



THE AUDUBON MASTER BIRDER PROGRAM

25

LECTURES

23

FIELD TRIPS

FULL YEAR

INTENSIVE TRAINING

2 Bird Habitat Garden Tour

5 LWF Grants

9 Spring Bird Counts

AUDUBON MASTER BIRDER PROGRAM SEEKS APPLICANTS



Applications are being accepted for the 2019-2020 Audubon Master Birder class scheduled to start in July. Audubon Master Birders are volunteers for Denver Audubon who

undergo a year of birding training. They then give back to their community and environment in many ways. Master Birders lead group field trips, make public presentations, organize and conduct bird counts, answer wildlife questions from the public, work with children's programming, assist at bird banding stations, and much more.

Master Birders also take part in citizen science. Their field activities contribute valuable data to efforts to understand birds and their environment. Through eBird reports, breeding bird surveys, and Cornell University Lab of Ornithology programs such as Project FeederWatch and NestWatch, Master Birders make important contributions to our knowledge of avian biology and conservation. During their intensive training offered only every two years, Master Birder candidates will study Colorado

birds and their habitats. The mission of the program is to develop field ornithologists with a strong foundation in bird identification, behavior, habitat, and conservation. The Audubon Master Birder Program consists of 25 lectures by Colorado bird experts, 23 field trips to various habitats, from grasslands to alpine tundra, and a notebook of required birding homework and other interesting assignments. A Master Birder mentor provides guidance and support for each student in accomplishing program requirements. Classes are conducted in Audubon classrooms at Chatfield State Park. The cost for the year-long program is \$750.

Through service to Denver Audubon, Master Birder graduates hone their birding skills, build new friendships, and share their knowledge with the public. Birding enthusiasts have enjoyed meaningful and active volunteerism as Master Birders since the program's inception in 2008.

For more details on the Audubon Master Birder program requirements and how to apply, go to www.denveraudubon.org/programs/adult. Further information and important dates for the Open House, application deadline, and interview are available by emailing info@denveraudubon.org.

SATURDAY JUNE 22, 2019

8:30 AM TO 1 PM

HIGHLANDS RANCH, CO

Purchase Tickets at
www.denveraudubon.org



**ADVANCED REGISTRATION
RECOMMENDED!**

*Event Cost: \$17 for Denver Audubon Members,
\$21 for Non-members*

Sponsor: Live Urban Denver

Partners:

**James H. Larue Highlands Ranch Library,
Centennial Water & Sanitation, The Bees Waggle**

Bird Habitat Garden Tour 2019



In celebration of our 50th Anniversary, Denver Audubon is hosting the annual bird habitat garden tour in Highlands Ranch featuring beautiful home gardens owned by Audubon volunteers and Highlands Ranch residents who have implemented creative designs with birds in mind.

Discover how the specialized gardens provide the unique perspective of each homeowner while highlighting the essential wildlife habitat elements of food, water, shelter, and space. This tour is an opportunity for birders, gardeners, and outdoor enthusiasts to gain valuable insight from other homeowners including plant choices and lessons learned.

*** Proceeds from the event support our environmental education programs for all ages, as well as our continued community outreach programs that provide engaging and conservation-minded content for creating wildlife habitat in our neighborhoods, schools, places of worship, and businesses and lessons learned.*

Audubon's Priority Legislation Introduced in the General Assembly, and Other Good News

Water is life, in the American West as in other parts of the world, and we don't have unlimited amounts. Often environmental and wildlife resources are the last to receive attention in any discussion of the use of water in Colorado. However:



On March 4 Rep. Dylan Roberts introduced HB19- 1218, Audubon's instream flow bill. The bill expands the Colorado Water Conservation Board's (CWCB) Instream Flow program, which currently allows water rights owners to lease or loan their water to the CWCB to protect stream flows and maintain aquatic resources, for any three years in one 10-year period. A crucial part of this law is that the water rights owners do not lose their water rights if they donate them to the CWCB instead of using them (remember the "use it or lose it" provisions of Colorado water law?). HB 1218 expands the program to allow use for any FIVE years in one 10-year period, and also allows renewal for two additional 10-year periods - for a total of thirty years in the program.

How does this work? Usually there is an interested organization such as Trout Unlimited, Audubon, etc. which approaches a farmer/rancher/reservoir company to persuade them to enter the Instream Flow program. The organization becomes a party to the contract between CWCB and the water rights owner, and the owner may be paid some compensation for loaning out his water right, a win-win situation for everyone. Fish and wildlife benefit, and the water rights owner receives some income, which might not be the case in a dry year.

By the time you read this, the bill hopefully will have passed both Houses and have been signed by the Governor. The General Assembly session ends in early May, so we should know the bill's final fate by then.

Other good news:

- A Senate resolution introduced by Sen. Jerry Sonnenberg to divert money from the Great Outdoors Colorado program that supports parks, wildlife and open space at both state and local levels, died in Committee in late February. All wildlife conservationists should heave a sigh of relief – GOCO is safe for this year! However, given the State's need for more education funding there may well be other attempts to raid the GOCO fund, despite the public having voted 3 times to establish it AS IS.
- A mining reclamation bill that failed to get out of Committee last year cleared both House and Senate in mid-March. The bill prohibits reliance on perpetual water treatment as a reclamation method for new mining operations or expanded operations into new river basins. (In the past, the taxpayer ended up paying the tab for such perpetually-needed water treatment in some cases). The bill also specifically includes water quality as part of the reclamation process for which bonds must be posted.

In addition, the bill prohibits the practice of allowing corporations to use a healthy balance sheet as a reason NOT to post reclamation bonds ("See? We have enough resources to cover any reclamation needs!"). In an industry as volatile as mining, the profit on a balance sheet can evaporate overnight, leaving the State responsible for cleanup and reclamation costs – the taxpayer gets to pay once again.

And of course, Oil and Gas

Unless you have ignored the newspapers and TV you have also read about SB19-181, the oil and gas reform bill. This bill passed the Senate in early March and went to the House and should be law by the end of the legislative session. It does several things, among them:

(Cont. next page)

- It modifies the mission of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. Currently the COGCC is required to foster development of oil and gas resources - the “fostering” part will be eliminated and the Commission will be required to regulate development to protect public health, safety, and welfare as well as environmental and wildlife resources FIRST rather than as an afterthought.
- It changes the make-up of the COGCC. Currently, of the 9 members of the Commission, 3 are from the oil and gas industry. The bill requires that 1 person be from the industry, 1 have experience in wildlife mitigation, and 1 be experienced in public health, rather than 3 with only industry experience. Some of these categories can overlap; a person experienced in wildlife mitigation might also work for the industry, for example. You see where this is going.... but still, an improvement.
- The bill increases local governments’ control by permitting them to be MORE stringent than state requirements on land use regulation (setbacks, designation of areas inappropriate for leasing, adding runoff controls, etc.). However, the additional authority is strictly limited to land use and doesn’t extend to controls on drilling itself - i.e. noise, air quality, water quality, etc. The bill recognizes that some entities might get carried away and thus allows lawsuits by the industry IF they absolutely cannot access their mineral leases; in such a case the industry’s property has been “taken.”
- The bill requires publication of information about abandoned wells, flow lines, etc.

Hugely controversial, this bill is actually long overdue and will help protect public health, safety, water quality, and wildlife. It is highly unlikely that the oil and gas industry will abandon the State because the regulations are stricter – they threatened to do so back in 2010, and look where we are now.

Enjoy the May bird counts and the warmer weather!

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

Denver Audubon 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 Denver Audubon. Be sure to take advantage of Front Range Birding's "Seed Vault Program." You can buy as much as you like up front and pick up fresh seed anytime. Seed Vault purchases never expire! There's no need to pre-order. Just stop by the Front Range Birding Company store and let them know you are there for Denver Audubon. Front Range Birding Company: 10146 W San Juan Way #110, Littleton, CO 80127 303-979-Bird (2473)



Spotted Towhee by Dick Vogel

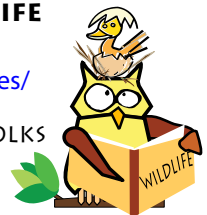
WOODPECKER WOES AND OTHER WILDLIFE ISSUES?

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



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

www.ifoundafox.org

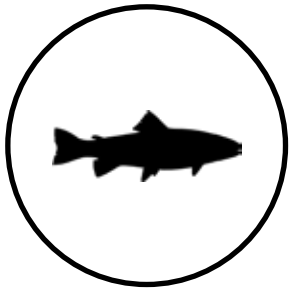


THIS LINK WILL CONNECT YOU TO THE NATIONAL AUDUBON WEBSITE AND OTHER HELPFUL LINKS TO HELP YOU DEAL WITH COMMON QUESTIONS!

LOIS WEBSTER FUND

THE LOIS WEBSTER FUND COMMITTEE IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE GRANT AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR 2019

The wide range of research projects proposed and the quality of the applications received made the decision quite difficult. After serious discussion, the committee has awarded funds to the following:

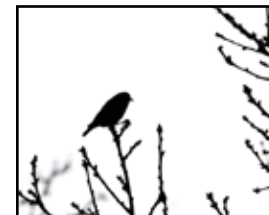


PROJECT:
*SURVEY OF NATIVE PLAINS FISH ASSEMBLAGES
AFTER A RECENT DISCOVERY OF INVASIVE
MOSQUITOFISH IN ARIKAREE RIVER - GRANT
AWARD: \$2500*

PROJECT:
*BLACK SWIFT MOVEMENT ECOLOGY PROJECT –
GRANT AWARD: \$5023*



Grant recipients contribute a synopsis of their research as articles for *The Warbler* and also make a presentation at the Lois Webster Annual Meeting. The 2018 recipients presented their findings on April 23, 2019 at Kent Denver School. The Annual Meeting included a dessert reception and the presentations, and was open to interested attendees at no charge. Future *Warbler* newsletters will include the 2018 research synopses on studies concerning Black Swifts; Boreal Toads; and Urban Conservation's Impact on Engaging Citizens.



The Lois Webster Fund of the Denver Audubon supports Colorado non-game wildlife research and education projects that lead to the conservation of these species. A small committee of wildlife experts, educators, environmentalists and members of the Denver Audubon Board has guided the Lois Webster Fund since its inception in 1995 and has awarded grants totaling over \$89,487 to 48 projects. This has been possible by loyal donors who have given small- and some not so small- donations every year. Please consider joining us in keeping our wildlife legacy alive.

Almost all this report consists of birds seen during our various snowstorms – Feb. 6, Mar. 3-4, and Mar. 14-15.

Jackie Dunn called about a Varied Thrush coming to her feeder enclosure in Elbert, Mar. 14. During the day after the cyclone-blizzard. She sent a hopeless picture taken with her phone, but had some better ones on her camera which she can't transmit easily. Then she had a bright idea: with her phone she took a picture of the camera image and sent that. It readily confirms that she has this rare visitor from the Northwest.

At the same time, Mary Kay Waddington (Cherry Hills) "looked out the window and an adult Goshawk was sitting on the fence 10 feet away! Third time in a year, after never having seen them here in the previous 50+ years."



Varied Thrush by Jackie Dunn

In our Franktown yard this winter, Urling & I have spotted a Goshawk a couple of times per month. On one occasion, it flew off with a flicker in its talons! But usually when it sits near our feeders, the little birds ignore it and continue feeding as actively as usual. We speculate that goshawks prefer larger prey than chickadees and juncos.

Gene and Polly Reetz (central Denver) had a Cooper's Hawk visit during the peak of a Feb. 6 snowstorm. "Didn't look too happy." After the hawk left, 8-10 Bushtits descended on the suet.

"At 3:21 a.m.," Christy Honnen (Greenwood Village) wrote in a note, "I was awakened by a (Great Horned) owl! Hooting away. We can get owls here but one has never woken me up. I won't forget the experience."

From Golden, Jim Burnell reported the first bluebirds. "I have to tell someone. Who better to appreciate it? Yesterday, at dusk, in the height of the snowstorm, a flock of Mountain Bluebirds descended on our deck. At least

18 of them, fluttering around back and forth, seeking shelter under the eaves. Twenty-seven years here on the south slope of South Table Mountain and we have never seen one of their species around the house. (On top of South Table, yes, but they never seem to venture down.) An amazing experience."



Cooper's Hawk by Gene Reetz

The non-stop snowstorms brought scads of birds to our yards. Mar. 3, Jill Holden described the scene: "My feeders were in a feeding frenzy pretty much all day with a few short breaks when someone seemed to have sounded the alarm. Never saw what disturbed them, and they didn't stay away long. It was pretty much the same crowd as usual, and I didn't see anything that I hadn't been seeing recently. Her list of a dozen species included 42 Red-winged Blackbirds, 37 House Finches, 12 Pine Siskins, 11 juncos, and 11 Cassin's Finches.



Mountain Bluebird by Tim Deger

(Cont. next page)

Our similar list that day tallied 19 species, including 35 Red-wings, 12 Spotted Towhees (a record for us), 12 House Finches, 8 Blue, 2 Steller's, and 3 Woodhouse's Scrub-jays. They included a Fox Sparrow that shows up sporadically, stays a minute or two, and disappears. He looks rather like a Song Sparrow, but with tangerine tail and primary feathers. That day the bane of our feeders, 45-60 Wild Turkeys did not show up. We have as many turkeys as all the other birds put together – and imagine how much seed they gobble.



Fox Sparrow by Hugh Kingery

Eric Storms's son walked his dog about 5:50 p.m. after the worst of the blizzard, "and saw a flock of 8 Horned Larks along the trail at Native Legend open space. This is on the Meadows side of northern Castle Rock."

From Roxborough, Tina Leslie described a strange junco. "My backyard in Roxborough Park (6,200 ft.), which backs up to Pike National Forest, is Oak Scrub habitat with many Gambel Oak and Mountain Mahogany. This winter I have commonly seen at my feeders Pine Siskins, Dark-eyed Juncos, Woodhouse's Scrub-Jays, Bushtits, Wild Turkey, Northern Flickers, Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees and Spotted Towhees. On occasion I see Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches, House and Cassin's Finches, and a Hairy Woodpecker that likes the oiled sunflower seed feeder. Steller's Jays have more recently visited the yard (early March).



"On March 10 I was watching the many Dark-eyed Juncos that like to feed on the ground under a feeder in a blue spruce in my yard. Amongst the different types of juncos (Gray-headed, Slate-colored, Pink-sided, Oregon) I saw an unusual junco with blotches of white feathers. Sibley calls these birds partial albinos (Leucistic). It may be a "leucistic" Pink-sided, and has been feeding in the yard for the past couple of days."

Urling and I have watched a similar junco (Appaloosa) for over two months, this one a Gray-headed subspecies.

From Littleton, Mar. 3 (again, that snowy day) Lucy Michel described a resourceful (Oregon) Dark-eyed Junco. "This bird has learned to hop through the squirrel baffle, sit on a perch of the seed feeder and eat. This bird, also, hangs on the suet feeder to enjoy the food. All the rest of the Juncos feed on the seeds dropped from the hanging feeders.

"Mar. 4: The bird was busy at the feeder again today. Mo says it is highly evolved. By the paler coloring I surmise it is a female. Yesterday afternoon the Cooper's Hawk sent all the little birds into the bushes. It then sat on the fence for a while to regain its pride. Nice to watch it from 15 feet away."

Finally, Jared del Rosso posted a report Mar. 15 from everybody's front yard. "I spent this morning at Denver International Airport (Denver Co.), having



Palamino Junco by Tina Leslie

rescheduled an early Thursday flight to today. Well before sunrise, around 4:45 AM, I watched a female House Sparrow "foraging" in the upstairs section of the A terminal. It's not unusual to see House Sparrows in airports, but it was neat to see this one up for my well-lit, indoor "nocturnal" eBird checklist.

"Even neater was the bird's drinking behavior. A little later (though still before dawn), the sparrow followed me to the water fountain, drinking after I did. I actually had lost track of the bird, but it clearly hadn't lost track of me, for it was drinking water left in the fountain before I even made it back to my seat. Makes me think it rather closely watches travelers and that water source."

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 Denver Audubon in Your Will, and Other Gift Planning Options

Denver Audubon 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 Denver Audubon. 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

Please Let Us Know

We often receive bequests from people whom we have never had the opportunity to thank. If you include Denver Audubon 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 Denver Audubon 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 Denver Audubon in your will or estate plan, we should be legally designated as:

“Denver Audubon, a nonprofit organization (Tax ID #23-7063701), with its principal business headquarters address of 9308 S. Wadsworth Blvd, Littleton, CO 80128.”

Date of Incorporation: September 30, 1969



Photo by Dick Vogel

QUICK GLANCE - UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS & PROGRAMS

MAY JUNE CHEETSHEET

MAY 4	SAT	LOWRY RANCH	MAY 19	SUN	BEAR CREEK LAKE PARK (JEFFERSON COUNTY)
MAY 4	SAT	FRONT RANGE BIRDING	MAY 24	FRI	BIRDING INSIGHTS ADULT WORKSHOP: MIGRATION & CONSERVATION
MAY 4	SAT	DANIELS PARK	MAY 25	SAT	CHATFIELD STATE PARK
MAY 5	SUN	WALK THE WETLANDS	MAY 25	SAT	BELMAR PARK
MAY 5	SUN	MASTER BIRDER OPEN HOUSE	MAY 25	SAT	LIVE BIRD BANDING; TIMED SESSIONS AT 7:30, 8:30, AND 9:30 AM
MAY 5	SUN	LIVE BIRD BANDING; TIMED SESSIONS AT 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, AND 10:30 AM	MAY 26	SUN	LIVE BIRD BANDING; TIMED SESSIONS AT 7:30, 8:30, AND 9:30 AM
MAY 8	WED	MASTER BIRDER OPEN HOUSE	JUN 1	SAT	WHEAT RIDGE GREENBELT/PROSPECT PARK
MAY 9	THU	ROXBOROUGH STATE PARK	JUN 1	SAT	BEAVER BROOKE TRAIL, GENESEE AREA
Spring Counts			JUN 2	SUN	WALK THE WETLANDS
MAY 10	FRI	CHERRY CREEK STATE PARK SPRING COUNT	JUN 2	SUN	UNIQUE TO THE CREEK
MAY 11	SAT	BARR LAKE STATE PARK SPRING COUNT	JUN 6	THU	ROXBOROUGH STATE PARK
MAY 11	SAT	AUDUBON NATURE CENTER SPRING COUNT	JUN 7	FRI	SURVEY SANDSTONE RANCH
MAY 11	SAT	CHATFIELD STATE PARK SPRING COUNT	JUN 8	SAT	FRONT RANGE BIRDING
MAY 11	SAT	LOWER BEAR CREEK SPRING COUNT	JUN 13	THU	ROXBOROUGH STATE PARK
MAY 12	SUN	ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SPRING COUNT	JUN 20	THU	LITTLE PARK BIRD WALK
MAY 12	SUN	CASTLEWOOD CANYON STATE PARK SPRING COUNT	JUN 22	SAT	SUMMER SOLSTICE WALK IN THE PARK
MAY 12	SUN	BARR LAKE PERIPHERY SPRING COUNT	JUN 22	SAT	BIRD HABITAT GARDEN TOUR IN HIGHLANDS RANCH
MAY 11	SAT	FRONT RANGE BIRDING FESTIVAL OPEN HOUSE	JUN 23	SUN	NEWTON PARK
MAY 12	SUN	MOTHER'S DAY BIRD BANDING BREAKFAST	JUN 24-28	MON-FRI	FEATHERED FRENZY SUMMER CAMP
MAY 18	SAT	LIVE BIRD BANDING; TIMED SESSIONS AT 7:30, 8:30, AND 9:30 AM	JUN 28	FRI	NOCTURNAL WILDLIFE HIKE
MAY 18	SAT	6-COUNTY BIG DAY	JUN 29	SAT	CHATFIELD STATE PARK
MAY 19	SUN	LIVE BIRD BANDING; TIMED SESSIONS AT 7:30, 8:30, AND 9:30 AM			

FOR A FULL DESCRIPTION OF THESE FIELD TRIPS, VISIT WWW.DENVERAUDUBON.ORG/EVENTS/ OR CALL 303-973-9530

QUICK GLANCE - DOMESTIC & INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Kansas Prairie-Chickens and Spring Migration: Wetlands, Shorebirds and Grasslands:

**May 4 to 9, 2019
and May 11 to 16, 2019**

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



Lesser Prairie-Chicken by Bill Schmoker

Price: \$1,360 per person with 9 participants for 6 Days and 5 Nights Trip cost includes guide and driver, all access fees, five nights of lodging and more.

Register: Charles Thornton-Kolbe, 720-320-1974, email charles@PIBird.com

Brazil's Pantanal July 7-15, 2019

This is one of our most popular trips with first time Brazil bird watchers and nature lovers. Every birder and wildlife lover wants to see the Pantanal and South America's king of the jungle, the magnificent Jaguar. The Pantanal has some 40 specialty bird species and several Brazilian endemics, including Hyacinth Macaw, Greater Rhea, Bare-faced Curassow, Mato Grosso Antbird, Chestnut-bellied Guan and much more. Besides seeing 200 plus bird species, everyone enjoys seeing Capybara, Giant Anteater, Silvery Marmoset, Black Howler Monkey and other Pantanal wildlife.

\$2,990/person

Register at www.pibird.com

Peru – Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu and Manu September 2019

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

\$4495/person double occupancy. Single supplement: \$630

Register: <https://reefstorockies.com/destinations/south-america/peru/peru-discovery-2019/>

Brazil's Pantanal: Birds & Wildlife (Including Jaguar) September 16 - 24, 2019



Fiery-capped Manakin by
Judi Helsby

The Pantanal has some forty specialty bird species and numerous Brazilian endemics, including Hyacinth Macaw, Greater Rhea, Bare-faced Curassow, Mato Grosso Antbird and Chestnut-bellied Guan.

In addition to over 200 species of birds, you will be looking for other wildlife, including Capybara, Giant Anteater, Silvery Marmoset, Black Howler Monkey, Jaguar, Giant Otter and more.

An Atlantic Forest extension trip could lift your bird species total to over 500.

Learn More (including detailed itinerary) at

<https://www.pibird.com/asgd-pantanal>

Register by contacting Charles Thornton-Kolbe, 720-320-1974, email charles@PIBird.com

Price: \$2,990 per person for 10 Days and 9 Nights (Special Price for Denver Audubon) Trip cost includes guide and driver, all access fees, your meals, 8 nights of lodging, airport transfers and more.

(Cont. next page)

**South Africa Birding and Wildlife Safari:
Kruger National Park and More
Oct 21 – Nov 1, 2019**

Details to follow
Register at www.pibird.com

**Belize: Rainforest to Reef
November 9-16, 2019**

Nestled between Mexico and Guatemala on the Caribbean coast of Central America, Belize is one of the few remaining unspoiled places on earth. From colorful coral reefs to tropical rainforest to gorgeous beaches to the mysteries of the ancient Maya, you can truly experience it all in Belize. The only English-speaking country in Central America, Belize offers a unique combination of rewarding travel experiences that make it unlike any other destination in the world. Hosted by Kate Hogan, Community Outreach Coordinator \$2795/person based on double occupancy. Single supplement: \$775 Register: <https://reefstorockies.com/destinations/central-america/belize/belize-rainforest-to-reef-2019/>

**Hawaii Essential Birding: Oahu and Big Island Birding:
January 27-February 2, 2020**

Every bird-watcher and nature lover will love birding in Hawaii. Birding here also supports continued efforts to support bird conservation for many endangered species.



Hawaiian Honey-Creeper by Susie Nishio

Many Hawaiian visitors never get to some of the natural jewels of Hawaii. Beyond the beautiful beaches, there is fantastic beauty in the islands forested areas. And many natural areas hide Hawaii's endemic bird wonders. The Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge will be one of the top birding experiences of this trip. In one day, you

will likely see ten Hawaiian endemic bird species, including six species of honeycreepers, including Hawaiian Creeper (Alawi), Apapane, I'iwi, Hawaii Amakihi, Akepa, and Akiapolaau. Plus, you will see several other Hawaiian endemic

bird species, including Hawaiian Hawk, Hawaiian Goose, Hawaiian Thrush, Omao, and the Hawaii Elepaio. Other stops will include many of the beautiful birds of the island. Hawaii offers every birder and naturalist something on this visit. Learn more, including detailed itinerary and list of birds: <https://www.pibird.com/denver-audubon-hawaii>

\$2,790 per Person with 8 participants for 7 Days and 6 Nights. Trip cost includes guide and driver, all access fees, breakfast, 7 nights of lodging, airport transfers and more. The trip does not include any flights. Register by contacting Charles Thornton-Kolbe, 720-320-1974, email Charles@PIBird.com

**Cuba Essential Birding and Conservation Education:
February 1-8, 2020**

Our Cuban tour provides you with a great opportunity to see more than twenty of the possible Cuban endemic birds, in addition to a good number of Caribbean



Bee Hummingbird by Arturo Kirkconnell, Jr.

endemic species. Cuban endemics include Gundlach's Hawk, Bee Hummingbird (smallest hummingbird in the world), Cuban Trogon, Cuban Tody, Cuban Parakeet, Zapata Wren and more. This is a legal Cuba tour, where you are collecting ornithological data to support the education of the Cuban people about their natural resources. You will be birding, and travelling for humanitarian purposes. You will also get to experience the local Cuban culture and have an

opportunity to explore Havana and other interesting locations. Our friendly Cuban bird guide will be happy to discuss and give a local perspective on Cuban life, as well as share his extensive knowledge of the local birds and wildlife. Learn more, including the detailed itinerary and birds: <https://www.pibird.com/cuba-essential-asgd>

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

South Africa: Birding and Wildlife Safari: Kruger National Park and More

October/November 2020

The provinces of KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga on South Africa's eastern seaboard boast some of the country's finest birding and exceptional mammal viewing. An impressive 500 plus species of birds occur in the region, reflecting the wonderful natural diversity of the area.



Four-colored Bushshrike by Keith Valentine

South Africa's modern infrastructure (lodges and good roads) supports productive birding and travel throughout the region.

This trip covers the classic African savanna of the world-renowned Kruger National Park. Kruger is famous as the best spot for a

South African Safari, and this tour should find well over 300 bird species and 40 plus mammal species. This tour of eastern South Africa offers the very best of African bird watching and wildlife viewing. Tours to Kruger National Park often get all of the big 5 mammals, including Southern White Rhinoceros, African Bush Elephant, African Buffalo, African Lion and African Leopard.

Register by contacting Charles Thornton-Kolbe, 720-320-1974, email charles@PIBird.com



**JOIN US IN
CELEBRATING OUR
50TH ANNIVERSARY!**

at these upcoming events

May 12

~ Mother's Day Bird Banding Breakfast at the Nature Center

June 22

~ Bird Habitat Garden Tour in Highlands Ranch

July 20

*~ Nature Center Open House & Celebration
with John Denver Cover Band*

September 21

~ HOOtenanny Owl & Music Festival

October/November

~ Annual Fall Gathering

December

~ Denver Audubon Christmas Bird Count

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John Liberatore	Diane Hutton
Angela Grun	Susan Sass
Betty Glass	Kodi Jo Jaspers
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*Thanks to all committees,
board members and Audubon Master
Birders for volunteering their time.*

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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
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Kate Hogan with your completed hours as soon as
possible. Thanks!

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(Donors Cont. next page)

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