

## 8TH ANNUAL SHARE THE VIEW

### INTERNATIONAL NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

*Enter October 15 through December 1, 2018*

#### GET IN THE FIELD AND SHOOT YOUR BEST PHOTOS - NOW!

Attention all photographers: The 2018 Share the View Contest began October 15. Don't wait until the last minute. Act now to capture some award-winning shots. Keep your eye on the prize!

#### WE'RE EDUCATING KIDS

Proceeds from Share the View support ASGD's ongoing education efforts in Denver Metro area schools. We serve over 2,500 students annually and are working to expand our programs even further to reach more children. We appreciate the help and support of all our members in promoting the contest and this worthy effort.

#### HELP US REACH OUR GOAL

Our goal this year is to have over 2,000 entries. Our judges will balance emphasis on creativity and originality with technical skill.

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

Entries will be accepted from October 15 through December 1, 2018. Judging will take place in early December 2018. If you register prior to December 1, 2018, you can continue to enter photos through December 5, 2018.

**3 Conservation Report**

**5 Highline Canal Bioblitz**

**14 Field Trips Quick Glance**

#### WEBSITE

Register and submit your entries at <http://denveraudubon.contestvenue.com/>



Photo By Cissy Beasley

#### UNLIMITED ENTRIES!

**\$ 10/ENTRY OR 6 FOR \$ 50**

#### TEN CASH PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED

**~ ONE GRAND PRIZE OF \$ 1,000**

**~ FOUR FIRST PLACE PRIZES OF \$ 250**

**~ FIVE SECOND PLACE PRIZES OF \$ 100**

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## 8TH ANNUAL SHARE THE VIEW (CONT.)

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### **COLORADO PHOTOGRAPHERS GALA**

There will be additional recognition for Colorado photographers, including an evening event at CU South Denver (formerly called The Wildlife Experience) February 13, 2019. A \$100 cash prize will be awarded to one image featured in Colorado Life Magazine.

### **WE WANT YOU!**

We have many expert photographers in our group who are often tapped to make presentations around the state showcasing pictures from their travels. We hope our member photographers will respond to our call and enter the Share the View Competition.

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

Please help us spread the word by emailing friends, family and colleagues, posting on Facebook and Twitter, and by making announcements at meetings or gatherings of photographers and birders. Here's the link to the contest website:

<http://www.denveraudubon.contestvenue.com>

Share it far and wide. We really appreciate your support!

### **FIRED UP AND READY TO GO!**

Thanks to all of you for your support of last year's competition. We are determined to make the 2018 contest another huge success. Please join us by entering your photos or by promoting the competition as often and in as many places as you can!

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Photo By Kirsten Hines



Photo By Bob Karcz



Photo By Joe LeFevre

### Denver Audubon's Day in Court

On the morning of Monday, Sept 24, in Courtroom 4 of the Byron White Federal Building in downtown Denver, Denver Audubon's legal counsel presented oral arguments in our case against the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Chatfield Reallocation project, before the US Court of Appeals for the 10th District. Prior to this, all communication in the lawsuit had occurred via mail/email, so this was the first time our DU legal team had a chance to present the case verbally before a judge. We had asked Audubon members to attend the hearing to show support for our cause, and about 25 did so, packing the small courtroom



In the Appellate court, a panel of three judges hears the appeal, and they limit oral presentations to 15 minutes each by plaintiffs and defense. Our legal team worked very hard to make sure the most salient points of our lawsuit were heard and that our narrative could stay on track even if the judges should ask questions about other aspects of the case. This year's team was able to build on extensive work done by previous teams, so we had the benefit of 6 years of extensive research and analysis.

#### **Our legal arguments centered around:**

- the National Environmental Policy Act's requirement that the Corps consider reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Audubon's case stated that several reasonable alternatives were dismissed without study or much discussion.
- The Clean Water Act (CWA) regulations require the selection of the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative. The Corps formulated

four alternatives but failed to do the required analysis and select the least environmentally damaging one. Instead, the agency chose the MOST DAMAGING one (Alt. 3 of the EIS, allowing storage of an extra 20,000 acre-feet of water) and then analyzed only the impacts of the environmental and recreational mitigation of that one alternative.

In our presentation, our counsel made the case that the Corps cannot segment the project like this. The reallocation of storage space in the reservoir and the required mitigation are ONE INTEGRAL project: the relocation of recreational facilities and the environmental mitigation would not occur on their own without the Reallocation. The comparison of alternatives under the Clean Water Act has to compare the four alternatives described in detail, not just part of the one the Corps chose (see the Sept/Oct. Warbler for more details).

Our advocate, DU Law professor Kevin Lynch, who has worked on this case for 6 years, also pointed out that case history shows the Corps would not let anyone else get away with this tactic; they are using a double standard, one for themselves in this case and one for other permit applicants in other cases.

One highlight came when Kevin pointed out that the Corps had calculated the \$127-million project's dependable yield of water in several different ways as "0." The judges were incredulous: the Corps is permitting a project that costs \$127 million and results in NO additional water? Turning to the Dept. of Justice attorney, they asked if she was aware of this "0 dependable yield" figure? She answered that, no, she had not seen this document (DOJ attorneys typically have only 10 days to two weeks to prepare in cases like this, we were told).

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Later, the DOJ attorney made the statement that the extensive mitigation would ensure that the preferred alternative was the least damaging. Kevin rebutted this with the point that EPA invalidated this argument years ago, in the Two Forks Dam case. In less than fifteen minutes, Kevin gave an excellent statement of our case, ably supported by the research and study of this year's 3-person student legal team, Arthur, Alexandra and Blake. Not only did they cover the essential points of our argument but Kevin was also able to answer the judges' questions and while keeping some time for rebuttal after the US Dept. of Justice attorney presented the Corps' case. The panel of three judges listened attentively and thoughtfully. For Audubon members who want to hear the whole proceedings, a recording is available at [www.SaveChatfield.org](http://www.SaveChatfield.org).

We are now guardedly – and very cautiously - optimistic that Audubon will prevail in this case. However, the judges still have to review the several briefs filed by us and the Corps; we await their decision. We hope that it will come soon, before the water providers tear the heart out of Chatfield State Park. The south end of the Park is now closed to most public uses; logging and removal of trees along the east side of the South Platte River had already begun by early September. The area between Lower Titan Lake and Upper Titan Lake – the two re-purposed gravel pits on the east side of the So. Platte River – has been bulldozed for work on those two sites. Denver Field Ornithologists has cancelled two field trips to the area. Potential visitors to Chatfield should check [www.chatfieldreallocation.com](http://www.chatfieldreallocation.com) for more details on construction before driving to the Park. While all the construction/destruction is agonizing to those of us who love this Park, we hope that we can stop the major damage before it occurs, through the courts.

If the court rules against us, it will be doubly important to census bird populations in the Park on a regular basis, so that we know what/if the impacts of the project will be on the birds and habitats we love.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to attend this important event! And of course many thanks to our hard-working legal team – they are the best.

### **ASGD/Front Range Birding Seed Sale Partnership: A portion of all seed sales will be donated to ASGD**

The Audubon Society of Greater Denver and The Front Range Birding Company have partnered to make backyard bird feeding easy and affordable. You will be supporting Denver Audubon as a portion of all seed sales - all year - will be donated to ASGD. Be sure to take advantage of Front Range Birding's "Seed Vault Program." You can buy as much as you like up front and pick up fresh seed anytime. Seed Vault purchases never expire! There's no need to pre-order. Just stop by the Front Range Birding Company store and let them know you are there for Denver Audubon. Front Range Birding Company: 10146 W San Juan Way #110, Littleton, CO 80127 303-979-Bird (2473)



Spotted Towhee by Dick Vogel

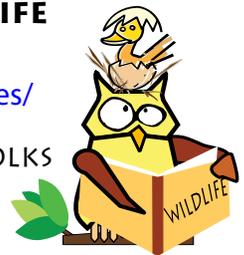
### **WOODPECKER WOES AND OTHER WILDLIFE ISSUES?**

<http://www.denveraudubon.org/about/wildlife-issues/>



HERE IS THE WEBSITE FOR FOLKS TO REPORT FOX SIGHTINGS AS PART OF A RESEARCH PROJECT:

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



THIS LINK WILL CONNECT YOU TO THE NATIONAL AUDUBON WEBSITE AND OTHER HELPFUL LINKS TO HELP YOU DEAL WITH COMMON QUESTIONS!

# HIGH LINE CANAL CONSERVANCY AND DENVER AUDUBON HOST SIX SUCCESSFUL BIOBLITZES!

By Alana Weber, BioBlitz Intern for High Line Canal Conservancy

In the summer of 2018 we launched the first-ever High Line Canal BioBlitz series which consisted of six outings to record any wildlife spotted along the Canal. Rolling out the the BioBlitz series took effort in many stances including the partnering with other organizations to make the program come to life.

In January of 2018 I was given the opportunity to create a baseline of known species living on the Canal. Never had there been a study to understand the ecology that naturally formed around this manmade ditch. Reaching out to organizations such the Nature Conservancy, the Natural Heritage Program, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, different district's Parks and Recreation departments and other environmental non-profits, helped us construct a preliminary database for species, at least near to the Canal. But how didactic would it be to do our own research and dig even deeper into species calling the Canal home?



BioBlitz Audubon Naturalist by Kate Hogan

To do a scientific study would give us the most significant data, but one of the Conservancy's key objectives is to work with the community of the Canal; establishing a relationship with local, passionate Canal users giving them a sense of connection to this historic water-way. Kate Hogan, the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Audubon Society, was the first to initiate the idea of a wildlife inventory of the Canal. Because of this, she was eager to help put together a BioBlitz and gave us key tips and resources as well as a list of volunteers that have gone through Audubon naturalist and

bird trainings. After long talks with Kate, it became clear that the best way to observe the natural ecosystem of the Canal and to gather community support would be through a BioBlitz — or a series of BioBlitzes. A BioBlitz, according to National Geographic, is an opportunity for community members and scientist to come together and observe as many species as possible in a short timeframe within a specific location. Audubon was a critical partner to have for our BioBlitz series because of their knowledge of naturalists and volunteers across the region.



BioBlitz Group south of Chatfield by Kate Hogan

After weeks of researching how to perform a BioBlitz and connecting with other agencies who had hosted their own Blitzes, we decided to use a database called iNaturalist in order to collect all information found during our series. iNaturalist is an online social network that helps engage naturalists and citizen scientists about biodiversity on a global scale. By using iNaturalist as our database, not only would it be an easy way to access all information collected during our BioBlitzes, it would also be a helpful way to upload unknown wildlife for identification help. Through using iNaturalist we would also contribute to the citizen science global database of wildlife. All 71 miles of the High Line Canal have now been successfully added to iNaturalist where community members can upload observations they need help identifying or purely to add interesting wildlife they find along the Canal.

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With help from Biohabitats, a company that provides environmental planning and ecological restoration, we were also able to upload six BioBlitz locations along the High Line Canal onto iNaturalist.



Bioblitz Milkweed Borer Beetle  
by Kate Hogan

New to all of us at the Conservancy, we relied on the Audubon Society of Greater Denver to connect us with naturalists interested in attending and working with us to discover the wildlife of the Canal. With immense support from the Audubon Society and reaching out to our supportive community, we successfully gathered over 50 volunteers to help with our inventory. We held naturalist meetings and volunteer trainings to help familiarize the volunteers with the Conservancy's objectives, how a BioBlitz works and using iNaturalist. Once on the Canal, with an average of 12 volunteers per Blitz, we would split up into

groups focusing on either birds or insects while always on the lookout for rare and difficult to spot mammals, reptiles and amphibians. It was best to have at least one bird or insect specialist per group, however, when this was not possible, we had iNaturalist to rely on for help. In the end, we uploaded 571 observations and were able to identify 180 species inhabiting the Canal. Birds included Belted Kingfisher, Killdeer, Black-crowned Night Heron, Swainson's Hawk, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Wood Duck, Horned Lark, Bullock's Oriole, Vesper Sparrow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Mountain Bluebird, Western Kingbird, Downy Woodpecker, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Insects included Monarch butterfly, Hunt's Bumble bee, Green Stink Bug, Milkweed

Borer beetle, Plains Cicada, Bi-colored Striped Sweat Bee, Two-stripped Grasshopper, Banded Garden Spider, Rusty Spider Wasp, Geometer Moth, and Common Green Darner dragonfly. Other animals included Painted Turtle, Six-lined racerunner, Bullsnake, Woodhouse's Toad, Coyote, Black-tailed prairie dog, North American Beaver, Muskrat, Crayfish, Western Mosquitofish, and Common Raccoon.

This inaugural BioBlitz series has been a tremendous way to begin the process of understanding the living natural ecosystem of the High Line Canal not to mention, roll out our volunteer program and engage with community members. Our work will help inform the Framework Plan in understanding the needs of the wildlife and to continue to maintain a healthy ecosystem along the corridor. The BioBlitz program will also help with our efforts to preserve and protect the Canal through volunteers establishing a deeper connection to the biodiverse abundance inhabiting this historic and beloved resource.



Six-lined racerunner by Audubon staff

# NATIVE FISH IN THE CLASSROOM

## *A Lois Webster Fund Project*

The aptly named Dos Rios Elementary School in Greeley, Colorado, is a mere stone's throw from where the Cache La Poudre joins the South Platte River, yet a quick poll of the 4th grade students revealed very little was known about the fish swimming just outside their classroom. Through the Lois Webster Fund, a grant program with the mission to support non-game wildlife research and education administered by the Audubon Society of Greater Denver, these students were given the opportunity to learn about a large, diverse group of animals that commonly go unnoticed – native non-game fish.



*Biologists net fish to be identified, counted, measured, and returned to the water during fish and habitat monitoring conducted in the St. Vrain River by Colorado Parks & Wildlife.*



*Native Fish in the Classroom aquarium containing non-game fish native to the South Platte River Basin including Red Shiner, Sand Shiner, Longnose Dace, Creek Chub, and Fathead Minnow.*

The Native Fish in the Classroom project was a collaborative effort between 4th grade teaching staff of Dos Rios Elementary, fisheries biologists from Colorado Parks & Wildlife and Colorado State University's Larval Fish Laboratory, and staff at the Colorado State University Environmental Learning Center. Funds were utilized to purchase aquarium equipment for each of four classrooms at Dos Rios, which were filled with a variety of small-bodied native fish that were collected with permission during fish and habitat monitoring conducted by Colorado Parks & Wildlife Aquatic Conservation Biologist Boyd Wright in the nearby St. Vrain River. Matt Haworth of the CSU Larval Fish Laboratory delivered classroom presentations on the diversity, ecology, and value of native fish, and the threats they face from pollution, habitat loss, non-native species, and climate change. Finally, remaining grant funds were utilized to send students on a field trip to the CSU Environmental Learning Center on the banks of the Cache La Poudre River in Fort Collins, where they participated in an interactive river ecology lesson.



*Aquatic Conservation Biologist Boyd Wright of Colorado Parks & Wildlife briefs employees and volunteers from Boulder County Open Space and Mountain Parks and the City of Longmont on fish sampling safety and efficiency in the St. Vrain River.*

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This project was successful in several ways. Students were provided the chance to observe and care for native fish in their own classroom, learn about the biological heritage of a group of animals native to their home state of Colorado, and engage in a safe outdoor interactive learning experience, all of which allowed students to gain appreciation for a unique group of animals and an understanding of the conservation challenges they face. Additionally, tools to help native fish close to home were learned, and continued independent learning about native fish and other wildlife was emphasized. Collectively, this project helped students to become stewards of a local non-game wildlife resource, and provided them the critical thinking tools to make informed future decisions about how to care for their surrounding environment, and the wildlife that calls it home.



*Matt Haworth, fish biologist at Colorado State University, presenting to Dos Rios Elementary 4th grade students.*



*Mark Kucza, 4th Grade Teacher at Dos Rios Elementary in Greeley, Colorado, purchases aquarium equipment for the Native Fish in the Classroom Project.*

### 2019 Call for Proposals



The Lois Webster Fund (LWF) will open its annual call for project proposals in early November, 2018. Proposals must meet the LWF mission's concern for Colorado Non-game Wildlife Research and Education. There will be a maximum of \$11,277 available for 2019 project funding. Rules and Guidelines will be available online on the Lois Webster Fund page at the time that the call for proposals is open. Submissions are due by the end of January, 2019. In addition to your own potential interest, please let others know of this wonderful opportunity to further advance knowledge of issues concerning Colorado's Non-game Wildlife.

## TRIBUTE TO JACKIE KING: LONGTIME BIRDER AND ADVOCATE

On Friday August 24, 2018, just after our last Warbler went to print, friends of Jackie King gathered at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Montbello for a funeral mass to celebrate all of the amazing ways this gracious woman touched the lives of so many. Jackie passed away on August 11, 2018 from challenges with long-term health issues.

Jackie had been involved with the Audubon Society of Greater Denver for over 3 decades, most recently leading wheel-chair accessible birding field trips at a number of birding hotspots in Denver including Prospect Park in Wheat Ridge, Lowry, Stapleton, and Johnson-Habitat Park. Just this summer she joined a dedicated group of volunteers from the Audubon Society that participated in bioblitzes (bird, mammal, and insect surveys) of the High Line Canal for the High Line Canal Conservancy. Below are some memories that our



Jackie King pictured far left - moving 1987

volunteers have shared about their experiences with Jackie over the years:

“When I first met Jackie King about 30 years ago, she drove a big, beat up van all over the state (and beyond) on birding trips, Christmas Bird Counts, and to birding meetings. She also volunteered to recruit leaders for birding trips with DFO, and it was always fun to speak with her about scheduling trips. She was so enthusiastic and so friendly she could twist a person's arm and convince them that they wanted to lead a trip on the dates she needed scheduled! She drove that van until it finally gave up, but she never did. Just last July, the Highline Canal Conservancy and Audubon Society of Greater Denver sponsored a series of BioBlitz events, enlisting volunteers to help identify species that live and play within the Canal corridor. I volunteered on that project,

and there was Jackie in her motorized wheelchair, spending the morning identifying birds along the canal and helping other volunteers learn to bird by ear as well as do birding by sight. She will be missed.” - Doris Cruze

“She was a very special lady. I admired her love of birding when even going on a birding trip was so complicated for her. Nevertheless, she was one of the best birders I know. What I thought was so special about Jackie were her observation skills. While the rest of us on a birding trip were busy identifying species and counting birds, Jackie would notice the wonderful bird behaviors we had missed. She would point them out to us and explain the reason for them. Trip leaders and participants always learned something new when we were with Jackie. She was a wonderful teacher and made our trips so much more fun. I will miss her.” - Barbara Shissler

“She had an Eagle Eye. She could pick out birds -- usually raptors -- flying high & far away. She led Spring and Fall Counts near Barr Lake State Park for 10 years or more -- always turning in an impressive list of species and a good variety of raptors.” - Hugh Kingery

“For many years, Jackie served on Audubon's Field Trip Committee, and each year led many bird trips for Audubon. She also led field trips for DFO. She led these trips at her own personal expense. She had to hire special taxis that could take her wheelchair and her to all her field trip locations. Jackie was a great bird observer with unique skills. While the rest of us were chasing after the new bird, Jackie had extensive knowledge of birds and their behavior teaching us a new perspective on birds. Her love of nature / birds and educating new birders despite the obstacles she had to overcome was amazing. When she wrote up her trips for The Warbler, not only did she welcome new birders, but she added an invitation sentence inviting disabled participants who might not think that they could take a birding trip. She told them her field trip location had accessible trails, and welcomed them to the world of birding. Jackie was special not only because of her courage and dedication (despite her declining health), but because of her education skills and outreach to new birders and the disabled community. The birding community has lost a great leader and friend.” - Cindy Valentine

Hummingbirds drew the attention of many observers. On Aug. 10, **Dick Vogel** emailed, “My wife, **Carol**, set up the hummingbird feeder in our backyard. She said that she saw a hummingbird at the feeder. I sat in a chair about 10 feet from the feeder, smoked a cigar for an hour and four minutes and this hummingbird finally showed up.”

**Jill Holden** responded on Aug. 12: “My hummingbirds have picked up since the start of their migration. This year seems a little different with the Rufous not as dominant as usual. The Broad-tails seem to be better able to chase the Rufous off than the other way around. As usual there is only the occasional thrill of a tiny Calliope that I get to see taking a drink. Not sure if I did more watching from a chair whether I could catch more glimpses of them, but I certainly won't be having a cigar while



Broad-Tailed Hummingbird by Dick Vogel

watching.” **Leslie Hankerson** of Elizabeth worried that she hadn't seen as many Rufous Hummers as usual, but by mid-August they arrived (ours came at about the same time). Leslie commented, “I fear for them with all the drought and fire damage being done to their spring migration route (California, Oregon, etc.).”

**Randy Nelson** (Parker) reported on Sept. 8, “I've had lots of Rufous Hummingbirds coming through since mid-July, about twice the

normal activity in most years. We still have about 3 Rufous, 2-3 Broad-tailed, and one immature Black-chinned. Lots of chasing and diving going on. Starting mid-July also were several adult male Calliope hummers, with females and immatures arriving about a week later. The Calliope numbers were also much more than usual, but I haven't spotted any for about 2 weeks now.”

Leslie wondered about food: “I have a juvenile hummer that favors my grape jelly feeder over the hummingbird feeder. They hang about 3 feet from each other, but have never had a hummingbird that favors the jelly. I use the natural jelly that is made with sugar, not corn syrup. The hummingbird does frequent flowers too.

“Is there any danger to the hummingbird? If so I'll take down the jelly feeder.”

**Karen Metz** responded, “You risk the hummingbirds getting sticky and that can doom them. Rehabbers are given ‘sticky’ hummingbirds too often and, if in time before the birds have come too close to dying, they have to try to clean their wings so that the birds can fly again.”



Hybrid Flickers by Julia Grundmeier

these as hybrid Northern Flickers. When I report Front Range birds to eBird, I simply call them “Northern Flickers.” Often we don't see the field marks, and often we count heard birds – and the two sound alike.

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**Valerie Robinson**, on July 4, sent pictures of two juvenile Red-tailed Hawks that nested in her yard. She worried that they eat small birds, but their diet consists mainly of rodents.



Red-Tailed Hawk by Valerie Robinson

**Eric Kufeldt** (Centennial) sent pictures of Cooper's Hawks that nested in his yard. He thought that the 3 young in his yard "hung around and caught rabbits and maybe mice – and seemed to spar with each other in a friendly way." Cooper's typical diet consists of 85% small birds, though the young ones may not

catch them as easily as their parents. These birds, in the past decade or so, have become city nesters.

From Centennial, **Kevin Corwin** reported from his oasis: "A Black-headed Grosbeak has been hitting the cup of peanut pieces in my little townhouse yard in west Centennial.

Also, I started seeing an adult Chipping Sparrow (never saw two) around my yard in early- to mid-June. About 2 weeks ago I observed it several times in my front lawn and each time it collected small insects. It would then fly up into a large silver maple tree. About a week ago I watched it collect bits of seed from under the feeders. It then flew into a dense crab-apple tree from which a din of chips then erupted - it was feeding fledgling(s). A few days ago I started seeing Chipping Sparrows with streaky breasts (kids) foraging under the feeders.

As for the flock of crossbills that graced my yard with their presence for a couple of months, they have moved on. I took down the feeders in mid-June because I was seeing sick House Finches, plus I was going to be out of town for a couple of weeks. Haven't seen the crossbills since."

**Kathy Dressel** monitors the bluebird houses in Castlewood Canyon State Park. Her summary says, "Not as many bluebirds returned

to the park for nesting this year. However, it was a good year since there were no early spring snowstorms to freeze eggs as has happened in past years. There were 172 Mountain Bluebird fledglings this year compared to 68 last year. Western Bluebirds produced only 33 this year compared to 40



Cooper's Hawk by Eric Kufeldt

last year. Tree Swallows produced 236 compared to 201. And we only had one nesting of Violet-green Swallows, producing 5. We did have 3 boxes damaged by bears. And a really bad appearance of Blood Sucking Cone Nose beetles that left only skeletons in one Tree Swallow nest. I'm not sure what to do about that for next year!

"My home trail in Franktown had 49 Western Bluebird fledglings compared to 55 last year, but not as many returned this year."

From Littleton, **Deb Carstensen** sent a nesting summary on July 19. "I've been very happy with the young bird production here at Columbine Lakes. I had Tree Swallows, House Wrens, and Black-capped Chickadees that all had successful broods in my nest boxes. The big surprise was when I found a family of Wood Ducks yesterday on the pond. Not only does it seem late, but caretakers have severely trimmed the trees and I'm amazed that they survived that!

"We've had a snowy egret almost every day and an occasional White Pelican this summer. That's along with our Black-crowned Night-Herons and Great Blue Herons."

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And I found pictures lost in my pending file of a Magnolia Warbler that **Rex Nelson** saw in Parker on May 21.

**Jill Holden** reported on the experience of a friend in Highlands Ranch “who was about to take some curtains down to get ready to have new windows put in. She spotted a hummingbird nest in a potted evergreen tree on her porch and called up the window people and told them to wait to install the new windows.

“Then she texted me, saying that the mother hummingbird had been missing since the violent rainstorm the day before and she was worried about the two tiny young birds left alone in the nest. She had watched them for 2



Magnolia Warbler by Rex Nelson

weeks, and I knew how heart-breaking that would be if they perished. I called up **Hugh and Urling** to see whether they had any suggestions. Urling gave me the phone for a rehabilitator, and I passed it on to my friend. “The rehabilitator told her to put a chair by the window and sit there perfectly still and watch the nest for an

hour. Eventually, she was rewarded with the mother hummingbird coming in and quickly feeding the young birds before disappearing again. She was thrilled! She had been used to the mother coming in and spending the night at the nest with the young and had panicked when mom didn't come back after the storm to stay with the babies overnight, and she still didn't see her around in the morning.”

With winter coming on, some of the food plants have produced berries and cones this year that far exceed the paltry crop from last year. Our Rocky Mountain Junipers have a bumper crop of cone/berries, and the Townsend's

Solitaires arrived early – Sept. 16 – to set up their winter territories. We have heard at least two singing daily since then.

Lesser Goldfinches have found lots of sunflower seeds in the wild as well as at feeders. Some Three-leafed Sumac bushes have berries that will attract a variety of birds. We haven't seen any winter juncos yet, but they should arrive within weeks. Pink-sided juncos usually arrive first, followed by Oregon and Slate-colored, and of course the Colorado-nesting Gray-headed Juncos should come in as well. Occasionally a few White-winged Juncos show up from the Black Hills; they prefer ponderosa pine habitat, but the other juncos don't discriminate habitats that way.

**Marsha Forte** reported:

“This juvie showed up just before dusk last night. I live in Winter Park Ranch, outside Fraser, in the lodgepoles. A nondescript finchy looking thing attended to it for second on a branch near the birdfeeders when it cried. I've never seen a bright white bird here!”



Leucistic Cassin's Finch by Marsha Forte

*Your contributions write this column. Thanks to you in urban and suburban Denver who sent in all these intriguing reports. Send a note or post card to P.O. Box 584, Franktown 80116, or Email me: ouzels8@aol.com.*

# Leave a Legacy

## *Educate Generations - Protect Birds and Habitats into the Future Include ASGD in Your Will, and Other Gift Planning Options*

The Audubon Society of Greater Denver offers an opportunity for you to make a gift or bequest to leave a legacy and a lasting impact. The goal of planned giving is to help you plan your estate and charitable giving in a way that benefits you, your family and ASGD. We invite friends who share a commitment to educating all ages about birds, other wildlife, and habitats to consider making a personal investment in the future of our programs. There are several ways you can make these planned gifts to charity and enjoy tax and income benefits:

- **Specific, Residuary and Contingent Bequests**
- **Retirement Accounts and Pension Plans**
- **Insurance**
- **Securities**
- **Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT)**
- **Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)**

Please consult with your financial planner and attorney to assure you receive the best financial advantages and that your intentions are carried out fully.

We would be glad to discuss any planned giving option with you – in confidence and without obligation. For more information, please call 303-973-9530 or e-mail Karl Brummert, Executive Director, at [kbrummert@denveraudubon.org](mailto:kbrummert@denveraudubon.org)

## *Please Let Us Know*

We often receive bequests from people whom we have never had the opportunity to thank. If you include Audubon Society of Greater Denver in your estate plans, please let us know. We value the opportunity to express our gratitude in person to let you know that your gift is greatly appreciated now and for future generations of people and birds to come. Those people who have notified us of their intention to make a bequest to the Audubon Society of Greater Denver are invited to our Legacy Circle. Legacy Circle special events and activities highlighting the work we accomplish together will keep you connected to the “legacy” that you have planned for us.

**Legal Designation: If you wish to name Audubon Society of Greater Denver in your will or estate plan, we should be legally designated as:** *“Audubon Society of Greater Denver, a nonprofit organization (Tax ID #23-7063701), with its principal business headquarters address of 9308 S. Wadsworth Blvd, Littleton, CO 80128.”*  
**Date of Incorporation: September 30, 1969**



Photo by Dick Vogel

# QUICK GLANCE - UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS & PROGRAMS

## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER CHEAT SHEET



NOV 2	FRI	ASTRONOMY AT AUDUBON	DEC 8	SAT	DENVER PARKS MONTHLY WALKS: DENVER CITY PARK
NOV 3	SAT	FRONT RANGE BIRDING	DEC 8	SAT	BIRDING INSIGHTS: 12 BIRDS OF CHRISTMAS
NOV 4	SUN	WALK THE WETLANDS	DEC 15	SAT	65TH DENVER CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
NOV 10	SAT	DENVER PARKS MONTHLY WALKS: SLOAN'S LAKE	DEC 22	SAT	WINTER SOLSTICE WALK
NOV 10	SAT	BIRDING INSIGHTS: WINGED WINTER ARRIVALS	DEC 29	SAT	DOUGLAS COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
NOV 17	SAT	DUCKS IN WINTER PLUMAGE AT BELMAR PARK	JAN 1	TUE	DENVER URBAN CHRISTMAS COUNT
NOV 24	SAT	CHATFIELD STATE PARK	JAN 5	SAT	FRONT RANGE BIRDING
DEC 1	SAT	FRONT RANGE BIRDING			
DEC 2	SUN	WALK THE WETLANDS			

FOR A FULL DESCRIPTION OF THESE FIELD TRIPS, VISIT [WWW.DENVERAUDUBON.ORG/EVENTS/](http://WWW.DENVERAUDUBON.ORG/EVENTS/) OR CALL 303-973-9530

### **Cuba Essential Birding and Conservation Education: February 9 to 16, 2019**

The tour host is Emily Hertz, who coordinates education programs for the Audubon Society of Greater Denver. Our Cuban tour provides you with a great opportunity to see more than twenty of the possible Cuban endemic birds, in addition to a good number of Caribbean endemic species. You will also get to experience the local Cuban culture and have an opportunity to explore Havana and other interesting locations.



Cuban Tody by Arturo Kirkconnell, Jr.

*Price: \$3,290 per Person with 8 participants for 8 Days and 7 Nights Trip cost includes guide and driver, all access fees, your meals, 7 nights of lodging, airport transfers and more. Register by contacting Charles Thornton-Kolbe, 720-320-1974, email Charles@PIBird.com*

### **Spring Magic in Nebraska - *details to come* March 29-April 1, 2019**

### **Kansas Prairie-Chickens and Spring Migration: Wetlands, Shorebirds and Grasslands: May 4 to 9, 2019 and May 11 to 16, 2019**

This birding tour will take you east into Kansas, with stops at some of the best midwestern birding destinations – Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge.



Lesser Prairie-Chicken by Bill Schmoker

*Price: \$1,360 per person with 9 participants for 6 Days and 5 Nights Trip cost includes guide and driver, all access fees, five nights of lodging and more. Register: Charles Thornton-Kolbe, 720-320-1974, email charles@PIBird.com*

### **Iceland – Land of Fire and Ice (May 31 – June 9, 2019)**

Often referred to as the “Land of Fire and Ice,” Iceland's landscape is characterized by waterfalls, geysers, glaciers, volcanoes, beaches, thermal hot springs, and otherworldly steaming lava fields. In addition to stunning landscapes, Iceland is a birder's paradise. Its remote location at the junction of two oceans allows for a unique mix of migratory and vagrant species. Join ASGD on this unforgettable birding and natural history tour to Iceland in 2019. Register at [www.reefstorockies.com](http://www.reefstorockies.com)

### **Brazil's Pantanal July 7-15, 2019**

Register at [www.pibird.com](http://www.pibird.com)

### **Peru – Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu and Manu (September 2019)**

Peru is home to more than 1800 species of birds, including 45% of the world's neotropical species. It's also home to the Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu and Amazon basin - bucket list destinations for many travelers. This ASGD exclusive itinerary combines unique birding experiences at all three locations including Andean condor, cock-of-the-rock (Peru's national bird), and many endemics. More details coming soon.

Register at [www.reefstorockies.com](http://www.reefstorockies.com)

### **South Africa Oct 21 – Nov 1, 2019**

Register at [www.pibird.com](http://www.pibird.com)

### **Belize – Rainforest to Reef (November 2019)**

Belize, a country roughly the size of New Jersey, is home to more than 600 species of birds. Compare that to about 700 species in all of North America. This week long itinerary combines renowned Chan Chich Lodge (the world's only ecolodge set within a 3000 year old Maya Plaza) and Orchid Bay (gateway to Lamanai Maya Ruins, Barracuda Lake, and one of the most isolated sections of the Belize Barrier Reef). More details coming soon. Register: at [www.reefstorockies.com](http://www.reefstorockies.com)

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Tom Chaney, Kate Halstead, Kieran Fish  
Linda Lenway, Bill Schreitz, Don Hall  
Carolyn Roark, Celia Greenman  
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Lisa Chase, Alyse Greenberg, Diana Hornick  
Tom Chaney, Sue Steffen, Lydia Stranglen  
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### Your volunteer hours are very important to us!

Your volunteer hours are very important to us as we use them to raise money through grants and the SCFD. Please record your hours on Volgistics or email Kate Hogan with your completed hours as soon as possible. Thanks!

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*Thanks to all committees,  
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