

## Why We Support Citizen Science

By Diana Hornick, Audubon Naturalist Graduate and Volunteer

Why do Coloradans know so much about nature? Because we have been conducting and completing citizen science projects for years, decades even. In fact, not just those of us living in Colorado, but people from all over the country have been signing up for the National Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird count for more than 100 years. That seems like a long time for citizens to be acting as scientists, but that may not be the [oldest citizen science effort](#) we have all heard about. Back in the 1880s, a survey asked lighthouse keepers to identify and count birds that struck their lighthouses, while another project at that time studied bird migration. Because people of all ages can be, and want to be, citizen scientists, this knowledge-based commitment will continue on into the next, and then the next, and even the next generation.



Downy Woodpecker by Dick Vogel

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Suzy Hiskey, Nature Educator at Audubon Society of Greater Denver (Audubon), describes citizen science as “crowdsourcing for science...Passionate individuals record their observations... and report them to a cloud-based (internet) database that can be utilized by experts doing research on those subjects. By enlisting thousands of people who are passionate about a topic across the country, or across the world, scientists can gather data on that topic more quickly and affordably from a wider range of locations and over a greater length of time.” Basically, citizen science is when people like us, who care about the environment and nature, take to the fields or computers and help our scientist friends because they are restricted by time and money issues. We work for free, we help further vital research, we learn more about our world, and we love it.

Our goal here at Audubon is “Connecting people with nature through conservation, education, and research,” so those of us who have attended a workshop, a night hike, a field trip, or any related event have already made the first attempt in becoming official citizen scientists. Connecting with nature is step one.



Bluebirds by Diana Hornick

## Why We Support Citizen Science (cont.)



Bee on Flower by Dick Vogel

Next, we need to have strong intentions in wanting to forge a positive impact. Step two is choosing how that intention becomes an action. Is it by learning more about conservation? Is it teaching others about our natural world? Or is it collecting data to further research? Step three is actively taking on that challenge. Audubon sponsors the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History's impactful citizen science project: [The Bees'](#)

[Needs](#). Approximately 2,000 volunteers monitored 1,200 bee blocks between 2013 and 2016, then collected data on more than 11,000 nests throughout the northern part of the Front Range. The Bees' Needs learned that nearly 100 different types of bees and wasps reproduced nests in those bee blocks, and a library composed of thousands of images of their behaviors has been established.

Deciding not to pass out bee blocks this past summer, the group said "We will use this year to focus on summarizing and analyzing the data from the past four years and to publish our results. This will allow [sic] us to share our findings with the scientific community, all of our wonderful volunteers, and others interested in conserving bees in their own backyards. We are so very grateful for all of our Citizen Scientists who have been integral to the project's success and look forward to returning the results of our study back to you."

For more local citizen science projects, we can support [Rocky Mountain Wild](#).



Monarch Butterfly - Wikipedia

Rocky Mountain Wild not only protects, connects, and restores wildlife with the natural lands in our southern Rocky Mountain region, but it interacts with a diverse representation of educators, students, activists, philanthropists, and citizen scientists. One of Rocky Mountain Wild's citizen science projects is called a BioBlitz, which is when scientists and citizen scientists connect in one location at one specific time to "discover and identify as many species as possible," together. Stuart Minton, a citizen scientist at the Arkansas River Corridor BioBlitz, said "I learned a lot about how the conservation of our most vulnerable ecosystems are maintained. Projects, such as the BioBlitz, should continue to be supported as we would want nature to be." Learning is a key aspect when partaking in citizen science projects because what we learn we can later teach.

As volunteers, naturalists, birders, conservationists, and more here at Audubon, we are involved with [various research enterprises](#) in order to learn, then teach, others about the health and status of wildlife within the Metro Denver area and beyond. The entire Audubon community, in addition to representatives from nonprofit, environmental, and scientific organizations, help each year through the Lois Webster Fund, bird counts, bird breeding surveys, just to name a few. For

Studies have discovered the rate of chicks, is needed success, and improve the Plovers near This type of in terms Colorado, and



Belted Kingfisher by Dick Vogel

landowners, land managers, and all of the flora and fauna in the region... especially the plovers.

example, the Plover helped scientists growth and survival how much land for reproductive why we should lives of Mountain cultivated lands. research is invaluable of biodiversity in it benefits biologists, conservationists,

## Why We Support Citizen Science (cont.)

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As an educator of nature at Audubon, Suzy passionately asserts how “citizen science gives purpose to learning.” But first she urges future citizen scientists to select a “topic you love, then search for databases that are collecting the data.” Technology today makes this easier than ever. “Birders can contribute to eBird and Project Feederwatch...those who love snakes can join HerpMapper...” Any emerging citizen scientist can learn more about these apps and others by attending **Audubon’s Citizen Science Workshop and the Birding Insights on the Great Backyard Bird Count on Saturday, February 10.**

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Audubon invites anybody with a hankering to learn more about our local plants, animals, and landscapes to join us at the Nature Center, just south of Chatfield State Park, where teaching and learning opportunities are offered for anyone of any generation - [denveraudubon.org](http://denveraudubon.org)

### References

Audubon Society of Greater Denver. Research Information. (n.d.) <http://www.denveraudubon.org/conservation-research/research/> (Retrieved 2017 Nov)

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Hiskey, Suzy. Audubon Society of Greater Denver Nature Educator. (2017 Nov). Personal Interview.

Rocky Mountain Wild. (2017). [http://rockymountainwild.org/citizen\\_science](http://rockymountainwild.org/citizen_science) (Retrieved 2017 Nov)

## SPRING BENEFIT 2018 AUCTION & DINNER

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- JOIN Us -  
**SUPPORT THE IMPORTANT WORK WE DO!**

**Saturday April 7, 2018**

6:00 – 9:00pm

The Barn at Raccoon Creek

7301 W Bowles Ave. Littleton, CO 80123

\$75 per person /\$600 for a Table of Ten

**Please RSVP by March 30, 2018**

**Purchase tickets:**  
**[www.denveraudubon.org](http://www.denveraudubon.org)**



Join Us Valentine's Day  
to Celebrate Colorado Photographers  
Loving Nature Through a Lens

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**Celebrate Our Love Affair with Nature!**

It's no surprise we love nature in Colorado and use images to promote conservation. Our shooters frame their shots to raise awareness and inspire action and Gala attendees will be treated to the best of this year's crop of submissions.

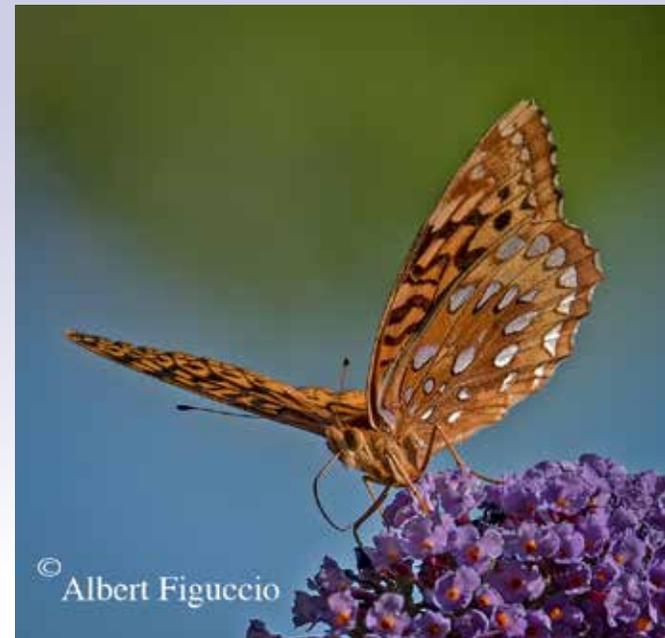
Colorado Photographer Recognition Event  
Wednesday, February 14 from 6:30-8:30pm  
University of Colorado South Denver campus  
(formerly The Wildlife Experience)  
10035 Peoria Street, Parker CO 80134

Share the View Colorado contest photographers who are among the prize winners, top 250, and semi-finalists will be recognized and celebrated at the University of Colorado South campus (formerly The Wildlife Experience). The event will feature a slide show on the IMAX screen of Colorado photographer images, presentations by high scoring Share the View photographers, and insights into contest judging.

This is Colorado's greatest event of the year for nature photography and all are welcome! Seating is limited and although there is no charge to attend, reservations are required. We received rave reviews from photographers, family members and friends who attended the event last year. And each photographer left with a memento of this festive occasion. You will want to be a part of this special evening

**Please RSVP by Monday, February 12**

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



### What The New Year Brings

January and February bring the last Christmas bird counts, a new legislative session at the State Capitol, lengthening days that promise the light, beauty and birds of spring in a few months, the annual Getting Green Laws meeting in February (described elsewhere), and new threats to wildlife and their habitats from the fossil-fuel-mad administration in Washington. It's going to be a challenging year.

Unless you've been hiding your head under a pillow, you have heard about Congress's efforts to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil and gas leasing and development. Conservationists have managed to protect the Refuge for many years, ever since Mardy and Olaus Murie led the effort to create the Refuge in 1960. Then in 1980 Congress passed the National Interest Lands Conservation Act, which expanded the Arctic Refuge and designated most of it as Wilderness.



But the ecological heart of the refuge, the coastal plain where 130,000 caribou go to calve and escape predators, where polar bears den, and where over 200 species of birds nest - was left open to the possibility of oil and gas development. In November, Congress tucked into an enormous, complex tax "reform" bill, instructions to allow leasing, to help balance the budget. Transparency? Not to be found. An open, public debate? Missing in action. Colorado's two senators split on the vote: Sen. Bennet voted to protect the coastal plain, Sen. Gardner voted to open it to exploitation.

Why do we care? A number of species, such as pintails, sandhill cranes, and American golden plover, nest in ANWR and migrate through or winter in Colorado.

It's possible that by the time you read this, the tax bill will have fallen

apart or ANWR's defenders may have prevailed. In any case, the long fight to protect one of our last intact ecosystems, and a place of incredible beauty, will continue.

### Working to replace lead in our environment

Conservation Committee members Bea Weaver and Kodi Jo Jaspers (also an Audubon intern) put together the following:

"The Bald Eagle, symbol of our country, California Condors, and other birds that eat carrion are being poisoned with lead, even as you read this. Incredibly, human beings who consume game meat are susceptible to lead poisoning as well, though this is less well documented and less well known.

"Ground game meat has been shown upon Xray to also contain many tiny particles of lead, too small to be detected when consumed, but deadly none the less. In humans lead-poisoning can have a number of different outcomes, none of them good.

These findings exist across many states, wherever lead is used in hunting ammunition. The harmful outcomes of using lead bullets are the result of the softness of lead. It is easily malleable and disintegrates upon impact. Many small pieces travel through bone and flesh of an animal up to several feet, contaminating the meat, without any obvious sign. Only an Xray demonstrates the presence of these tiny bits of poison.

"The problem of lead poisoning of wildlife has been occurring for years, as long as lead ammunition for hunting has been used. When hunters field dress an animal and leave the gut pile in the woods, it becomes free food for wildlife. When an animal is wounded and escapes but later dies, it too becomes free food. However, in both cases the free meals can be contaminated with lead, a deadly poison. Investigations show the blood level of lead in eagles increases to critical levels in the hunting season.

## Conservation Report *(cont.)*

“Change is always slow, but not impossible. Education about the use of non-lead bullets is one answer. Copper ammunition has been on the market for years and has been found to be even more accurate than lead ammunition. What keeps hunters from using it? Only lack of information, habit, and a small increase in price, possibly 25 cents more per bullet. But the use of copper bullets is a small price to pay for the life of a Bald Eagle or California Condor, or human health.”

Several groups are initiating a national campaign to replace lead ammunition with nonlead. Auduboners who are hunters can help by spreading the word: there are alternatives, and they work.

### Chatfield

Mitigation work has started along Plum Creek in Chatfield State Park. The purpose is to stop the down-cutting that results when heavy rains send water flooding down the creek, the result of development – more hard surfaces – south of the Park. With the drop in the creek bed, the water table also declines, leaving riparian vegetation high and dry. Measures to slow surface and groundwater flows, return the water table to a more normal level and restore vegetation are part of this project. If this works, it would be the one positive thing to come from the Chatfield Reallocation.

Work on the west side of the reservoir, however, is only to clear space for additional water, and ASGD filed for preliminary injunction to stop this work in early December. Statements by several Audubon birders and educators provided evidence necessary to bolster the case. It’s possible that filing for the injunction may also shake loose a decision on our original complaint from the court.

Thanks to all the people who continue to notify us of Reallocation actions in the Park!

### 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/>

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



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

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



# Adult Birding Workshops

Our Birding Insights workshops are designed to help you delve more deeply into the lives of the beautiful birds of Colorado.

### **Tricky Backyard Birds & the Great Backyard Bird Count Saturday, February 10, 9-12pm**

Discover how to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count by recording your observations in eBird – a cloud-based (internet) database that is utilized by experts doing avian research. Learn about the most frequent species of birds that frequent Colorado backyards, including how to attract more birds to your yard! Class participants will spend some time looking for birds around the Audubon Nature Center and gain valuable skills to assist with identification. Be sure to bring your own binoculars for optimal viewing!



Eastern Kingbird by Dick Vogel

*Meeting Place: Audubon Center at Chatfield, 11280 S. Waterton Rd., Littleton, CO 80125*  
*Leader: Suzy Hiskey, ASGD Nature Educator, and ASGD Staff*  
*Registration required. ASGD Members \$20.00; non-members \$25.00 per person.*

### **Birding Insights Adult Workshops – “How to be a Citizen Scientist” Saturday, January 13, 9-12 pm**

Bring your passion for nature and learn how to contribute to science projects at the locations and times convenient to you through Citizen Science. By enlisting thousands of people who are passionate about a topic across the country, or across the world, you become the legs, hands and eyes for scientists, helping them gather research data more quickly and affordably from multiple locations

and time periods. Becoming involved is easier than ever with the technology of internet and mobile apps, and this workshop helps you discover which project is right for you. We'll get you in touch with projects on birds (NestWatch, FeederWatch, eBird, Colorado Bluebird Project, etc.), pollinators, plants, reptiles, frogs, fireflies, ladybugs, and more!

*Meeting Place: Audubon Center at Chatfield, 11280 S. Waterton Rd., Littleton, CO 80125*  
*Leader: Suzy Hiskey, ASGD Nature Educator, and ASGD Staff*  
*Registration required. ASGD Members \$20.00; non-members \$25.00 per person.*



Black-Chinned Hummingbirds by Dick Vogel

The most impressive backyard visitors this fall: A million butterflies – Painted Ladies. They thronged all over the metro area (and beyond – to the foothills, Colorado Springs, and even south to Trinidad and Lamar) in extraordinary masses. They even clogged radar detectors. Produced locally, probably most raised on thistles, they feed on a lot of other common plants in our area. Migratory individuals from the Southwest do the initial ‘cloud-seeding’ in spring. Then they either do OK (normal) or have a bumper crop as they did this year.



Painted Ladies by Hugh Kingery

**Jackie King**, on the Auraria campus, in her wheel chair, “rolled past a rabbit brush that was fully blooming that was just covered with butterflies – there had to have been thirty butterflies there.”

**Dr. Mike Weissman** explained, “This is an unusual population burst that really has more to do with their success locally and rather than migration. If we have a good spring with lots of nectar and host-plants then they can reproduce in fairly large numbers here. (They like thistle around here, but their normal host-plant is mallow and related species.) Their numbers in the spring during the northbound migration weren’t record-setting. What we see now results from a mild local summer with lots of early-season moisture and a low parasite load, creating the right conditions for their population to explode. Also, the rabbit brush is in full bloom, so they have a lot of nectar to keep them going, as well as a great spot to congregate where we can see a lot of them feeding all at once. However, unlike the Monarchs heading south – Painted Ladies have a one-way migration. Those you see flying around and any eggs/larvae they produce will die when the frosts come. Meanwhile, the home population in the Sonoran region will continue, and next spring more will migrate north to repopulate our area.”

Many wondered if birds eat them. **Doug Ward**, in Denver, reported: “I watched a Western Kingbird take after a Painted Lady only to turn back at the last second. So, the young bird’s instinct, and the insect’s toxic coloration seemed to be in play. However, later a Say’s Phoebe took after, caught, then ate a butterfly as its wings fluttered to the ground. Sooo, could deeming a Painted Lady as prey be a learned behavior? I thought it was interesting that two species from the same family, one that specializes in eating insects, behaved so differently.”

**Becky Campbell**, Arapahoe County: “I saw a Blue Jay swoop to the ground with a Painted Lady. In trying to position it in his beak, he dropped it once then grabbed it again and quickly consumed it whole.”

Our Audubon bird class watched them in Genesee Mtn. Park – trying to separate birds from butterflies. Then on Genesee’s crest, we saw 100 clusters of Lady Bugs (properly, I guess, Lady Bird Beetles), huddling in a line of bushes along the topmost part.

**Doug Kibbe** commented, “In the East, we have seen such concentrations of lady bugs nearly every fall in recent decades. The concentrations occur year after year in the same locations (often in houses). The bugs taste bad (put one in your mouth if you don’t believe me) and the area they occupy apparently reeks as well. I believe it involves an introduced species which has become a pest. I have never seen a bird eat one.”

The big bird news involves the influx of mountain species into metro Denver. These include Red-breasted, White-breasted, and Pygmy nuthatches, Mountain Chickadees, Woodhouse’s Scrub-Jay, Bushtits, Townsend’s Solitaires, and Pine Siskins. Reports came from over a dozen yards.



Lady Bird Beetles by Dina Baker

In 2007, **Bob Righter** posted this observation on Cobirds: “In Denver the Red-breasted Nuthatch has become a resident species. Where I live, around DU, I would consider it a locally common species and has been present all year for over a decade. The same phenomenon has occurred in other

Front Range cities. This is an amazing expansion of its range from the spruce-fir forest of Colorado to its urban, Front Range cities.

## Backyard Birds *(cont.)*

“My favorite hunch on why this has happened is that at some point conifers in the urban areas grew to an attractive height and density to provide amply cavities for nesting. This phenomenon would make a wonderful study: why this has occurred and at what point in critical mass did this occur. A reason could be as insignificant as all the twigs on the big trees grew a quarter of an inch and bingo, there is the Red-breasted Nuthatch in our back yards!”

These interlopers feed on many plants: **Polly Reetz** saw Bushtits in Cherry Creek North “on aspen and chokecherries. **Deb Carstensen** (Littleton) watched six Red-breasteds eating dewinged pine seeds. **Karen Metz** (Franktown) “watched one of the Steller’s Jays pack 23 black oil and gray-stripe sunflower seeds in its pouch and mouth a few days ago. Another STJA packed 8 corn kernels in its pouch and carried off a large 4-peanuts-in-a-shell in its beak. I’m sure other STJA’s were taking that many or more while I watched those two.”

### Jill Holden

(Roxborough) emailed, “The scrub-jays stay just a bit longer trying to see how many peanuts or seeds that they can grab. I’m thinking that juniper berries must be really dry and make Townsend’s Solitaires very thirsty since we see a solitaire drinking from the bird bath several times a day.”



Woodhouse Scrub Jay by Ginny Gulakowski

Fall migrants included: **Bart Deferme** (Aurora), Sept. 19 “a beautiful Hermit Thrush. Dark spotted breast, reddish tail. It rested on my fence for a few seconds; hopped down into the grass underneath my feeders (which was full of House Finches). It wasn’t fazed by the Eurasian-collared Doves who were also in the grass underneath the feeders. It only stayed a few moments, hopped around the yard a bit and took off.”

**Jared Del Rosso**: Oct. 10, a Golden-crowned Sparrow Oct. 2-3, a White-throated Sparrow Oct. 10, and a Green-tailed Towhee Oct. 3. On Oct. 2, “I spotted a large sparrow foraging in my yard. Seen through binoculars, I saw a mostly gray-faced sparrow with a black lid to that face and a yellowish spot atop it all.

Though I was stupefied, this bird came to mind. I went outside to put out seed and look for this bird. My dog insisting on joining me, and then insisted on crashing through the brush to chase squirrels away from the feed, The next day I saw it drawn to catmint and, of course, the bird seed.”

On Nov. 17, Jill watched “an immature Northern Shrike visit my house 11/17. One of the Scrub Jays was not happy to see it and they were chasing around in the tree by the deck. The other birds had cleared out, but a House Finch watched from the top of a Fat Albert not too far away. Maybe a little scared to move.”



Steller's Jay by Roy Hohn

We had a minimal Sandhill Crane flight; it extended from Sept. 26 (**Alison Hilf**: “2 flocks of Sandhill Cranes flying over University of Colorado Hospital and heading SW recently during lunchtime outdoors”) to Oct 24 (Ben Sampson in Centennial heard “the distinctive rattling, grunting calls of Sandhill Cranes. At first I couldn’t see them but soon I saw 65 of them flying south probably hundreds of feet up. Nice species for my yard!” **Polly and Gene** watched about 80 fly over their central Denver house Oct. 15 (“at first they were bunched, then they formed a wide V and headed south. We could clearly hear them calling - what a treat!

On the Big Sit! on our roof Oct. 8 we picked up a flock of 23 American White Pelicans headed south.

A Red-tailed Hawk visited **Jan and Greek Taylor’s** Aurora yard Sept. 13. “He hung around through the next day. We found out later that he killed a rabbit nearby.”

**Kate Hogan**, teaching an ASGD Nature Center class saw an immature Red-Tail Hawk up Waterton Canyon Oct. 21. In Wheat Ridge, Tom Parchman saw two Merlins in his yard around Oct. 15. On Oct. 28, **Jared Del Rosso** saw a Merlin on a transmission tower near his Centennial yard.

## Backyard Birds (cont.)



Red-Tail Hawk by Greek Taylor

Earlier he had spotted a Peregrine Falcon that flew by and lit on a tower. “Pigeons -- usually a dozen or two – and a half dozen or so Eurasian Collared-Doves often line the tower lines near where the peregrine perched; When I moved here, I hoped that combination -- a high perch and potential prey -- might eventually get me a good Peregrine sighting. Today was it!”

Turkey Vultures stayed through

Sept. 24 in Elizabeth (**Leslie Hankerson**) and Oct. 6 in our yard. Karen says that in Castlewood Canyon “we typically monitor migrating flocks through mid-October in Castlewood, at night roosts, rising into thermals off the canyon cliffs a couple of hours after sunrise.”

**Joe Roller** added, “By November, there are only a handful of eBird records from the Colorado plains. The champion cold-tolerant TV was seen on Dec 29, 2012 at Flagler SWA. It was no doubt a connoisseur of frozen food.”



Red-Tail Hawk by Kate Hogan

From Park Hill, **Bill & Suzanne Wuerthele** said that “On October 23rd, Juncos showed up in numbers in our backyard, and among them were White-winged and Gray-headed forms (one each). The White-winged was only a 2nd record for us in 30 + years, and oddly though the Gray-headed form is the one that nests in Colorado and overwinters on the west side of town, we only see it briefly in our yard during spring and fall migration. We had all six Dark-eyed Junco forms here - Oregon, Pink-sided, Slate-colored, Gray-headed, White-winged and Cassiar. That was a first for us, and we

thought it was pretty cool.” He suggests checking the most recent edition of the National Geographic field guide for junco ID.

Hummingbirds stuck around into October in several yards. Jared had a Black-chinned Oct. 3. Then Broad-taileds persisted longer: Oct 3 (**Linda Williams**, Highlands Ranch); Oct. 5 (Jill); Oct. 8 (Karen, on a snowy day, changing feeders every couple of hours as the temperature dropped); Oct. 12 **Randy Nelson** (Parker: “I saw one at dusk on the deck but decided it was more likely a sphinx moth. The next day a broad-tail hummer was on the salvias and agastache pots that we brought in to save during the freeze. So far she does not use the feeders, and I have tried all but two or three of my large feeder



White-Winged Junco by Bill Wuerthele



Butterfly on Hummingbird feeder by Roy Hohn

collection. I’ve tried putting flowers in the feeder ports as well, to no avail. The bird appears healthy and chases other birds around the yard, but I don’t know if the flowers (about 14 pots) are adequate to get the hummer fattened up for migration. She has been catching gnats and tiny moths in the air as well.”). Lowell Baumunk commented, “I’m sending psychic messages to Karen’s hummers to head south tomorrow!”

*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

JAN 6	SAT	FRONT RANGE BIRDING
JAN 6	SAT	WHEATRIDGE GREENBELT
JAN 7	SUN	WALK THE WETLANDS
JAN 13	SAT	GRANT FRONTIER PARK
JAN 13	SAT	WATERFOWL WALK AT QUINCY RESERVOIR
JAN 13	SAT	BIRDING INSIGHTS ADULT WORKSHOPS – “HOW TO BE A CITIZEN SCIENTIST”
JAN 24	WED	CONSERVATION IN COLORADO ADULT LECTURE SERIES AT BRECKENRIDGE BREWERY, LITTLETON “THE BEES’ NEEDS”
JAN 27	SAT	HAWK WALK AT COTTONWOOD CREEK
JAN 27	SAT	CHATFIELD STATE PARK
JAN 27	SAT	DUCK ID BY BIRDING WITH MIKE
JAN 28	SUN	RAPTORS OF THE NORTHERN FRONT RANGE
JAN 30	TUE	HABITATS FOR HOMESCHOOLERS– HOW TO BE A CITIZEN SCIENTIST
FEB 3	SAT	RAPTORS OF THE NORTHERN FRONT RANGE
FEB 3	SAT	BELMAR PARK

FEB 3	SAT	FRONT RANGE BIRDING
FEB 3	SAT	GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH JEFFCO OPEN SPACE
FEB 3	SAT	THERE’S NO SEX LIKE INSECTS! (ADULT PROGRAM)
FEB 4	SUN	WALK THE WETLANDS
FEB 7	WED	CONSERVATION IN COLORADO ADULT LECTURE SERIES AT BRECKENRIDGE BREWERY, LITTLETON “BEAVER BELIEVERS”
FEB 10	SAT	BIRDING INSIGHTS ADULT WORKSHOPS – “TRICKY BACKYARD BIRDS & THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT”
FEB 10	SAT	RAPTOR WALK AT COAL CREEK ARENA
FEB 17	SAT	WASHINGTON PARK
FEB 17	SAT	BACKYARD BIRD CARE & SPRING MIGRATION WORKSHOP
FEB 24	SAT	CHATFIELD STATE PARK
FEB 24	SAT	“GETTING GREEN LAWS” – ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS IN THE COLORADO LEGISLATURE
MAR 2	FRI	ECHTER’S GARDENING EXPO 2018

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

### Birding in Northwest Ecuador February 3-11, 2018



Colored Aracaris by Murray Cooper

Northwest Ecuador is a great location for persons new to South American birding. Ecuador's lodges are a great value and the birding is always productive with many species seen each day and new life birds found. This trip is

a slight modification to our classic northwest Ecuador route, adding a few days on the east slope of the Andes to maximize excellent birding in a short and inexpensive trip.

More Details: <http://www.pibird.com/asgd-ecuador-northwest-custom>

### Spring Magic in Nebraska March 24-27, 2018

Each spring, more than 80 percent of the world's population of sandhill cranes converge in Central Nebraska. Over 500,000 sandhill cranes migrate through the Platte River Valley in order to fuel up before heading further north to their breeding grounds. Along with them come millions of migrating ducks and geese in the neighboring Rainwater Basin—covering the vast expanse of open sky with millions of flapping wings and a chorus of calls.



Sandhill Crane with Chick - Wikipedia

More Details: <http://reefstorockies.com/destinations/north-america-2/united-states/spring-magic-in-nebraska/> 303-860-6045

### Southeast Arizona Birding April 22-28, 2018



Hummingbird  
Madera Canyon, AZ  
by Bill Schmoker

After arriving in Tucson by midday, we will have time to make a trip up to Agua Caliente Park on the north-east side of the metro area. This park features a pond with surrounding cattail marsh, open woodlands, brushy tracts and thorn scrub desert. Consequently, species of many different habitats may be found in a relatively small area. Rufous-crowned Sparrow and Vermilion Flycatcher are found in the open areas of the park, while Bell's Vireo, Pyrrhuloxia and Phainopepla prefer the brushy scrub. In the surrounding desert, Gambel's Quail, Curve-billed Thrasher and Verdin work the mesquite and acacia.

More Details: <http://www.pi-bird.com/Arizona-1details.html> 720-320-1974

### Birding in Newfoundland, Canada July 8 to 14, 2018

Newfoundland in July is the prime time to see many nesting seabirds, such as Atlantic Puffin, Northern Gannet, Black-legged Kittiwake, Common Murre, Thick-billed Murre, Razor-bill, Black Guillemot and Northern Fulmar. While you will have many opportunities to scan for these birds from the coast, you will also take a boat trip to get even closer looks at the birds on their nests. Scanning the ocean from shore, it is possible to see jaegers and shearwaters as well! A few interesting mammals are also possible, including Humpback Whale, Harbor Seal, Newfoundland Red Fox, Caribou, Moose and Snowshoe Hare.



Northern Gannet - Wikipedia - Andreas Trepte

More Details: <http://www.pi-bird.com/Newfoundland-2013-details.html> , 720-320-1974

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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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