seems very at home with the rest of the birds.”

**EILEEN MCLAUGHLIN**, in Columbine Knolls, watched an immature Bald Eagle perched on her backyard fence. She saw it Jan 12, just after the cold snap when temperatures dropped below zero, Chatfield Reservoir froze over, and the eagles probably dispersed downstream and around the area looking for food. James Decker admired an American Kestrel in his Castle Rock yard on Jan. 10.

**RALPH WOLFF PHOTOGRAPHED**

a Scaled Quail that came to his Lakewood yard; we figure that probably this bird escaped from a game farm somewhere, like the Bobwhites and Chukars that metro observers sometimes see.



*Scaled Quail  
Photo courtesy of  
Wikipedia*

**CHRISTINE ARTHUN AND KAREN METZ** (both in Franktown) saw Sandhill Cranes migrating on November 26, about four miles apart, probably the same flock. As

Christine said, “Their chorus is one of my favorite things to listen to!”

**FIFTY ROBINS SURPRISED** Shirley Conklin on Jan. 3, eating juniper berries – and she wondered why they hadn’t gone south. Not all robins do migrate – we typically do see them in winter, although usually in the foothills (juniper berries) and usually more than this year. On the Urban CBC, we counted 627; Kevin Corwin’s group in City Park and Park Hill counted the most with 129.

**POLLY REETZ EMAILED** that on Jan. 23 “about sunset we were suddenly inundated with crows, probably 75-100, perching in the nearby big elms and ash trees, circling, then flying off. The called continuously and made ‘weird noises’ according to my husband.” The urban count had 629 – two more than robins.

**SHARON PFEIFER, IN BELCARO**, “walked to the patio door and saw over 30 Cedar Waxwings in and around the water fountain.” She saw them for three days. Dec. 13 Polly saw a small flock, eating Oregon grape berries. Bill Eden, in south Denver, counted flocks on Dec. 6 and Dec. 20. Joy saw one with 25 robins in November.

**PAT MCCLEARN “GLANCED** at the locust tree outside my window and spotted a Brown Creeper making repeated ascents checking out the breakfast fare.



*Brown Creeper  
Photo by Dick Vogel*

The third time I looked out, a line of five geese was visible just above the neighbor’s roof. Birdwatching in the city can be excellent.”

**BUSHTITS CONTINUE TO FLOCK** in the city: Sharon has a small flock of 10; Cynthia had a flock on Jan. 3; Others have also had them: Bill Eden, Jo Evans in Parker,

**MOUNTAIN CHICKADEES** and Red-breasted Nuthatches have become regulars in town: Sharon Pfeifer, Bill Eden, Kathy & Tom Connolly in Arvada, Kate Frost in Centennial, Barb Shissler in central Denver, and Joy.

**TOWNSEND’S SOLITAIRE:** The bird nobody reported. The CBC counted only 9, compared to an average of 21. We birdwatchers don’t do well at reporting birds they don’t see – it goes against our observatory nature, I guess.



*Townsend’s Solitaire Photo by Bill Eden*

**WE FREQUENTLY HEAR ABOUT BIRDS** with white substituted for normal feathers, but this season came reports of two that had brown instead of normal colors. Susan Chaki in Parker sent photos of a brown and white magpie that has come in with six other normal-looking magpies since last summer. Then Randy Raak took some excellent photos of a White-breasted Nuthatch that has brown wings. Tony Leukering, who used to work for RMBO, writes a blog for Cape May Bird Observatory. His blog defines this as “a qualitative reduction of eumelanin.” Read more here: Cape May Bird Observatory. Feeder watchers on the Denver Urban Christmas count reported 1148 birds of 31 species. Other than Canada Geese (the most abundant on the count), they counted 202 House Sparrows, 164 House Finches, 79 robins, 53 juncos, 47 starlings, and 44 flickers. At the Audubon Nature Center, ASGD Education director Suzy Hiskey counted 53 Red-winged Blackbirds, 26 White-crowned Sparrows, and 16 House Finches among the 13 species. Most surprising, a Northern Shrike that cruised around Discovery Pavilion.

**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](mailto:ouzels8@aol.com).



# Bird & Brew Trivia

Wednesday, March 23  
7-9pm

Breckenridge Brewery Ballpark Pub  
2220 Blake Street • Denver 80205  
[www.breckbrew.com](http://www.breckbrew.com)

Join us for an exciting night of nature and outdoor trivia!  
Form a team of up to six or join a team that night.  
Even if you're not trivia buff,  
it's really all about friends, fun, and food.

\$5 entry fee per person  
proceeds support ASGD programs  
**303-973-9530 or [info@denveraudubon.org](mailto:info@denveraudubon.org)**



## Donate a Vehicle

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).

## OPEN HOUSE SET FOR MAY 7TH All - Day Event 10am - 5pm

### Hawkquest Returns With 5 Raptors on Display

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# ASGD Certificate in Outdoor Adventure

This series introduces you to outdoor adventure basics in a fun, relaxed way. Great for children, parents and other adults to explore together. Go at your own pace—sessions are offered throughout the year at the Audubon Nature Center. Complete all ten sessions and receive an **official ASGD Certificate in Outdoor Adventure!**

## Your adventure includes:

- ✓ Be Prepared for Your Adventures
- ✓ Map & Compass Basics
- ✓ Mucking in Wild Water Habitats
- ✓ Habitats of Denver
- ✓ Insects & Other Spineless Critters
- ✓ GPS for Beginners
- ✓ Birding 101
- ✓ Plants of the Platte
- ✓ Mammals
- ✓ Reptiles & Amphibians

## Upcoming Sessions

Saturday, April 23,	10am-11:30 am – Habitats of Denver	
Saturday, April 23	12pm-1:30pm – Insects & Other Spineless Critters	
Saturday, May 21	10am-11:30am – Plants of the Platte	
Saturday, May 21	12pm-1:30pm – Mucking in Wild Water Habitats	

**FREE to ASGD Friends members and \$5 for nonmembers to participate.**  
To register, call 303-973-9530.

ASGD Certificate in Outdoor Adventure sponsored by *TogetherGreen*,  
an alliance between Audubon and Toyota.



# Welcome New Friends Members

- Amy Horn-Lottridge
- Angela Brummert
- Camille Schiraldi
- Carol Elfring
- Connor Goure
- Crystal Reser
- Cynthia Schuele
- Edward Karg
- Erin O'Keefe
- Gemma Marshall
- George Larsen
- James Hughes
- Jan Swier
- Jerry Kirshenbaum
- John & Joyce Nordin
- John Taylor
- Karen Bickett
- Linda Andrews
- Lisa Herbel
- Lynn Peterson
- Margaret Johnson
- Martha-Ann Sylvester
- Mary Ellen Caiati
- Mary Kay Mansfield
- Nancy Hawkins
- Patricia Mulligan & Georgia Mason
- Rhonda Fogel
- Robert Silleck
- Rosine Ribelin
- Tarr Family
- William Phillips

# Thank You Volunteers

**Field Trip & Program Leaders:** Dotty Biggs, Kate Frost, Tina Jones, Mary Keithler, Kris Koff, Harold & Betty Oliver, Barbara Shissler, Cindy Valentine, Urling Kingery, Karen von Saltza

**Audubon Center Open House:** Amber Ballman, Doris Cruze, Carol DeStefanis, Julie Dorosz, Mike Hiskey

**Office Help:** Dick Anderson, Bridget Milnes, Carl Norbeck, Phil Reynolds, Carolyn Roark, Grace Weber, Esther Weiner

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The gift of a Friends Membership in ASGD is a great way to give a valuable gift and support ASGD at the same time!

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**Order today! Call 303-973-9530.**

# Thank You ASGD Donors

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*Immature Bald Eagle  
Photo courtesy of Wikipedia*





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**Legal Designation:** If you wish to name Audubon Society of Greater Denver in your will or estate plan, we should be named as: **Audubon Society of Greater Denver, a nonprofit organization, organized and existing under the laws of Colorado, with its principal business address at 9308 S. Wadsworth Blvd, Littleton, CO 80128.**

**Tax Identification Number:** 23-7063701

**Date of Incorporation:** September 30, 1969

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