

# Make family time outdoors time

by Susan Smith, ASGD Director of Education

There is a grassroots movement growing across the country to get kids out from in front of the TV or computer and outside exploring ditches, vacant lots, parks, open spaces, forests or whatever natural area they can find. The goal is to reconnect children and nature. Over 500 organizations have joined the "No Child Left Inside" movement that ranges from grassroots public awareness campaigns to new legislation for environmental education.

Nature deficit disorder (a term coined by Richard Louv, author of "Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder") is gaining attention beyond the environmental field. Health care companies like Kaiser Permanente are promoting unstructured play time in nature as a treatment for childhood obesity and attention deficit disorder. Social workers find that urban dwellers are better able to cope with life's challenges when there are trees in their neighborhoods. Many of us know from personal experience that

time in nature reduces stress and brings joy in our lives.

For Denver Audubon, it is critical to our mission that children get outdoors, fall in love with nature and grow up wanting to protect it. In July, Richard Louv was interviewed on the *Today Show* to promote the idea of family nature clubs. This has spurred more discussions at Denver Audubon about how we can help parents, grandparents and caregivers spend time with children in nature.

One mom who has made a big difference in the lives of her three children and involved her neighbors, friends and friends of friends is Tamyra Gayer. Tamyra first visited the Audubon Center in 2003 as part of a play group for "Toddlers on the Trail." The program was so popular with moms

and kids that Tamyra has since booked numerous nature hikes throughout the seasons. We've even hosted a couple preschool birthday parties as a result of these early "Toddlers on the Trail" programs. (Is there any better way to work up an appetite for cake and ice cream than to explore around Muskrat Pond?) Now she also works with her kids' teachers to plan environmental education field trips for their classes.

What are you doing to get the kids in your life outdoors? We want to hear about it. Send us your stories and ideas at [kidsinnature@denveraudubon.org](mailto:kidsinnature@denveraudubon.org) Your story can help inspire other families to hit the trail and may be featured in an upcoming newsletter!

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ASGD Director of Education, Susan Smith shares "secrets of the wetlands" with a group of enthusiastic young learners at the Audubon Center at Chatfield State Park.

## The Audubon Center at Chatfield

This fall watch for migrating warblers along the South Platte River. Can you spot ripened chokecherries or wild plums before the bears and the birds eat them all? Look for signs of animals preparing for winter. Are the squirrels in your neighborhood going crazy caching away nuts? Find a box elder tree near Muskrat Pond and have fun throwing the "helicopter" seeds into the air.

If you would like to book a "Toddlers on the Trail" hike, a child's nature-themed birthday party or family program, please contact Susan at 303-973-9530 or [education@denveraudubon.org](mailto:education@denveraudubon.org).

For more ideas on exploring nature with kids and information on nature deficit disorder, check out these great websites:

[www.audubon.org/educate/family](http://www.audubon.org/educate/family)  
[www.childrenandnature.org](http://www.childrenandnature.org)  
[www.greenhour.org](http://www.greenhour.org)

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—**

### **IT REALLY IS A SMALL WORLD**

In the corner of the schoolyard in a rural village of fewer than 2000 people in southeast Poland, they have a big wire cage where the villagers drop off plastic bottles and containers to be recycled. Next to it is a large metal structure for papers and cardboard. On the busy streets of the prosperous city of Toronto, Ontario, attractive recycling bins with slots for plastic, paper, and glass are located near subway entrances for the convenience of the thousands of commuters who pass by every day. Hotels, motels, and even B and B's around the world are conserving water and energy by giving guests the opportunity to opt out of daily linen changes. Some hotels are placing recycling containers in the closets of each room to encourage guests to join in the worldwide effort to reuse and recycle materials. Right here at Chatfield, ASGD sponsors a single-stream recycling bin - no sorting of paper, plastic, and glass - it all goes in the bin and on its way to be made into new products.

The recycling efforts of people around the world are beginning to pay off. Savvy shoppers are looking for products made from recycled materials. Cities are looking to ban plastic bags and they are encouraging the use of cloth bags or at least repeat uses of those non-recyclable plastic bags.

Progress comes slowly, however, and as countries struggle with pollution, high energy costs, and dwindling resources, more people are realizing that their actions affect the environment, the quality of life, and the survival of birds and other wildlife. Even young children can help in the worldwide effort to make recycling a priority and to make a difference. If you are recycling, give yourself a pat on the back and congratulate yourself for saving resources. And if you are not recycling yet, please find a way to get involved because we are all in this together and each of us can help make this world, this small world, a better place.



## **Thanks To Our Volunteers!**

**OFFICE SUPPORT:** Phil Reynolds, Carolyn Roark, Grace Weber

**TRIP LEADERS:** Ann Bonnell, Hugh & Urling Kingery, Norm Lewis

**JULY/AUGUST WARBLER MAILING:** Jo Ann Bushnell, Marc Goodbody, Helen F. Hale, Vi Nicholson, Thomas Parchman, Phil Reynolds, Carolyn Roark, Lori Sharp, Barbara F. Shissler

**WEEDING AT AUDUBON CENTER:** Karen Bickett, Kathy Bollhoefer, Doug Hodous, Mary Keithler, Kris Koff, Blake Naito.

## **ASGD recognizes our New Friends Members**

Amber Davis, Anthony Mercer & Sarah Carlson, Becca Frager, Bonnie Kossoff & Sieve Uslan, Cheryl Tolleson, Christine Sanchez, Dorothy Slater, Margaret Cunningham, Mark & Sarah Scharfenaker, Michele Ostrander & Sofia Aguilar, Richard Creswell, Robert Hill, Roberta DeYoung, Ronald Williams, Vicki Camp, Will Burt, William Blunt.



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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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Flowers & Associates, Inc.  
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# Global warming: Canaries in the coal mine warn that humans are in trouble

by Holly Carpenter, Audubon Colorado

**G**lobal warming is now broadly accepted as the greatest conservation challenge facing birds — and humans. The science is now accepted around the world that the earth is becoming so hot as to threaten wildlife and humans alike in the near future. We are fortunate in Colorado to have one of the highest concentrations of climate scientists in the world associated with NCAR, NOAA and CU, which means we have available some of the best science in the world for our region. We are unfortunate in that CO and much of the west is heating up more than most of the rest of the country.

**Impacts on Birds and Other Animals:** Global warming is not just about longer, hotter summers but will likely include increased wildfires and drought, decreased snowpack and upwardly-moving treelines, and more invasive plant and animal pests. The International Panel on Climate Change predicts that up to 50% of all avian species will decrease in abundance by at least a quarter of their current population due to changes in geography, reproduction, migration, and pest outbreaks all precipitated by global warming. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, we could see one-third of all animal species disappear over the next few decades from complexities associated with the warming of our earth. As in the historical coal mines, these losses with birds and other wildlife predict problems for our species as well.

**Impacts on Humans:** In human terms, we could see hundreds of millions of environmental refugees in this century, increased air pollution, the spread of tropical diseases, water shortages and contamination, and increased frequency of famines. Colorado farmers, ranchers, anglers, and hunters will see the land and habitats they depend on change and perhaps become unusable. Coloradans who live on or below the poverty line could face problems during hotter months when they can't afford air conditioning.

**Solutions:** Humans have caused this and we can reverse it. Whether it is by changing things at home and at work or by becoming involved with local, state and/or federal governments, your actions will make a difference with global warming. Go to [www.auduboncolorado.org](http://www.auduboncolorado.org) to find solutions that you can enact. Also, you can find tips on writing your governmental representatives, and letters to the editor. Lastly, sign up on our e-activist list (<http://audubonaction.org/campaign/climateactionpledge>) and we will send you updates on ways to take action — we will not send you any solicitations or use your email address for ANY other purpose. We all want to make sure that canaries continue to sing so please help reduce global warming in any way you can.

For up to date information see *Climate Action Highlights* on page 15.

**You are invited...**

**ASGD Fall Members Dinner**

**with special guest speaker, Dave Showalter**

**"Prairie Thunder – The Nature of Colorado's Great Plains"**

**Saturday, October 18, 2008**

**6:30pm (doors open at 6pm)**

**at First Plymouth Congregational Church**

**3501 S. Colorado Blvd., Englewood**

**Located on the SW corner of Hampden & Colorado Blvd.**

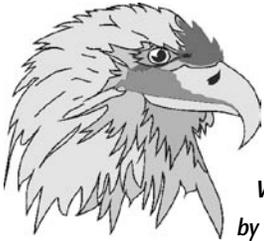


Dave Showalter is a Colorado-based photographer and author of *Prairie Thunder – The Nature of Colorado's Great Plains*. Dave's photographs and articles have appeared in numerous publications, including *Outside*, *Outdoor Photographer*, *Backpacker*, *Nature Photographer*, *Crested Butte Magazine*, and the Colorado Mountain Club's *Colorado Fourteeners* scenic calendar. Dave is also a contributor to the award-winning Skyline Press book *14,000 Feet – A Celebration of Colorado's Highest Mountains*.

*Prairie Thunder – The Nature of Colorado's Great Plains* is Dave's first book. Through photographs and words, he explores the often overlooked beauty of Colorado's eastern plains, and addresses their conservation challenges. From the wind-swept Pawnee Buttes near the Wyoming border, home to pronghorns and birds of prey, to the Comanche Grasslands area in southeastern Colorado, currently under threat by the U.S. Army's Piñon Canyon expansion plans, Dave details the diversity of land and wildlife that makes the area so incredibly special. **Dave will have copies of his book on sale at the dinner.**

Reservations are required and space is limited. Dinner & Program: \$35 per Friends member; \$40 per non-member

For more information, call 303-973-9530 or email [info@denveraudubon.com](mailto:info@denveraudubon.com).



# Eagle Eye

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

**"IS ANYONE LISTENING?"** asks the headline of the slick brochure in my mailbox last week. At first glance the piece seemed like an appeal for endangered species; a closer look revealed that it was authored by the Colorado Oil and Gas Association. The plea is on behalf of — hold your breath — the very wealthy and powerful oil and gas industry! COGA's previous mailings warned of "A looming threat to Colorado's economy" and asserted that "Certain species are covered. People are not." These brochures are a salvo fired directly at the new rules for oil and gas production now being written by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (OGCC).

In 2007 the Colorado Legislature passed two bills which required that the Commission consider wildlife and public health in its oil and gas permitting process. That August, the staffs of the Commission, the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW), and the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment started down a year-long, tortuous path towards a new set of rules. In January and February they held a series of stakeholder meetings to solicit input from the public. ASGD participated in the two months of wildlife stakeholder meetings, a good part of which was spent by various oil and gas industry representatives complaining that it would be impossible to comply with the proposed new rules.

The propaganda from the industry that "people are not [covered]" seems screamingly ironic, since the Legislature acted in part because rural residents reported that their wells were being polluted, gates were left open, their air smelled sour, and heavy traffic was making their lives miserable. A nurse who treated an injured oil field worker became ill from handling the chemicals on his clothing and body — but couldn't find out from the industry what the chemicals were, despite her need for treatment.

Meanwhile, Coloradoans noticed that drilling activity disturbed nesting raptors, fragmented mule deer winter range, and destroyed the effectiveness of breeding and brood-rearing grounds for greater sage grouse. Biologists were also concerned about possible impacts on the very rare Gunnison's sage grouse. There was apprehension about drilling in bighorn sheep, elk and pronghorn wintering areas, in greater and lesser prairie chicken and sharptailed grouse breeding areas, near bald and golden eagle nest sites, and in riparian zones and other wetlands.

On March 31, 2008 the OGCC released the first official draft of the new oil and gas rules. Since then the Commission has revised them to ensure industry the certainty of operating in an efficient and timely manner. As of June 23 the rules stated that an operator can develop a Comprehensive Drilling Plan and get it approved by the Commission; alternatively he can consult with the OGCC and the DOW to "agree on conditions... that will minimize adverse impacts to wildlife resources." Or he

can reduce the number of wells per section to 2 or less; or he can demonstrate that no sensitive wildlife habitat is present.

**IF** the operator does none of the above, then the following crucial requirements come into play:

- 1) Timing restrictions on ground-disturbing activities in sensitive wildlife habitat. For example, development activity would be restricted in areas within four miles of active greater sage grouse lek sites between March 15 and June 15.
- 2) Restricted surface occupancy. Operators are required to avoid areas such as bighorn sheep lambing sites, areas within ½ mile of ferruginous hawk nests, and areas within 0.6 miles of greater sage grouse leks. These are important fallback provisions, which will be enforced only if the operator refuses to do one of the things listed in the previous paragraph. As such, they are the meat of the proposed rules.

At hearings in June, and by letter, ASGD urged the Commission to adopt strong measures. We suggested strengthening them by including areas within 300 feet of the high water mark of reservoirs, wetlands, streams or rivers, black-tailed prairie dog towns (where burrowing owls nest), and mountain plover nesting sites in the No Occupancy Zones

It remains to be seen whether the Commission can resist the extreme pressure from the oil and gas industry, which has inflamed its employees with the fear of losing their jobs, and has shown by its extensive propaganda campaign that it has no intention of working cooperatively with the State. We hope that the Commission will eventually publish rules that truly protect Colorado's wildlife habitat and public health.

Just consider that in the United States, 68 million acres of land are already leased for oil/gas development. Over the past four years, domestic production of oil and natural gas combined increased at four times the rate that consumption increased. ExxonMobil has more cash on hand than the country of Venezuela makes on oil sales in a year. In gas production areas in Wyoming, the number of greater sage grouse leks dropped by 46 percent.

ASGD does not endorse candidates, but we urge everyone to exercise their right to vote, and to ask candidates for State office how they view the new OGCC rules. The rules were based on the best scientific evidence available — the Legislature needs to let them proceed.

## **NEW SERVICE FOR ASGD MEMBERS Planned Giving Program**

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](http://www.denveraudubon.org) and click on planned giving; or call the ASGD office at (303) 973-9530 and request our "Leaving a Legacy" brochure.



# Audubon Center at Chatfield State Park... a beehive of activity!



*Trails and gardens are open from sunrise to sunset at the Audubon Center at Chatfield State Park.*



*Toddlers explore surprises at Muskrat Pond — A cattail explodes into fluff and crayfish lurk in the shadows under the boardwalk.*



*This spring more than 500 school children visited the Bird Banding Station at the Audubon Center at Chatfield State Park and were given the opportunity to see warblers, wrens ad other birds in hand.*

# Birding in Denali National Park with Scott Weidensaul

by ASGD Roving Reporter, Linda Strand

In September, 2006, I set off on an adventure to Denali National Park. Having blindly selected a place called Camp Denali from a website, I booked a seven-day stay and hoped for the best. When the brochure reads cabins, no plumbing or electricity, 5 star outhouses with every cabin, group dining hall and bath house, you start to question your sanity. All the reviews were excellent and the food was described as gourmet. It turned out to be one of the best trips I have ever taken. While there, I discovered a book by Scott Weidensaul – ***Living on the Wind – Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds***. At the time, birds were just of passing interest to me, but it looked interesting and I needed a book to read for the 24-hour trip home.

Little did I know the impact the book would have on my life. Scott's writing style is entertaining and the subject fascinating, translating into the fact that I read the book cover to cover in the time it took me to travel home from Denali. It has since served as the basis for my fascination with birds and my concern for global climate change.

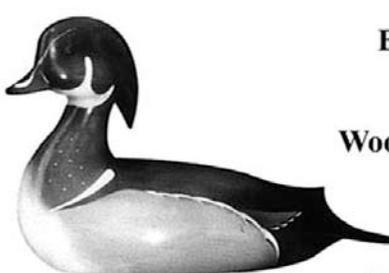
In December, 2007, on one snowy day when I was surfing the web, I pulled up the Camp Denali page, just to remind myself of how special the place is. I discovered that Scott Weidensaul and his wife Amy, were going to be at Camp Denali in June, 2008. Scott was going to lead birding hikes into Denali and give programs in the evening. I immediately pulled out the credit card and booked another seven-day stay.

Scott's sense of humor is every bit as engaging as his writing style and his knowledge of birds is phenomenal. But what I enjoyed most was his generosity in including all of the folks at the Camp in the birding adventures, no question was too silly, every level of expertise accepted, and every bird fascinating. We saw over 70 species in the six days we spent together, throw in the occasional grizzly bear sighting or view of the mountain and it was a special week.

One of my favorite sightings was the long-tailed jaeger and arctic tern, the long distance migration heroes, the color confused red-necked phalarope, and the red-throated loon battling for territory with a common loon. What astounded me was that many of the ducks that had been in Denver in May, were arriving in Denali in June. A real demonstration of how tightly the world is tied together and how critical each stop along the migration path for each bird is. The elevation and ecosystem where you find each bird at the critical times in their lives can be so very specific that the gain or loss of several degrees of temperature will make the difference in their survival.

If you get a chance visit Scott's website [www.scottweidensaul.com](http://www.scottweidensaul.com), visit his blog. Scroll down to June 18 and read all about grizzly bears and birding in Denali. For those of you who are interested, Scott will be back at Camp Denali in 2010, and so will I.

## WILSON'S DECOYS



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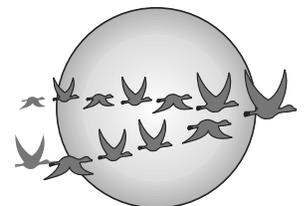


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**303-979 BIRD (2473)**  
[www.fronrangebirding.com](http://www.fronrangebirding.com)

**A nature center for you and your family!**



# AUDUBON SOCIETY

of GREATER DENVER

## Calendar of Events

### SEPTEMBER 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Labor Day 1	2	8:30am Garden Stewards 7pm Monthly Meeting 3	4	5	6
8am Walk the Wetlands 7	7pm Master Birder Class 8	7pm ASGD Board Meeting 9	8:30am Garden Stewards 10	11	12	FALL BIRD COUNT 7am Barr Lake Birding Festival 13
FALL BIRD COUNT 14	15	7pm Conservation Committee 16	8:30am Garden Stewards 17	7pm Beginning Birdwatching Class 18	19	6:30am Master Birder FT 8am Beginning Birdwatching FT 20
8am Roxborough State Park FT 21	7pm Master Birder Class 22	23	8:30am Garden Stewards 24	25	26	8am Beginning Birdwatching FT 7pm Live Bat Encounter 27
6am Master Birder FT 28	29	30				

### OCTOBER 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			NO MONTHLY MEETING 1	2	3	8am Beginning Birdwatching FT 9am Birdseed Pickup 4
9am Walk the Wetlands 5	7pm Master Birder Class 6	7	8	Costa Rica Trip Departs 9	10	8am Beginning Birdwatching FT 8am South Platte Park FT 11
<b>THE BIG SIT!</b> 12	13	7pm ASGD Board Meeting 14	15	16	17	8am Beginning Birdwatching FT 6pm Member's Dinner 18
8am Cherry Creek State Park FT 19	7pm Master Birder Class 20	21	22	23	Costa Rica Trip Returns 24	6am Master Birder FT 8am Beginning Birdwatching FT 25
26	27	28	29	30	Halloween 31	



# TRAVEL, FIELD TRIPS, CLASSES & PROGRAMS

To Register for Trips & Classes Call the ASGD Office at 303.973.9530

Join FRIENDS of ASGD and Receive Discounts on Field Trips and Classes

View Photos and Read Reviews from Trip Participants in Our Trip Scrapbook Online at [www.denveraudubon.org/scrapbook.htm](http://www.denveraudubon.org/scrapbook.htm)

## – FIELD TRIPS –

### September Monthly Meeting

**Title:** Do juvenile bats drive their mothers to drink?

**Date:** Wednesday, September 3, 7-8:30 p.m.

**Presenter:** Dr. Rick Adams,  
University of Northern Colorado

**Pre-registration is NOT required.**

**Fee:** None

**MEETING PLACE:** Audubon Center at Chatfield. The Audubon Center is located on Waterton Road, 4.4 miles south of C470 and Wadsworth.

**DESCRIPTION:** Dr. Rick Adams of UNC will talk about his research on the bats of Boulder County. He caught and tagged female bats near a maternity colony, then monitored their visits to an artificial water hole to see if lactating females drank more often than females that had no young. Enjoy his entertaining show and great graphics and take a walk outdoors with him to locate the local bats.

### Walk the Wetlands

**Date:** Sunday, September 7, 8:00am

**Date:** Sunday, October 5, 9:00am

**Leaders:** Hugh and Urling Kingery (303-814-2723),  
Doris Cruze, and other Master Birders

**Pre-registration is NOT required.**

**Fee:** None

**MEETING PLACE:** Audubon Center at Chatfield. The Audubon Center is located on Waterton Road, 4.4 miles south of C470 and Wadsworth.

**DESCRIPTION:** We will hike along the South Platte River and look for fall migrants and winter arrivals. We always have a surprise. Dress in layers for the weather. Wear long pants because the poison ivy is lush and the knapweed is prickly. Bring binoculars, field guides, water, and a snack. We can lend you binoculars and field guides if you don't have them.

### Roxborough State Park

**Date:** Sunday, September 21, 8-11:30 a.m.

**Leader:** Doris Cruze, 303-798-8072

**Pre-registration is required; call the ASGD office at 303-973-9530.**

**Fee:** \$8/ Friends and Members, \$10 non-members

**MEETING PLACE:** Visitor's Center, Roxborough State Park.

**DESCRIPTION:** Hike spectacular trails through the red rocks formations for two miles. Look for golden eagles as well as local foothills and scrub oak birds such as scrub-jays, towhees, and chickadees. If you like, bring lunch to eat on the patio, as well as binoculars and water.

### Beginning Birdwatching Class

**Classroom Date:** Thursday, September 18: 7-9pm

**Field Trip Dates:** Saturdays, September 20, 27

October 4, 11, 18, and 25, 8am to 1pm

**Leaders:** Hugh and Urling Kingery

**Pre-registration is required.**

**Fee:** \$125/Friends members; \$150/non member

**MEETING PLACE:** Classroom session at the Audubon Center at Chatfield State Park. The Audubon Center is located on Waterton Road, 4.4 miles south of C470 and Wadsworth.

Meeting place information for Field Trips will be provided to registered participants.

**DESCRIPTION:** Trips to bird watching sites around metro Denver: Chatfield, Barr Lake and Castlewood Canyon State Park, Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, and Genesee Mountain. Voted "Best of Denver!" 20 years ago and still going strong. Colorado's premier (and most entertaining) birding couple teaches the art and science of birding like no one else. Learn bird identification, choosing binoculars and field guides, and much more. Visit a variety of habitats and some of the best birding spots in the metro Denver area. Become observant and develop a practiced eye and ear. Make new friends and change the focus of your time outdoors. You can make up any field trips that you miss during future fall or springs class sessions. To register, call ASGD at 303-973-9530 or send an email to [rshank@denveraudubon.org](mailto:rshank@denveraudubon.org)

### Live Bat Encounter

**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 7pm

**Presenter:** Organization for Bat Conservation (OBC)

**Pre-registration is required.**

**Fees:** Members - \$5/ child (12 & under);

\$10/ adult; Non-members - \$8/ child (12 &

under); \$15/ adult

**MEETING PLACE:** Audubon Center at Chatfield. The Audubon Center is located on Waterton Road, 4.4 miles south of C470 and Wadsworth.

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## – FIELD TRIPS –

**DESCRIPTION:** Learn about bats from around the world up-close and personal! Rob Mies, TV personality and Director of the OBC, speaks about the benefits of bats, why we need to conserve them, and what you can do to help these unique mammals. Step into the mysterious world of bats and explore their benefits, habitats, and nocturnal strategies. Come see live bats: Meet a bat from North America and hear its high-pitched sound with a “bat detector.” You will also meet a Straw-colored fruit bat from Africa, and an Asian bat. The highlight will be the largest bat in the world, the Gigantic Flying Fox Bat from Malaysia. This beautiful bat has a wingspan of nearly 6-feet!

Rob Mies is a conservation biologist, bat expert, and author. He has appeared on many television shows including: Ellen Degeneres Show, Today Show, Live with Regis and Kelly, Late Night with Conan O’Brien, and Martha Stewart Living. Rob is the co-author of the first field guide to the bats of the United States and Canada, *Stokes Beginners Guide to Bats*.

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### Special Event: Members Dinner

The October Members Meeting will be the Members Dinner on Saturday, October 18 with noted photographer and author Dave Showalter (see announcement on page 3).

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### South Platte Park

**Date:** Saturday, October 11, 8 a.m.-noon

**Leader:** Doris Cruze, 303-798-8072

**Pre-registration is required; call the ASGD office at 303-973-9530.**

**Fee: \$8/ Friends/members, \$10 non-members**

**MEETING PLACE:** Carson Nature Center, South Platte Park (west on Mineral from Santa Fe; right at 1st traffic light; between 2 RTD parking lots.) Meet in parking lot north of 2-story log building.

**DESCRIPTION:** Join ASGD president Doris Cruze to explore this amazingly rich habitat along the South Platte River. This will be an easy hike and is wheel chair accessible. You’ll see water birds as well as a variety of land birds in the cottonwood groves. Bring binoculars and water.

### The Big Sit! at Chatfield State Park

with the Denver Field Ornithologists

**Date:** Sunday, October 12–  
dawn to dusk–come any time

**Leader:** Joey Kellner

**Pre-registration is NOT required.**

**Fee: None**

**MEETING PLACE:** Heron Overlook, Chatfield State Park. From the Wadsworth Blvd. entrance, go right at the T and continue around the reservoir; one half mile after you cross the South Platte River, make a hard left into the large parking lot. At the far right corner, a trail leads to the Heron Overlook.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Big Sit!, an international birding event, has exacting, loose, and frivolous standards. Big Sitters! count all the birds they see or hear from within a circle with a 17-foot diameter. Counting Sitters! may send out scouts and beaters to find other birds and identify them, as long as a Sitter! sees the bird from within the circle. All around the world, on this date, people will Big Sit!

Come and join Joey Kellner, and other recruits, for an hour, a morning, or all day. Drop by whenever you like or volunteer to substitute Big Sit! for the leaders for an hour or two. Joey maintains an hourly chart of the birds that Sitters! see from the circle. In the past two years he has tallied 55-65 species. Bring chairs, breakfast, lunch, dinner, picnics, coffees, etc. Bring binoculars, scopes, field guides, and other essential birding equipment.

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### Cherry Creek State Park

**Date:** Sunday, October 19, 8 a.m.-noon

**Leader:** Karen von Saltza

**Pre-registration is required; call the ASGD office at 303-973-9530.**

**Fee: \$8/Friends member, \$10/non-member**

**MEETING PLACE:** Marina, Cherry Creek State Park. State parks pass required

**DESCRIPTION:** This is a good time to see migrating shore birds: Horned and Eared Grebes, Common Loons, Franklin and other gulls. After scoping the reservoir, we will carpool to other areas in the park to check for migrating song birds. Bring water, a snack and binoculars. Trip leader will carry a scope. Beginners are welcome. The trip ends back at the Marina.

# TRAVEL, FIELD TRIPS, CLASSES & PROGRAMS

To Register for Trips & Classes Call the ASGD Office at 303.973.9530

Join FRIENDS of ASGD and Receive Discounts on Field Trips and Classes

View Photos and Read Reviews from Trip Participants in Our Trip Scrapbook Online at [www.denveraudubon.org/scrapbook.htm](http://www.denveraudubon.org/scrapbook.htm)



## – FIELD TRIPS & TRAVEL –

### Fall Count Schedule 2008

Denver has conducted Fall Bird Counts for over 20 years. Denver Field Ornithologists and ASGD sponsor this tradition. No fees, but some sites require a state parks pass or pre-registration. Bring binoculars, scopes for the reservoir counts, field guide, and lunch. Everyone welcome to help – more eyes see more birds.

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

**WATERTON DOWNSTREAM.** 4-5 mile hike. Wear long pants (not shorts) due to bare-leg-unfriendly plants such as poison ivy, thistles, and knapweed.

**Leader:** Hugh Kingery, 303-814-2723

**Meeting Place:** Meet at 6:30 a.m. at Audubon Center at Chatfield. The Audubon Center is located on Waterton Road, 4.4 miles south of C470 and Wadsworth..

#### CHERRY CREEK RESERVOIR

**Leader:** Bob Brown, 303-791-6204

**Meeting Place:** Meet at 7 a.m. at Marina, inside west gate near Cherry Creek High School. **State Parks Pass required.**

#### CHATFIELD STATE PARK

**Leader:** Joey Kellner, 303-978-1748.

**Meeting Place:** Meet at 6:30 a.m. at West (Deer Creek) entrance to park. **State Parks Pass required.**

**BARR LAKE PERIPHERY.** This trip does not involve much walking and will be good for people with limited mobility or stamina.

**Leader:** Jackie King, 303-287-1644. [jackie.king@ccd.edu](mailto:jackie.king@ccd.edu)

**Meeting Place:** Meet at 7 a.m. at entrance gate to Barr Lake State Park.

**BARR LAKE STATE PARK.** This is a ten-mile (or equivalent), all-day hike around the lake

**Leader:** Dick Schottler, 303-278-8035.

**Meeting Place:** Meet at 6:30 at RMBO, 14500 Lark Bunting Lane. South off Bromley Lane; from I-76, first road east of railroad track. **State Parks pass required.**

#### LOWER BEAR CREEK & MARSTON RESERVOIR

**Leader:** Mike Henwood, 303-716-8551; [hawkhen@aol.com](mailto:hawkhen@aol.com)

**Meeting Place:** Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the entrance to Bear Creek Lake Park, located on the SE corner of Morrison Road and C470. Call or email leader so he can arrange for park passes.

#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

##### CASTLEWOOD CANYON STATE PARK

**Leader:** Randy Lentz, 303-680-3381. If his phone sounds like a fax receiver, send him a fax!

**Meeting Place:** Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Homestead. From CO 86, 0.5 miles west of Franktown, turn south on Castlewood Canyon Road, go two miles to old entrance; Homestead is first parking lot on the left. **State Parks pass required.**

##### ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL.

**Leader:** Urling Kingery, 303-814-2723.

Call leader to sign up, before August 18.

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### Looking Ahead

#### November Monthly Meeting

**Title:** **Coexisting in Coyote Country**

**Date:** **Wednesday, November 5, 7-8:30 p.m.**

**Presenter:** **Mary Ann Bonnell, Senior Resource Specialist, City of Aurora Parks & Open Space**

**Pre-registration is NOT required.**

**Fee:** **None**

**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 to the south for \$1/hour (we will try to get parking passes and will keep you posted on this). The Chambers Center is two blocks directly south of the Light Rail Station at University.

**DESCRIPTION:** With the help of humans, coyotes have expanded their range greatly and live amongst us in the city and suburbs. 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. In addition to helping you test your knowledge of coyote biology and behavior, this presentation will provide helpful tips on how to coexist with this amazing predator.

## **Costa Rica Wildlife Tour: Nature's Spectacles**

**October 9-24, 2008**

This trip features the nesting of olive ridleys (the most abundant sea turtle) and the raptor migration. Watch as hundreds or even thousands of turtles lay their eggs on the beach at Osa Sotillo on the Pacific Coast. Marvel as 100,000 raptors or more (annual total is over two million - one of the three largest raptor migrations in the world!) migrate southward daily along the Caribbean.

This trip is timed for the peak of the raptor migration and the most likely period of the largest *arribadas* (arrivals) of nesting olive ridleys. We'll also visit Tortuguero, the area made famous by Archie Carr's studies of the green turtle. The geothermal Rincon de la Vieja National Park in the dry, tropical forest provides a contrast to the lush rainforests of the Caribbean.

Migrating raptor species include broad-winged hawks, Swainson's hawks, peregrine falcons, merlins, ospreys, and turkey vultures. We may also encounter crested and yellow-headed caracaras, bat falcon, zone-tailed hawk, mangrove black-hawk, roadside hawk, and white hawk.

We will also seek out: coatis, sloths, three species of monkeys, collared anteaters, and a panoply of tropical birds - toucans, tanagers, parrots, hummingbirds, warblers.

A knowledgeable, bilingual, Costa Rican naturalist guide will accompany us throughout, along with our own coach and driver and specialist guides at each destination. Enjoy charming accommodations in lovely natural settings and delicious local cuisine. Maximum group size is 16.

The land cost for this unique 16-day tour is \$3,995 which includes all meals, lodging, guiding, and national park fees. The tour price includes a \$300 donation to ASGD for any members, friends, and relatives who go. International airfare (currently about \$600 roundtrip from Denver) is not included. For a detailed itinerary, please email Bill Turner at [toursbyturner@aol.com](mailto:toursbyturner@aol.com), call (303) 795-5128, or mail a request to 7395 S. Downing Circle W.; Centennial, CO 80122.

## **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 coastal 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](mailto:AgentBecky@aol.com) or go to [www.TravelForTheBirds.com](http://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](mailto:AgentBecky@aol.com) or go to [www.TravelForTheBirds.com](http://www.TravelForTheBirds.com)

# 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](http://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](http://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@denveraudubon.org](mailto:info@denveraudubon.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.

## 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 online) 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

Last season, Colorado had only about 90 participants. — surely we can do better. And you don't have to have a yard chock full of many species. Inner city yards that record only sparrows and finches give balance to ones with more variety.

Last year Colorado sites reported Dark-eyed Junco and House Finch most frequently, followed by Northern Flicker, Black-capped Chickadee, and American Robin. The list of the highest number differed a bit: Red-Winged Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, and European Starling.

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

You can sign up online at [www.birds.cornell.edu](http://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.



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To learn more, go to [www.scfd.org](http://www.scfd.org). Visit [www.denver365.org](http://www.denver365.org) for a schedule of events.

# backyard birds....

by Hugh Kingery



**BONNIE RADA CALLED**, June 9, to ask about a Mallard nesting in her planter – on a second-story deck in LODO! They live a block from Cherry Creek. She worried about how the ducklings would escape once they hatch. Ducklings, when born, have soft bones and they can drop a story or two without harm – not like our brittle bones. We've seen a Canada Goose nest up 75 feet and occasionally Mallard nests in trees. Bonnie's balcony should protect duck and nest from predators rather well.

**A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO**, Rhonda Shank, in the ASGD office, discovered an email message with a series of pictures of a Mallard family jumping from a second story nest on a Spokane bank building onto an asphalt pavement – the bank workers applauding. If you'd like this entertaining series, email Rhonda (rshank@denveraudubon.org) or me.

**TWO DAYS LATER**, Patty Wright called from Park Hill. A Mallard in her yard led four ducklings across the driveway (nearest water in City Park, two miles away – a long walk).

**WIL HARRINGTON**, central Jeffco, watched Red-breasted Nuthatches nesting in a backyard nest box in an Austrian Pine. They lined the hole with pine pitch, which Wil researched: they use pine pitch around the hole to repel undesirable pests.

**KATHY DRESSEL**, monitoring bluebird boxes south of Castlewood Canyon, noticed, in a Violet-green Swallow nest-box, "something soft in the bottom of the nest cup, along with the feathers: a cottontail bunny tail! A fox or coyote may have left it for use by somebody else, and the swallows grabbed it for their nest. It should be nice and warm!"

**MID SUMMER BRINGS HUMMINGBIRDS**, but occasionally they nest in the metro area. One report (no name) from Westminster, told of a nest, two years in a row, on a wind chime. On June 10 the female flew into the house; the owners caught it and released her outside, but she then failed to feed her young. Perhaps the experience traumatized her.

**ON JULY 17**, Mark Holden "had an awesome hummingbird experience. He was out watering plants with the hose and a hummingbird started circling him, seeming interested in the water. The bird went down to where the water splashed up from the ground and enjoyed a bath while Mark watched." On May 26, Kirk Huffstater, south of Castle Rock, saw a "female Broad-tailed Hummingbird gather nesting material around my pond. It was quite hilarious watching her 'attack' last year's large, fluffy cattail heads, and fly away with a ball of cattail fuzz as big as she was! She attacked the cattails with a vehemence somewhat unbecoming such a miniscule creature. I was so amused that one time my chuckling distracted her from her work. She visited the cattails 3 times in 15 minutes. She must have a very soft, cozy nest by now!"

**BARB ISAAC** discovered "5 juvenile Say's Phoebes hanging out on the chairs under our covered patio (Green Mountain). A male Say's has perched on a bent antenna of a neighbor's RV for several weeks, but I have no idea where the nest is. The parents are feeding the little ones and they all stay in a small area. The little ones are so cute and not raucous like Bullock's Orioles." Candace Stuart relayed a report from a customer of her Wild Bird Center: a pair of Bushtits nesting, starting Apr. 17, in a Scotch Pine in southeast Denver.

**MARY AND DAVE DRISCOLL** keep seeing their 'resident Western Scrub-Jay': on June 19 in their cherry tree. The cherry trees in our Franktown yard attracted robins and, too many times, black bears. The bears indulged in some unplanned, informal, unwelcome tree trimming.

**KEN GAMMON** watched a Red-tailed Hawk perch in his Franktown backyard with food that he gave to a female. Then "a squirrel came from nowhere and ran right up to the hawk and scared him off his perch. At 70 yards I could hear squirrel chatter. Another hawk landed just a bit higher in the tree; the squirrel came again and chased her away."

**IN LAKEWOOD**, Tom Parchman and wife Elizabeth woke up at 3:45 a.m. June 8 to a commotion from a robin nest outside their bedroom window. "The adult robins complained and we heard, probably, a raccoon leaving. I checked this morning and the nest is empty and neither young nor adults around. Just a while ago I heard a high-pitched, single, long 'seep' call from a robin sitting on a wire alone just calling over and over. Am I putting my feeling onto the bird to even consider mourning?"

**ALISON KONDLER**, May 27, "was showing my 22-month old son two American Goldfinches in our Littleton backyard, though a Mourning Dove on the fence grabbed most of his attention. Then I noticed all the birds still as statues. The male goldfinch with his back to us on a bare aspen limb, the female on a thistle seed sack not eating. And the oddest dove sitting on the fence with its head sticking straight up. Five minutes went by with no change. Suddenly a Cooper's Hawk grabbed a Mourning Dove out of the sky and landed 20 feet away. The goldfinches and the fence dove (probably the widow) were still motionless! Only after a minute into the Cooper's eating did they fly away."

**GINA GERKEN**, writing a raptor article May 13 for the Castle Pines Village newsletter, "heard a thump on the window. I saw a recently fledged House Finch. He had hit the glass and fallen into a flower pot. Then I saw why. In the giant pine by the deck sat a Cooper's Hawk trying to get up the nerve to come closer the house to grab his prize. I took a break, and when I returned the hawk was sitting on the deck railing – looking for prize maybe, but the sweet little finch actually flew away before I left."

**NAN BREHMER** writes from Green Mountain, "One of the least appreciated birds is the House Sparrow. I rather like them because they are so common and thus can be seen so often while waiting around for more interesting species to appear. My Grandmother did not much like them, however. The

*Backyard Birds continued on page 15*

# Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities...

## Video Production Team

**Contact Linda (303-745-2026;  
LJeanStrand@comcast.net)**

Denver Audubon was fortunate to receive a "Strengthening Partners" grant from Community First Foundation to produce a promotional video and a half hour TV program. We are working with Denver Open Media and need one or two more volunteers for this project. You do not need prior experience. In fact, if you want to learn about video production this is an incredible opportunity to get free training and first hand experience.

## School Naturalists

**Contact Susan (303-973-9530;  
ssmith@denveraudubon.org)**

Every fall, hundreds of school children get hands-on experiences in nature through Audubon Center field trips and schoolyard workshops. If you are interested in helping inspire the next generation of conservationists, this is your chance. Training will be provided. We run programs year round; however, our busiest times are Sept/Oct and Apr/May.

## Public Program Team

**Contact Susan (303-973-9530;  
ssmith@denveraudubon.org)**

We need volunteers to plan family and adult nature programs for the Audubon Center and Denver-area. At the Audubon Center, we hope to offer year round campfire type programs (either at the amphitheater or inside the farmhouse) along with naturalist guided hikes and special workshops. May also help with organizing leaders for day trips in and around Denver, as well as, speakers for monthly members meetings.

## 40th Anniversary Committee

**Contact Linda (303-745-2026;  
LJeanStrand@comcast.net)**

Denver Audubon will be celebrating 40 years as a non-profit in September 2009! We need a team of enthusiastic volunteers to market and plan events to mark this milestone.

## Audubon Center & Native Garden Stewards

**Contact Susan (303-973-9530;  
ssmith@denveraudubon.org)  
Wednesdays, September 3, 10, 17  
from 8:30am – 11:30am**

Help keep the Audubon Center beautiful and restore important wildlife habitat. We work mainly on pulling noxious weeds in the native gardens but also need help with trail & building maintenance. Bring a water bottle and work gloves.

## Audubon Center Clean Up

**Contact Susan (303-973-9530;  
ssmith@denveraudubon.org)**

**Wednesday, August 13 from 9am – noon**

We need to spruce up the buildings and set up for the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. We'll be organizing education supplies, sweeping, wiping down tables and setting the stage for the dinner.

## Mailing Crew – Members Dinner Invitation

**Contact Rhonda (303-973-9530;  
rshank@denveraudubon.org)**

**Week of September 8th**

We'll be stuffing, sealing, labeling, stamping and socializing! Check with Rhonda for exact times.

## Barr Lake Bird Festival (Barr Lake State Park)

**Contact Susan (303-973-9530;  
ssmith@denveraudubon.org)**

**Saturday, September 13 from 8am-1pm**

Need volunteers to staff an informational table and a children's activity booth. Let me know what hours you want to cover & whether you want to be in the "adult" or "kids" area. Barr Lake typically provides breakfast and lunch for all volunteers.

## Live Bat Experience at Audubon Center

**Contact Susan (303-973-9530;  
ssmith@denveraudubon.org)**

**Saturday, September 27, Set-up help needed at 5:45pm.**

Volunteers needed for registration table and gift shop before & after program. Approximately 6pm-6:45pm and 7:30pm-8pm. Clean-up help needed at about 8pm.

## Birdseed Sale

**Contact Rhonda (303-973-9530;  
rshank@denveraudubon.org)**

**Thursday, October 2 (afternoon)**

**Saturday, October 4 from 9am – 2pm**

**Thursday:** we need help unloading and supporting the fall birdseed orders. Be prepared to lift 50 pound bags! The delivery truck usually arrives shortly after 12noon, however, we won't know the exact time we see him pull in... so bring your binoculars to bird or a book to read in case the truck is late.

*Volunteer Opportunities contd from page 15*

# Climate Action Highlights

by Tom Easley, Rocky Mountain Climate Organization

At the national level, the Bush Administration seems content to pass the problem to the next Administration:

- At the G8 meeting of world economic leaders in June, only vague commitments were made to reduce emissions by 2050.
- In July the EPA declined to make a finding that climate change can be harmful to human health, thereby avoiding having to adopt Supreme Court-ordered rules to deal with it. Then one week later EPA released "Effects of Global Change on Human Health and Welfare and Human System," a U.S. Climate Change Science Program ([www.climate-science.gov](http://www.climate-science.gov)) report finding that it is "very likely" that more people will die during extremely hot periods in future years, and other possible dangers include more powerful hurricanes, shrinking water supplies in the West, and the increased spread of diseases.

Western states continue to take up the slack, though:

- In June the Colorado Public Utilities Commission approved for Xcel Energy what is regarded as a fairly aggressive plan to reduce residential and commercial electricity demand through rebates, other incentives, pricing, and education.
- In August Governor Ritter's Energy Office ([www.colorado.gov/energy](http://www.colorado.gov/energy)) launched a voluntary Carbon Offsets donation and purchase program to fund energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.
- The Western Climate Initiative ([www.westernclimateinitiative.org](http://www.westernclimateinitiative.org)), the consortium of 11 Western states and Canadian provinces who are designing an economy-wide regional greenhouse cap and trade program system, is working towards the September release of recommendations describing how the system will operate. The target start-up year for actual market trading is 2012.

## Volunteer Opportunities contd from page 14

**Saturday:** we need volunteers to help load birdseed orders into cars. You can volunteer for the entire day or a shift. We have wheelbarrows to help make the loading easier, but it still requires heavy lifting!

## Members Dinner at

## First Plymouth Congregational Church

Contact Arlene (303-660-0033;  
[raskinarlene@comcast.net](mailto:raskinarlene@comcast.net))

Saturday, October 18, Set-up help needed at 5:30pm.

Volunteers needed for registration table and gift shop before and after program. Approximately 6pm-6:45pm and 8pm-8:45pm Clean-up help needed at about 8:30pm.

# ASGD Recognizes our valued Donors

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**DIRECTORS CIRCLE:** Bob Hill

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## Backyard Birds continued from page 9

reason: she and her husband-to-be were sitting on a bench outside the church, waiting to talk to a clergyman about their wedding – about 1900. A sparrow, singing in the tree behind the bench, dropped a small white spot on her new hat. And ever after Grandma called them 'Schpotsies,' as do all of her descendants."

**I WELCOME YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS** to this column. Drop me a note or post card at P.O. Box 584, Franktown 80116, or Email me – **NEW—ouzel8@AOL.com**.



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