



No Child Left Inside

by Linda Strand, ASGD Board Member

Many of you have heard of the No Child Left Behind, legislation that has fundamentally changed the way education is delivered in the United States. The legislation defined the core content that all school children must learn to be considered proficient at each grade level. In many

to amend the No Child Left Behind act to include environmental education. Named the “No Child Left Inside Act”, the coalition sought to include:

- Funding to train teachers to deliver high quality Environmental Education and utilize the local environment as an extension of the classroom.



school districts this led to teaching only within the core curriculum with teachers eliminating other subjects or interests. Many of the same criticisms have been made about our CSAP standards in Colorado.

In 2008, a coalition of environmental organizations introduced legislation

- Incentives for states to develop State Environmental Literacy Plans to insure that every student is prepared to understand the environmental challenges of the future.
- Encouragement for teachers, administrators, and school systems to make time and resources available for environmental education for all students.
- Environmental Education will be integrated across core subject areas.

On September 19, 2008 the No Child Left Inside Act of 2008 (H.R. 3036) passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 294 to 108. Colorado’s delegation split along party lines with support for the act from DeGette, Salazar, Udall, and Perlmutter. The issue won’t be heard by the Senate until they reconvene in 2009.

To learn more about this important legislation and what you can do to insure its passage in 2009, log on to nclcoalition.org. (The NCLI home site is hosted by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and was the source for information in this article.)

ASGD Annual Appeal

Members and Friends – While we all realize the crazy economic situation over the last few months has left us all a bit shaken, it is that time of the year when we all think about the organizations and causes that mean the most to us. As you think about your year-end giving, we hope that the Audubon Society of Greater Denver will be on your list. We hope you agree that our programs and projects have helped to enhance your quality of life. We thank you for your continued support now and in the coming year. We wish you a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year.

ASGD Board of Directors

Give an ASGD Membership

While considering holiday gifts for your friends and family—we would like to offer an option with no carbon footprint, one that keeps on giving for twelve months, and one that offers benefits to many beyond the gift’s recipient. Give an individual or family membership to ASGD. Your friends and family can enjoy the many programs offered by ASGD, our informative newsletter, discounts on travel options and the enjoyment of contributing to a great organization. Membership information is included on the back of this newsletter or by calling 303-973-9530.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

No Child Left Inside.....	1
ASGD Annual Appeal	1
Give an ASGD Membership	1
President’s Message	2
Thanks to our Volunteers.....	2
New Friends members.....	2
Susan Smith leaves ASGD.....	3
Citizen Scientists wanted.....	3
Eagle Eye	4
Calendar of Events	5
Field Trips & Education	6-8
Backyard Birds	9
Donor Recognition.....	10
Vehicle Donation Program	10
Time to join Project Feeder Watch .	10
ASGD Travel.....	11
New Service forASGD members.....	12

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE— HEALTHY, WEALTHY, AND WISE

Do you ever read those lists of how to fight aging and live a longer life? They are everywhere - in magazines, newspapers, on television, and even in the grocery store advertisements. Some of the often repeated items are no-brainers, such as stop smoking or lose excess weight. Others are kind of silly, such as inherit good genes from your parents. Some are unappealing, like eat more Brussels sprouts and sardines. Contradictions are out there, with one list claiming that drinking coffee protects your health and the next list advising readers to avoid caffeine.

There are three things, however, which show up consistently on every list. The first is "Exercise." That is simple enough - go for a bird hike. No matter what your fitness level, there are lots of opportunities to go birding, whether it is a leisurely walk around your neighborhood or a near-by park, or an organized all-day adventure to a birding hot spot. The second is "Connect with other people." Easy. Go for a bird hike with friends. And if you are looking for birding companions, invite a few kids to go with you. Young eyes are sharp, the kids will be amazed at what they see, and one of them might even be willing to carry the scope for a while.

Third, "Search out mental challenges." Most list makers suggest working crossword puzzles or playing bridge, but what could be more challenging than trying to identify the birds you see and hear on that hike with your friends. If you are looking for a serious challenge, go to a lake where gulls gather! And after your hike, go home, eat a healthful meal and get some sleep. You will wake up healthy, happy, and ready to do it all again next weekend.

(Look for the bird hikes scheduled by ASGD elsewhere in this newsletter and sign up now.)



Thanks To Our Volunteers!

SEPT/OCT WARBLER MAILING: Jo Ann Bushnell, Patti Echelmeyer, Marc Goodbody, Caroline Hancock, Vi Nicholson, Carolyn Roark, Ruther Schoening, Barbara Shissler

WEEDING: Kathy Bollhoefer, Angela Grun, Mary Keithler, Kris Koff, Adam Naito, Blake Naito

FALL DINNER MAILING: Jo Ann Bushnell, Allison Hilf, Vi Nicholson, Tom Parchman, Arlene Raskin, Carolyn Roark, Lori Sharp, Sara Stokes, Roberta Wiseman

OFFICE HELP: Phil Reynolds, Carolyn Roark, Grace Weber

ASGD recognizes our New Friends Members

Amber Davis, Andrea Aikin, Andrew Dolan, Angela & Match Grun, Charlotte Mirabella, Cheryl Williams, Dana Grzybicki, Helen Achatz, James & Brenda Turley, Jean London, Jenelle Duhamel, Jessica Jenner, Joann Marshall, Joe & Corrinne Bartell, John Quinting, Kathy Hartman, Malcolm Hirsh, Margie Montrose, Mark Amershek, Mary Davis, Mary Heyl, Nelson & Jacqueline Ferguson, Peggy Wait, Rex & Deda Nelson, Sally Cook, Sandy Tucker, Susan Clasen, Susan White, Ted Fons & Mary Beth Cooper, Vicki Lisman, Virginia Ellis



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MISSION

ASGD is a nonprofit group dedicated to maintaining the health of natural ecosystems through education, political action, scientific research and land preservation, with primary focus on birds, other wildlife 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 complimentary copies of the *The Warbler*.

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

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Susan Smith leaves ASGD after 9 years

by Doris Cruze, President, ASGD

After nine productive years with Audubon Society of Greater Denver, Susan Smith submitted her resignation this fall. Susan will be working with the National Wildlife Federation, but she promises to stay involved with Audubon as a volunteer.

The Board of Directors accepted Susan's resignation with regret, and held a reception in her honor at the Chatfield Nature Center in September. Along with cake, lemonade, and cards filled with good wishes, Susan was presented with a scrapbook of photos and hand written messages, a check, flowers, and a replica of the permanent marker to be placed in the native plant garden in her honor.

Susan first joined the staff of ASGD as education specialist. At that time, the office was located in rented space in Aurora, with a part time executive director and volunteers who took outreach programs to schools. When the director resigned, the Board asked Susan to step up to that position. Soon after that, things began to happen.

Ann Bonnell attended a meeting where a request was made by Chatfield State Park representatives for help in finding a non-profit group to do environmental education programs. Ann realized the opportunity as a fit for ASGD, and the partnership between ASGD and Chatfield was formed. With ASGD in new offices at Chatfield, Susan's energetic leadership began to bubble up. The campaign to bring to life to the long-boarded up stone buildings at the Discovery Pavilion began. The buildings were once a ranch, then the original home of Martin Marietta, and, later, regional offices for state parks. Board members, volunteers, and friends swung into action to raise funds, clear years of debris, pull

weeds, and convert a derelict garage into a spacious classroom with running water, electricity, storage, tables, chairs, and a native plant sensory garden. Susan was the driving force in the effort, doing everything from meeting with contractors to hauling trash, all the while running the office, teaching educational programs, and managing the fund raising campaign to make the Nature Center at Chatfield a reality. Today,

both stone buildings are restored, along with trails, a boardwalk, a wooden dock, a second garden, and an amphitheater for outdoor learning. Plans for a new building to serve as the permanent home for ASGD are in place. Under Susan's guidance, dedicated volunteers wrote lesson plans and put those plans into action for the thousands of kids and the hundreds of adults eager to connect with nature at this place and in metro area schools.

Susan's vision led the way for ASGD to design, develop, and deliver a unique "Naturalist in Residence" program for elementary school children and an "Audubon Master Birder" program for adults. She edited the Warbler newsletter for members, wrote successful grants, and led the way to new technologies with her talent for computers and their applications for ASGD.

Susan kept watch on a busy calendar and with the help of members and volunteers, she oversaw silent auctions, members

dinner, special events such as Bioblitz and Birdathon, trail building, birdseed sales, native plant sales, and much more. Early in 2008, Susan gladly again became education director when Carl Norbeck was named executive director.

Susan Smith has made a tremendous contribution to ASGD. We owe her our thanks, and we look forward to keeping her and her family involved as friends and volunteers.



Education Director, Susan Smith bid farewell to ASGD on September 7. The native plant garden behind the Outdoor Lab was named in her honor.

Citizen Scientists Wanted!

by Polly Reetz, ASGD Conservation Committee Chair

If you are a birdwatcher or a plant watcher, have we got a project for you! You can now enter your observations online and join others across the country who are contributing data that can be used to document bird movements, population levels, and most importantly, global climate change.

First, you can record observations of birds in your yard, or a site that you visit regularly, at ebird, www.ebird.org. Click on the "Submit Observations" link and follow the instructions to submit your data. Ebird is a cooperative project of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, and the data can be accessed by scientists to examine any number of questions. Audubon of Greater Denver would like eventually to look at data from our area and analyze it for trends that show birds arriving from their wintering grounds earlier or breeding earlier. If you are interested in working on such a project, call the ASGD office, 303-973-9530, and get connected with the Conservation Committee.

If plants are your thing, Project Budburst is interested in your observations. This project collects climate change data on the timing of leafing and flowering of trees and flowers in your area. You can select one or more species for observation from the Project Budburst list of 59 targeted species, or choose one of your own. The species can be a domesticated one, or a native tree, shrub or flower. The site asks for observations of several specific events, such as first leaf, full leaf, first flower, full flower, etc. Go to www.budburst.org, register, and follow the prompts.

Some Audubon members may already be engaged in one or both of these projects; we would like to know if you are. Again, please let us know by emailing the office, info@denver-audubon.org, or by calling the number above.

The Conservation Committee encourages all our members to participate in documenting global climate change! Both of these projects are a good way to accomplish that.



Eagle Eye

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

Keystone, Colorado. Brilliant blue skies, sunshine, cool breezes, the aspen in full fall regalia. Indoors at the Keystone Conference Center, almost 300 conservationists – hunters, anglers, birdwatchers, land preservationists, county commissioners, and federal and state agency staff gathered for the first-ever Colorado Conservation Summit. The focus of the Summit was how to conserve Colorado’s fish and wildlife over the next 50 years, in the face of factors like continued population growth, massive energy development, increasing demands for water and recreation, and the wild card, climate change. It started off with a bang – a speech by Governor Bill Ritter, followed by Harris Sherman, Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources.

The discussion of wildlife conservation coalesced around five topics: Reaching Out to Youth, Climate Change, Land Use and Growth, Water Quality and Flows, and Federal Public Lands. Any one of them could have occupied the group for several days, on its own! After one day together, participants broke into groups focused on each of these topics, with the task of formulating an analysis of trends, a vision for the future, a set of goals, and recommendations for policies and action items. It sounds rather dull, but the discussions, at least in the group I attended, were lively and thoughtful. These sessions ran from 8:00am to 5:30pm, with just a couple of breaks—a long, hard day.

Very real concerns motivated the choice of the 5 topics. Youth Outreach addressed the fact that our children spend very little time outdoors in unstructured play and few have any substantial experience or knowledge of the natural world that will turn them into wildlife advocates. Land Use and Growth grew out of the concern about loss of wildlife habitat and agricultural lands to urban sprawl and other types of development. Climate Change we know will have substantial impacts, some of them hard to detect at first. And so on.

Recommendations from the five groups hit some common themes: first, the need to find additional funding sources, whether for wildlife management by the Division of Wildlife or for conservation easements to protect especially critical habitats. Second, the need for data on wildlife population status, distribution, trends, threats, and the dissemination of that data to local governments (which make land use decisions) and the public. Third, informed public participation in discussions and decision-making. Fourth, the need to avoid, minimize or mitigate the impacts of energy development –including alternative energy - on wildlife. Fifth, the need to employ the best available science in decision-making.

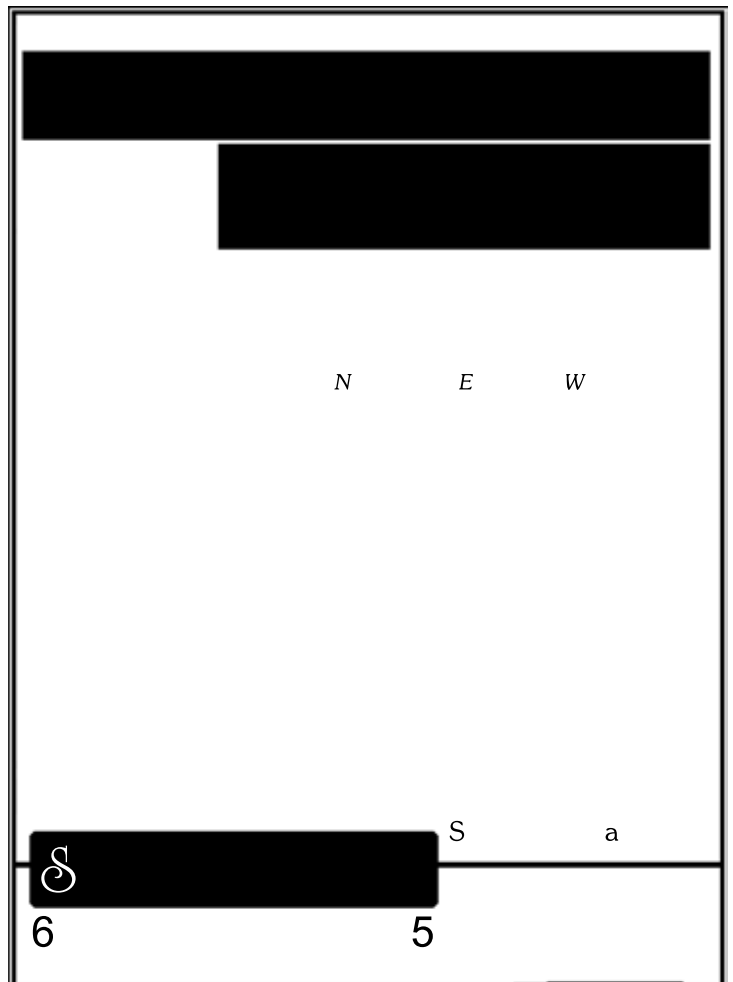
It’s impossible to list all the recommendations here, as they ran the gamut from building an outdoor classroom for every school, to additional wilderness designation, to

ensuring that all counties and municipalities have enforceable master plans that promote wildlife conservation. A final document will be available to anyone who wants to read it, hopefully by Thanksgiving. Then comes the challenge of putting the recommendations into practice, a job that all the groups represented at the Summit will share. In the meantime, a consensus statement of commitment was agreed on and signed by the attendees.

The huge amount of work required to put on a meeting like this one probably means they won’t be an annual event, but another one should materialize within several years. At that time, we’ll be able to evaluate the progress made towards the goals set in 2008. This Summit was, as someone put it, the first three days of the next 50 years of wildlife conservation in Colorado.

Election Notes: If this Warbler reaches you before November 5, make sure you VOTE. This year’s ballot has a large number of initiatives on it, one of which – Amendment 58 – would revoke a property tax credit given to energy companies and put the money into impact mitigation, higher education scholarships, and wildlife habitat acquisition.

Save the Date: February 21, 2009 is the date of the next Audubon/Sierra Club Legislative Forum – formerly known as the Legislative Workshop. Put it on your calendar and plan to attend – details will be in the next Warbler. Decisions made at the State level have crucial impacts on wildlife in Colorado. We know that there will be efforts to revise HB 1298, which mandated wildlife considerations in oil and gas development. Come and get informed!





AUDUBON SOCIETY

of GREATER DENVER

Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
9am Walk the Wetlands Daylight Savings Time	7pm Master Birder Class		7pm Members Monthly Meeting (Coyotes)			8:30am Master Birder FT Quincy Reservoir FT
2	3	Election Day 4	5	6	7	8
		7pm ASGD Board Meeting				9am Belmar Historic Park FT
9	10	Vetran's Day 11	12	13	14	15
	7pm Master Birder Class	7pm Conservation Committee				8:30am Master Birder FT
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
						8am South Platte Park FT
23	24	25	26	Thanksgiving Day 27	28	29
30						

DECEMBER 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	7pm Master Birder Class		7pm Members Monthly Meeting (Citizen Science)			
	1	2	3	4	5	6
9am Walk the Wetlands		7pm ASGD Board Meeting				8:30am Star K Ranch FT
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	7pm Master Birder Class		2pm Field Trip Committee			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	Hanukkah 22	23	24	Christmas Day 25	Kwanzaa 26	27
				CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT		
28	29	30	31	New Year's Day 1		



TRAVEL, FIELD TRIPS, CLASSES & PROGRAMS

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– FIELD TRIPS –

Walk the Wetlands

Date: November 2, 2008, 9:00 a.m.
December 7, 2008, 9:00 a.m.
Leaders: Hugh and Urling Kingery 303-814-2723
Doris Cruze, Master Birders
Fee: None
Pre-registration not required.

Meeting Place: Audubon Center at Chatfield located on Waterton Road, 4.4 miles south of C470 and Wadsworth.

Description: Walk and bird the ponds and river ecosystems around the Audubon Center at Chatfield. For all ages and all abilities. Monthly and annual counts are recorded. A 2-3 hour trip, bring water, binoculars and field guides. Outdoor bathrooms available at Center.

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIPS

Note: Our on-line credit card service has discontinued its operation. Until we can replace it, please call 303-973-9530 or e-mail the office rshank@denveraudubon.org and our staff can assist you with pre-registration. Thanks for your patience while we work on replacing this service.

Quincy Reservoir

Date: November 8, 2008, 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Mary Ann Bonnell
Fee: \$5/person Quincy Reservoir fee
Pre-registration required. 303-739-2428
Aurora Parks and Open Space

Meeting Place: Quincy Reservoir. More detailed directions at registration.

Description: Aurora Parks naturalist will lead registrants into non-public area for a variety of waterfowl. A two hour trip, bring water. Portable restroom facilities available.

Belmar Historic Park

Date: November 15, 2008, 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Karleen Schofield
Fee: \$8/Friends \$10/nonmembers
Pre-registration is required. ASGD 303-973-9530 or rshank@denveraudubon.org

Meeting Place: Belmar Park, 801 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Lakewood, CO. Meet leader in parking lot on east side of Kauntz Lake. From Wadsworth turn west on Ohio St. - 2 blocks will reveal Kauntz Lake parking lot. Do not park at Heritage Center.

Description: Walk the accessible concrete paths around lakes birding for winter raptors and waterfowl. Dress for weather, bring water, snack for 2 hour trip. Restroom facilities are available in the Heritage Center.

Bear Creek State Park

Date: November 23, 2008, 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Mike Henwood
Fee: \$8/Friends \$10/nonmembers
Pre-registration is required. ASGD 303-973-9530 or rshank@denveraudubon.org

Meeting Place: Bear Creek Lake Park entrance East of 470 on Morrison Road Leader will provide entrance fee waivers for registered birders and direct cars to Skunk Hollow campground to begin the birding trip.

Description: Bird riparian and woodland corridors for wintering hawks, sparrows, and waterfowl. Bring binoculars, water, and lunch. Trip will wrap up around noon.

South Platte Park

Date: November 29, 2008, 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Doris Cruze
Fee: \$8/Friends \$10/nonmembers
Pre-registration is required. ASGD 303-973-9530 or rshank@denveraudubon.org

Meeting Place: Carson Nature Center, South Platte Park. West on Mineral from Santa Fe; right at first traffic light; meet in parking lot north of 2-story log building.

Description: Join ASGD president on a river walk watching for winter raptors and ducks. Wheel chair accessible. Bring binoculars and water for a 3 hour trip.



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– FIELD TRIPS –

DECEMBER FIELD TRIPS

Star K Ranch

Date: December 13, 2008, 8:30 a.m.

Leader: Mary Ann Bonnell

Fee: None

Pre-registration required. 303-739-2428 Aurora Parks and Open Space

Meeting Place: Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E. Smith Rd. Aurora, 80011

Description: Join Aurora lead naturalist watching wintering birds along Sand Creek; willows, cottonwoods and open prairie habitat.

MEMBERS MEETINGS

Coexisting in Coyote Country

with Mary Ann Bonnell

Date: November 5, 2008, 7:00 p.m. –

Fee: None

Pre-registration is NOT required.

Meeting Place: NEW LOCATION – Chambers Center, The Women's College of the University of Denver, located on the NE corner at Asbury and High Street. Parking is available across the street for \$1/hour (we will try to get parking passes). The Chambers Center is two blocks directly south of the University Light Rail Station.

Description: Coexisting in Coyote Country - Successful coexistence with coyotes requires an understanding of how coyotes survive, as well as how humans can shape coyote behavior as well as their own in limiting negative human/coyote interactions. Come and learn about this amazing predator and how you can coexist with coyotes

Citizen Science

Check DenverAudubon.org for up to date information

Date: December 3, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

Fee: None

Pre-registration is NOT required.



Any Perch Will Do?

Don Hansen shared this photo of a great blue heron. We're thinking there must be a juicy koi pond just below.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

ASGD Members of the Board, Mackenzie Goldthwait and Doug Kibbe have assumed the role of Region 15 Coordinators for the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas Project. As Coordinators they will have responsibility for assigning survey blocks within Region 15 to field volunteers. Both are already active contributors to the atlas with over 30 blocks undertaken throughout eastern Colorado. Now they are looking for volunteers to take responsibility for about 50 priority blocks in their region. For further information visit the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas site at: <http://cobreedingbirdatlasii.org>. You can reach Doug at dpkibbe@msn.com or Mackenzie at kezgold@comcast.net.

PAWNEE GRASSLAND VOLUNTEERS

This spring and summer more than fifteen volunteers, under the coordination of Doug Kibbe, participated in field surveys for the US Forest Service on the Pawnee National Grassland for mountain plovers, nesting raptors and burrowing owls. US Forest Service Biologist Beth Humphries said, "I again thank you for all your hard work and great efforts in getting this thing organized. I continue to be amazed at the high level of enthusiasm everybody has and the good work you're getting done." Be watching for Doug's plea for more volunteers for next year's surveys in subsequent issues of the Warbler. Want more information, Doug can be contacted at dpkibbe@msn.com.

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Urban Denver Christmas Count January 1, 2009

We invite everybody to participate – beginners, intermediate, and advanced. The more eyes we have, the more birds we see. And we like to encourage people to get involved. Start the New Year with a half day or whole day effort--a good way to start your New Year's List!

The count covers a circle with a 15-mile diameter that includes the Platte River from North City limits to Mississippi, west to Buckley Field and Rocky Mtn. Arsenal.

5:00 p.m. After the count, Pot Luck, at Casey Davenhill's, 415 South High (5 blocks west of University, about 2 blocks south of Alameda); please call Urling (303.814.2723) or Casey (303.744.0613) so we can count you in on the chili pot, Urling's brownies, Casey's hospitality, and your salad, dessert, veggie, or finger food.

AREA LOCATION	LEADER	LEADER'S PHONE	DESCRIPTION
South Platte (south) To Confluence Park	Doris Cruze	303.798.8072	Some walking
South Platte (central) Confluence Park to Riverside Cemetary	Casey Davenhill	303.744.0613	Some walking
South Platte (north)	Dick Schottler	303.278.8035	Walking
Rocky Mtn. Arsenal (FULL – adding to wait list.)	Urling Kingery	303.814.2723	Walking
Commerce City/Montbello	Jackie King	303.287.1644	Car
Sand Creek, Toll Gate Creek, Bluff Lake, Aurora	Randy Lentz	303.680.3381	Walking
Cherry Creek Reservoir	Need Leader		
Kent School, S/Hampden	Lynn Willcockson	303.757.7000	Some walking
SE Denver, N/Hampden	Walt Hackney	303.771.8331 gyrfal@juno.com	Walking
Cherry Creek, dam to University Blvd.	Paul Slingsby	303.422.3728 paslingsby@comcast.net	7-mile walk
Fairmont, Lowry Field (FULL)	Tuesday Birders	303.979.6211	Car, some walking
City Park/Park Hill	Kevin Corwin	720.482.8454	Car, some walking
Botanic Gardens, Denver Country Club, Wash Park	Need Leader		Car, some walking

Count Leader, Hugh Kingery 303-814-2723

backyard birds....

by Hugh Kingery



HUMMINGBIRDS: the story of summer 2008. Over half the BYBird reports for this column mentioned them. For the record, Broad-tailed arrive in mid April; Rufous and Calliope in July; and now Black-chinned, which nest at Cherry Creek State Park.

FLO DECESARE (CENTENNIAL) saw Broad-tailed in April, plus, in August, Calliope and Rufous. "With an hour of hanging a feeder, we had hummers fighting to get on." Joy Schieving (south Denver) saw Broad-tailed daily from July 10, Rufous 10 days in August. Nan Brehmer (Green Mountain) says, "Never before have I seen so many hummingbirds – most Broad-tails. On Aug. 20, two of the tiniest ones that I have ever seen," probably Calliopes. In Franktown, Ken Gammon saw Broad-tailed and Black-chinned.

JILL HOLDEN (ROXBOROUGH), like Urling and me, has trouble sorting out the four, at least the females and immatures. She sent extensive descriptions of their behavior. Aug. 8 she simply held the feeder and "was treated to four hummingbirds as I held it. I just loved feeling the wind of their wings as they battled for the feeder." On Aug. 16 as she took the feeders out, "a female sat on the hook, then settled on the feeder for a good drink, then chirped at me some more. She touched my hand with her beak and then kind of nudged my hand with her head. I loved getting to feel her touch me and would have liked to have thought that this was affectionate. Not the case with this little warrior though. "Put my feeder down right now you big beast." I don't think that she understands that I am the one who makes fresh sugar water, and who brings in the feeder at night so that the bears or raccoons don't destroy the feeder."

KAREN METZ (FRANKTOWN) says, "I hang a small water cup from the feeder hanger and then hang the nectar feeder at the bottom of the water cup (in order to deter ants). If you use water cups, please use the guideline of only an inch of water in the cup. Why??? This morning (Aug. 29) when I took my feeders back out, I found a hummingbird inside the cup, submerged in water over two-thirds of her body. All her wing feathers were soaked. Her bill was open and her tongue stuck out. I brought her inside; put nectar on my finger and thumb and placed them around her bill. She lapped up a bit of nectar. For more than an hour I held her in my hand to get her body temperature back to normal, and continued giving her nectar every few minutes. Upon expert advice of bird rehabilitators, I used a lint-free cloth and gently wiped her tail feathers. I put her under a wire colander and placed a very low intensity lamp over her. Kathy Dressel brought over a suitable bird cage. We placed a nectar feeder with perches in it, put it in the sun, and added the bird. She preened her wing feathers dry. After a few hours of non-stop attention, and finally sun, the bird became active again. We opened the cage door and she flew to a tree in the sun. The hummingbird continued her life in the wild, and I'm certain of two things: I'll keep the water level low and I'll keep the rehab number (303-751-5385) handy.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE generates lots of talk; do we see any examples in our birdlife? I've noticed one possible example: three southern Colorado species that now occur regularly in the metro area (and nest) that showed up rarely 20 years ago: Black-chinned Hummingbird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Bushtit. The last two nested around here for the first time during the first Breeding Bird Atlas – the Tuesday Birders found the first local gnatcatcher nest near Waterton in 1987, and a Bushtit nested in Cat Anderson's corral about 15 years ago. For a few years before that, Joy Schieving had regularly reported them in her yard; now reports come from all over the metro area, though most frequently from the south half.

THE EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE, another newcomer not even recorded in Colorado ten years ago, has spread across the country, on its own, remarkably fast. Mitch Erickson, in southwest Denver, and Jim Wilder in Platteville reported them. (In an Audubon magazine article about oil and gas drilling in sagebrush country, a local rancher had a "Ringed Turtle Dove" in his yard. That's the common misidentification of collared-doves.)

CARDINALS, people keep saying, why don't we have cardinals? Kay Mosier, who lives up Deer Creek Canyon, saw one Aug. 5 and 6, but not afterwards. North a mile, Aug. 6 in the afternoon and the 7th, Tom and Diane Bush "had a male visit our backyard. He forages with Spotted Towhees and Black-headed Grosbeaks, mostly on the ground." Tom provided pictures. Speaking of grosbeaks, Merikay Haggerty saw one in her Littleton yard Aug. 22, and Dave and Mary Driscoll, "after Walking the Wetlands," tallied one as a new yard bird Sept. 7. "The grosbeak was here at our feeder two days."

IN OUR FRANKTOWN YARD, I heard a clicking noise on Sept. 4. For five minutes it chipped, invisible and unidentified, in thick scrub oaks. Then as it flew to a cherry tree (one beloved of our bears), a split-second look at a fawn-red back, clicked, still unidentified. Finally it flew to a juniper and I saw the orangey-brown back of a Brown Thrasher. Then Sept. 10 a Gray Catbird perched on a chair rung right outside our door. I scared it (by taking some fuzzy pictures) but it came back and started gobbling lantana berries. For the next two days it roosted between two barrels of lantana flowers (one of our hummingbird lures). Ken Gammon also saw a catbird, in July.

JOE LAPOINT (PARKER) wrote, "A pair of Say's Phoebes built a nest on a rafter under the back deck with six eggs – four white and two speckled. A few days later shells from two of the white eggs were found on the porch below the nest. When the eggs hatched, the young from the speckled eggs were much larger (and demanding), and the two smaller young seemed weak, in the back of the nest. We finally concluded that the young from the speckled eggs were from a Brown-headed Cowbird." Alas, I didn't record Say's Phoebe as a cowbird host, perhaps not a new host, but not a regular one.

ROBERT DORRIS lives out at Watkins and seems to specialize in owls. In August he saw a Long-eared Owl along Box Elder Creek: "they seem to park themselves on a tree trunk just a few feet off the ground. Aug. 14 "I was treated to one of those owl duets. About 11:30 p.m. an owl perched on two telephone

Backyard Birds continued on page 10

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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, proceeds are shared with 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 rshank@denveraudubon.org

Backyard Birds continued from page 9

poles, a tenth of a mile spread between them. They hooted solos about 60% of the time and duets about 40%. Their serenade was a distinctive "oo-oo, oo, oo." The initial "oo-oo" was a staccato lead-in to two separate "oo" follow-ups. No variation, no change in pitch. . . . another delightful amenity of ranch life." Then, in early September, a Saw-whet Owl started calling "next door" – 1/8 of a mile away. Two weeks later, at four a.m., "I heard it (somewhere on my back patio) – a piercing metallic, rapid, monotonous sound. Aside from the meadowlark, it's the only bird sound that can pierce through walls or shut car windows."

NAN SAW A COOPER'S HAWK perched on a neighbor's fence and Flo saw one three times over the summer, "at the waterfall and on the fence, looking for a meal." Kirk Huffstater watched one "zoom through my (Castle Rock) yard multiple times every day lately, in pursuit of feathered feasts," in August. Cooper's calls in our yard usually turn out to come from the throats of Steller's Jays. Allison Kondler "looked up to see a flock of 30 Cedar Waxwings chased and harassed by a Cooper's Hawk. Go little Cedars, go!"

LASTLY, this morning Urling sat on the deck and, up on the hillside, counted five Townsend's Solitaires contending for berry-laden junipers. These birds set up winter territories, and the process involves a lot of calling, sweet singing, and chasing. Each tries to claim enough junipers in its territory to feed it all winter.

I WELCOME YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS to this column. Drop me a note or card at P.O. Box 584, Franktown 80116, or Email me at ouzels8@AOL.com.

Time to join Project FeederWatch!

by Hugh Kingery

Your backyard can become part of a bigger network. Project FeederWatch solicits backyarders to participate in its survey of winter birds in North American backyards. You count birds that come to your feeder, water, and plantings and contribute the data by mail or on-line. You pick two consecutive count days every two weeks (or every week if you enter your data on-line) and for each species, record the highest number you see in view at one time. (You don't have to do it that often – you can miss a week or two.) You count for as long as you like – a half hour a day, two hours, or more – and can split up your time during the day, and even skip the second day.

Ornithologists at Cornell Lab of Ornithology analyze FeederWatch data and produce an informative newsletter to participants as well as articles in scientific journals each year.

You can sign up online at www.birds.cornell.edu or by mail to Project FeederWatch, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca NY 14850; telephone 800-843-2473. To cover costs of the program Cornell charges a \$15 annual participation fee (\$12 for Lab members). For this you also receive project materials and the quarterly newsletter.

Minds Opened Daily.

For the past eighteen years the SCFD has provided funding for an astounding array of over 300 scientific and cultural organizations throughout the metro area's seven county region. So apparently, we're not just opening minds, we're blowing the doors off. For more information about SCFD, visit our website at www.scfd.org.



Birding South Texas & Northern Mexico

February 20 to March 2, 2009 (10 nights)

This is a wonderful opportunity to bird the Texas Valley and northern Mexico's El Cielo Biosphere Reserve lead by local experts! The Texas Valley is a world renowned area for birding. Ecosystems from riparian woodlands to brush land and costal areas make this a perfect destination to see a large number of birds. Only 6 hours away from the Texas Valley we visit Mexico's El Cielo Biosphere. This protected area contains tropical jungle, gallery forest, pine-oak forest and the northernmost cloud forest in the American Continent. El Cielo is the perfect place to add as many as 120 species to your Texas Valley list. Furthermore, by visiting El Cielo with us you will contribute to our Sustainable Development through Birding Project. Cost is \$2,295 for double and \$2,595 for single and includes transportation from McAllen, Texas to El Cielo and back, 6 nights lodging in McAllen and 4 nights in Gomez Garias, all park entrance fees, most meals, bottled water and snacks, boat ride at Bocatoma and full time birding guide. For a complete itinerary call Becky Beckers, Travel For The Birds, 303-766-5266, send an email to AgentBecky@aol.com or go to www.TravelForTheBirds.com

The Columbia and Snake Rivers: A Small-Ship Experience

April 17 - 24, 2009 (7 nights/8 days)

Roundtrip from Portland, OR on the Spirit of '98 (96 guests)

Step back into history as we follow in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark on the Columbia and Snake Rivers on this Cruise West expedition.

For Lewis & Clark, the Snake River was an area of almost continual rapids and waterfalls. Today, the area is starkly beautiful, with a mixture of orchards, farmland, and rangeland where beef cattle and deer graze. Many scenic parks dot the shoreline. Several areas have also been set aside as wildlife refuges by the Corps of Engineers to mitigate natural habitat areas lost when water backed up behind the dams. Look for osprey, golden eagles, and numerous species of hawk along the cliffs, bluffs, and shorelines.

As our small ship approaches the mouth of the mighty Columbia, you disembark to visit Fort Clatsop. Other new wonders await around every bend-- dramatic waterfalls and ancient petroglyphs carved into the 4,000 foot cliffs. And a fascinating look at how the rivers themselves were tamed in the 1930s, as you transit almost 1,000 miles and navigate eight major sets of locks and dams.

Cruise West staff and exploration leaders will guide a series of excursions to help you recapture the past. You'll learn about the hardships of establishing the Whitman Mission in the wilderness; the contributions of the Nez Perce in the shaping of

this region and their vision for the future, and about modern environmental issues of salmon survival and irrigation rights. The trip offers an exquisite balance of discovery, adventure, relaxation, and personal exploration.

Group pricing per person, double-occupancy cabins start at \$3,069 for Quynana Members and \$3,235 per person for first time Cruise West passengers; add \$50 for non-ASGD Friends member. Cruise includes meals, gratuities and selected shore excursions. Save up to \$330 per person off of brochure rates. Single share roommate match available in some cabins. Trip will be led by ASGD Second V.P. Ann Bonnell. For complete itinerary or additional information, contact Becky Beckers, 303-766-5266, AgentBecky@aol.com or go to www.TravelForTheBirds.com

Bird Southeast Arizona

April 25 - May 1, 2009; and May 1 - 7, 2009

Southeast Arizona is one of the most biologically diverse areas in the United States. Habitats include the Sonoran Desert with its dramatic columnar cacti, the Chihuahuan desert with its grasslands and desert scrub, and the dramatic "Sky Islands" where species from the Rocky Mountains and Mexico's Sierra Madre come together. During our journey, we'll explore most of these habitats, encounter a tremendous diversity of plants and animals, and enjoy fine weather at one of the richest times of year. We'll visit many of the birding and wildlife hotspots - Madera Canyon, the Patagonia area, Ramsey and Garden Canyons in the Huachuca Mountains, and the San Pedro River. Species we're likely to see include elegant trogon, vermilion flycatchers, painted redstart, Grace's, Lucy's, red-faced and other warblers, three species of Myiarchus flycatchers (ash-throated, brown-crested, and dusky-capped), thick-billed kingbird, up to ten species of hummingbirds, and many others. We'll also spend time learning about the general ecology of the area and explore the fascinating relationships among southeast Arizona's birds, plants, mammals, reptiles, insects, geology, and regional climate.

Our guide will be Mark Pretti who formerly was the naturalist at Ramsey Canyon. Mark is thoroughly knowledgeable about all aspects of this area's natural history as well as expert in finding the regional bird specialties.

The cash discounted price for ASGD members is \$1595 (\$1645 for non-members) with the trip starting from Tucson. Assistance with travel arrangements to Tucson will be available. The land cost includes meals, accommodations in attractive bed and breakfasts and hotels, van transportation during the tour, guiding, and park entrance fees. Both tours have similar itineraries - they are essentially the same tour. Maximum group size for each tour is nine.

For a detailed itinerary and additional information, please contact Bill Turner, the ASGD representative accompanying these trips, at (303) 795-5128 or e-mail toursbyturner@aol.com.



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The Audubon Society of Greater Denver is pleased to announce that it has initiated a **Planned Giving Program**. Making a gift or a bequest is becoming a popular way to leave a lasting legacy. Planning for the future might be simpler than you think. For more information, please visit www.denveraudubon.org and click on planned giving; or call the ASGD office at (303) 973-9530 and request our "Leaving a Legacy" brochure.



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