



Canyon Wrenderings

The Journal of the Black Canyon Audubon Society

Representing Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, San Juan, and San Miguel Counties of Western Colorado

Fall 2016

Volume XXIX Number 3

Join Us on BCAS Trips



Domesticated Chinese Swan Geese, Baldridge Park, Montrose. Photo by Sandy Beranich

September 9

Ridgway State Park: As part of celebrating fall migration, come to the Visitor's Center at Ridgway State Park at 7 p.m. to hear Coen Dexter speak about fall migratory birds that use the Uncompahgre River Corridor. For more information, see article on page 5 of this issue.

September 10 - 11

Ouray County Bird Count: We will meet both Saturday and Sunday morning at the visitor center at Ridgway State Park at 8:00 a.m. There is a 15 minute free parking limit if one does not have a sticker. That will be enough time to get organized as well as bird the area immediate to the visitor center. You are welcome to bird with Coen Dexter or to head out on your own. By noon, we plan to end up at the Ridgway City Park for a picnic lunch. In the afternoon, we will drive to Ouray, birding all the way. We may drive up to Crystal Lake but save enough time to visit Box Canyon feeders. We plan on the same route on both days unless weather or participants suggest an alternate route. Last year we did visit a private ranch and a large reservoir southwest of Ridgway and we may be able to do the same this year on Sunday. For more information, see article on page 5 of this issue.

September 10

Bird Banding at Ridgway State Park: Meet at the Dallas Creek Bird Banding Station, in Ridgway State Park. More information on page 5.

October 1

Audubon Colorado Council Meeting: The meeting will be held at a private home in Paonia and hosted by the Black Canyon Chapter. All Chapter members are welcome to attend. For more information, see article on page 3 of this issue.

November 26

Annual Barrow's Goldeneye Survey: Join Jason Beason in a Barrow's Goldeneye population survey. See article on page 3 of this Issue.

December 14 – January 5

Christmas bird count: The annual Christmas bird counts will again occur in Montrose, Delta, Hotchkiss, and Gunnison areas. Specific dates and meeting locations will be provided when available in the next newsletter, on the BCAS website, and in local newspapers.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Comings and Goings: The Year in Review

We had a very nice turnout at the annual dinner in mid-June at the Bridges in Montrose. The 60 attendees were the largest ever. Many thanks to Sandy Lundgren and the rest of the staff at the Bridges and to all of the BCAS folks who made it a successful event. I would also like to thank the many silent auction donors for the wonderful items they donated! Arden Anderson's talk about his adventures in Alaska and the Canadian Rockies was a true delight!

At the short business meeting after the dinner, the following new board members were elected for two-year terms: Dian Torphy (Treasurer), Jane McGarry (Audubon Colorado Council representative), and Marcella Fremgen (Co-Chair of the Education Committee). Sandy Beranich and Geoff Tischbein were elected for their second two-year terms on the board. Thank you for agreeing to serve. Elaine Probasco completed her term as treasurer the previous year, but graciously continued in that role for the past year. She worked hard on the transition to Dian Torphy as the new Treasurer. Alan Reed and Susan Chandler served as the coordinators for Eckert Crane Days for the past three years, but have stepped down. Many thanks to Elaine, Alan, and Susan for their dedication to the group and to our new and ongoing board members!

Our annual year runs from June to June. It has been a busy year with many accomplishments:

We now have an informational card that doubles as a membership form to hand out, thanks to Sandy Beranich. Marilyn Westerdahl and Carole Scott have been contacting folks whose National Audubon memberships have expired to let them know that they can continue to be local BCAS members.

Education has always been a big part of what we do, and our programs reach many hundreds of elementary school students each year. Our biggest effort is with the Ridgway State Park bird banding that includes classroom education visits and bussing kids to the park for hands-on programs. Conservation Days at Paonia River Park is another big effort that involves all third and fourth grade students in Delta County. Sheryl Radovich and Marcella Fremgen have handled these and many other requests for educational programs and should be applauded for their hard work.

Eckert Crane Days is another big event for us where we greet visitors to Fruitgrowers Reservoir and sponsor a speaker event, even though the cranes don't necessarily appear as hoped. In conjunction with Crane Days we did a clean-up day along the causeway resulting in a pickup load of trash, most of which was recycled. Many thanks to Susan Chandler, Alan Reed, and Chris Lazo in organizing the event and to Carole Scott for her crafting of this year's beautiful Crane Days poster.

We had a well-attended program at Bill Heddles Recreation Center in Delta, with Dr. Susan Longest, biology professor at Colorado Mesa University, as our speaker talking about climate change. We hope to have more speakers in the coming year.

Chris Lazo and Geoff Tischbein taught beginning bird watching classes in Delta and Montrose this spring. This is the first time we have done classes like this and hope to do more in the future.

We have had several more field trips this past year thanks to the coordination of Bill Harris and others. This year there was a trip to Kevin Parks Wetlands near Hotchkiss; the annual 2-day fall Ouray County migration bird count with Coen Dexter and Brenda Wright in association with the bird banding at Ridgway State Park; a Barrow's goldeneye count at Blue Mesa Reservoir in November; an open-water field trip in the Montrose and Delta areas in January; three raptor field trips in February; (Cont'd p. 3)

OFFICERS

President – Jon Horn (970) 209-5404

jon_horn@alpinearchaeology.com

Vice President – Chris Lazo (970) 424-3309

2006clazo@gmail.com

Secretary – Sheryl Radovich (970) 240-3788

canyon.creek@bresnan.net

Treasurer – Dian Torphy

(303) 709-4386 dctorphy@gmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sandy Beranich Montrose (970) 240-4913

sj07pioneer@bresnan.net

Marcella Fremgen (970) 249-8407

marcella.fremgen@co.usda.gov

Bill Harris Montrose (970) 615-7166

Trlgpa48@gmail.com

Jon Horn Montrose (970) 249-6761 ext. 14

jon_horn@alpinearchaeology.com

Chris Lazo Crawford (970) 424-3309

2006clazo@gmail.com

Jane McGarry Paonia (970) 433-0482

westelk@tds.net

Robin Nicholoff Hotchkiss (970) 527-3997

robgret@tds.net

Sheryl Radovich Montrose (970) 240-3788

canyon.creek@bresnan.net

Carole Scott Crawford (970) 640-8711

carolesscottphoto@hotmail.com

Geoff Tischbein Ridgway (970) 626-5002

geofftischbein@gmail.com

Dian Torphy Cedaredge (303) 709-4386

dctorphy@gmail.com

Marilyn Westerdahl Montrose (970) 249-8571

fmsimon66@hotmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Audubon CO Council – Jane McGarry 433-0482

westelk@tds.net

Education – Marti Isler 249-0737

martiisler@montrose.net

Sheryl Radovich 240-3788

canyon.creek@bresnan.net

Marcella Fremgen 249-8407

marcella.fremgen@co.usda.gov

Conservation – Bill Day 872-3216

billday@paonia.com

Field Trips – Bill Harris 615-7166

Trlgpa48@gmail.com

Membership – Marilyn Westerdahl 249-8571

fmsimon66@hotmail.com

Publicity – Geoff Tischbein 626-5002

geofftischbein@gmail.com

Programs – OPEN

Newsletter Editor – Sandy Beranich 240-4913

sj07pioneer@bresnan.net

Eckert Crane Days – OPEN

Audubon Council News

By Jane McGarry

The next meeting of the Audubon Colorado Council will be hosted by the Black Canyon Audubon Society at my home, Jane McGarry's, in Paonia, on October 1. This gathering of Audubon chapter representatives is open to all BCAS members and is a great chance to learn about Audubon work across the state. We will begin the day with an early morning birding outing led by a local member, and continue with the meeting from 9 til 3 or so, with a break for lunch. If you can help with an outing, lunch, hosting an out of town chapter representative, or you simply want to attend part or all of the day, we are delighted to have your participation!

A summary of topics discussed at the last quarterly meeting include: Funding was provided by several chapters to send a young person to attend birding camps; the Arkansas Valley Chapter received a grant from the National Audubon Society to educate hunters about non-lead ammunition and the benefits to wildlife and to those who enjoy eating wild game. Audubon members will attend hunter education classes around their region, pass out free copper ammunition, and spread the word about how lead ammunition harms wildlife. The Boulder Chapter brings owl expert Scott Rashid to give talks and help set up owl boxes and the Weminuche Chapter is bringing Chris Parrish, condor expert, to give a talk.

Join Us to Survey Barrow's Goldeneyes

By Jason Beason

Please join Black Canyon Audubon Society and Bird Conservancy of the Rockies for a field trip to Blue Mesa Reservoir on Saturday, November 26. The goal of the field trip is to find and count Barrow's Goldeneyes but we will be attempting to identify every bird we see. We will meet at the Lake Fork Marina and boat ramp (near the dam)



at 10 a.m. that day and stop at numerous locations as we head east along Colorado's largest reservoir. If we have time we may head up to Taylor Park reservoir sometime in the afternoon to look for Barrow's Goldeneyes there. If travelling is

dangerous, we will cancel the field trip. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes if you have one, lunch and warm clothes.

Please respond to me at this email address: Jason.beason@birdconservancy.org or call (970) 310-5117 to let me know you are coming or to find out if the field trip is happening in case of bad weather that day.

Photo of Barrow's Goldeneyes by Leon Thurmon, via WSBN information

(President's Corner concluded from page 2)

a 10-day trek to Arizona and a 2-day trip to the west end of Montrose and San Miguel counties in May; a Gunnison Sage-grouse lek observation field trip near Gunnison in May; a trip to the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area on the North Fork of the Gunnison with the Colorado Canyons Association; and a Peregrine falcon aerie search at the Black Canyon followed by birding on Cerro Summit. In addition, BCAS sponsored four Christmas Bird Counts in Delta, Gunnison, Hotchkiss, and Montrose.

Our increased presence on the Audubon Colorado Council has been facilitated by Jane McGarry. She has also worked closely with Bill Day and Robin Nicholoff of the Conservation Committee in keeping us current on topics of environmental concern in our region. We have made comment on several issues, including the proposed Thompson Divide gas lease swap in the upper North Fork drainage; a 4-wheel-drive park near Montrose; consideration of impacts from coal mining on roadless areas in the North Fork area; and placement of nest boxes for purple martins and other cavity nesting birds on the Gunnison National Forest in the upper North Fork.

The Gunnison Sage-grouse is of considerable concern in our area and we continue to monitor the situation. Two board members went to the Gunnison Sage-grouse Summit in Gunnison, and Doug Homan, Coordinator of the Crawford Working Group, gave an update to the board.

We were selected by the Woodworkers Guild in Montrose to be the beneficiary of a birdhouse project. Their members built nearly 50 birdhouses that were displayed at the 2015 Montrose County Fair and then sold at a silent auction, the proceeds of which were donated to BCAS. Thank you to the volunteers who helped man the booth at the fair! The auction yielded over \$1,000, which we used to buy binoculars for the use of the education committee in teaching kids about birds and in upgrading our bird skin collection, also used to educate kids and adults. See the article elsewhere in this newsletter about the 2016 birdhouse project with the Woodworkers Guild.

Work at the Marine Road Park property in Montrose continued with Sandy Beranich taking the lead. Janet Haw completed a year's worth of photos from set photo points, and the Youth Conservation Corps spent two weeks on the property removing Russian olive, tamarisk, and other invasive trees, sprayed for weeds, and planted native trees and shrubs.

We have upgraded the website with a calendar and have been doing our best to keep information up to date. Check the website often for information on upcoming events. Sandy Beranich continues to do a wonderful job with the newsletter and Geoff Tischbein has done a great job of getting publicity out to the newspapers and other media outlets.

We are a volunteer organization. In order to remain vital, we depend on and welcome your participation in all of the things that we do.

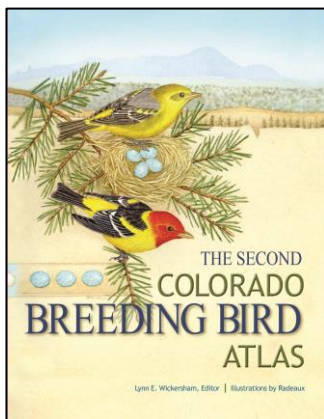
Jon Horn, BCAS President

In Press: The Second Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas

Edited by L.E. Wickersham

Breeding Bird Atlases are critical tools for large-scale, long-term monitoring of breeding birds and are unparalleled by other techniques. These projects document species distribution, breeding phenology, and habitat use, and when repeated at regular intervals, they can detect changes in these variables over time. Fueled almost entirely by volunteers, Breeding Bird Atlases are also some of the most extensive and influential citizen science projects ongoing today. Colorado birders conducted field work for the state's first Breeding Bird Atlas from 1987 to 1995. Published in 1998, *Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas* (H. E. Kingery, Ed.) detailed distribution, habitat use, and breeding status of over 250 species, a landmark achievement in Colorado ornithology.

The Colorado Bird Atlas Partnership and Colorado Parks and Wildlife initiated the state's second Breeding Bird Atlas in 2007; field work continued through 2012. Now, *The Second Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas* book is in press after four years of preparation. This ~750-page book follows in the footsteps of the first Atlas book and documents current distribution, habitat use, and breeding phenology of Colorado's breeding birds as well as changes in species distribution across a 20-year interval. The book includes detailed accounts for 262 species, and short accounts for about a dozen more, with full color maps, graphs, and illustrations by Colorado-based artist Radeaux. The new book represents another milestone in Colorado ornithology and bird conservation that will be used by natural resource managers, educators, birders, and environmentalists for years to come.



At this time, *The Second Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas* is in the final stages of editing and layout, in preparation for printing. Co-publishers Colorado Bird Atlas Partnership and Colorado Parks and Wildlife seek to procure as many pre-orders as possible and implement a mass distribution upon the book's launch. Pre-orders will guide the print run and insure coverage of the many costs of publication. Likely, the publishers will print only slightly

more books than the number of pre-orders received; thus, few copies may be available after the initial distribution. Proceeds from the sale of the book will go directly towards publication costs, with any amount leftover saved for the initiation of Atlas III (in 2027).

The Black Canyon Audubon Society is a financial Sponsor for the Atlas, and numerous society members participated in data collection over the 6 years of field work. Some members also wrote species accounts for the Atlas book. Audubon members can provide additional support for continued Breeding Bird Atlases in Colorado and in turn, long-term bird conservation, by purchasing

The Second Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas. Please visit www.cobreedingbirdatlasii.org to view partial results of the Atlas and pre-order your book today!

American White Pelican Banding Project

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) reports that it is time of the year to see pelicans with green wing tags. This year on Gunnison Island in Great Salt Lake, 500 juvenile American white



pelicans were banded and wing-tagged and an unknown number of adults were fit with satellite transmitters, including one that has been sighted northwest of Greeley. The UDWR is beginning to receive sightings of these young-of-the-year pelicans as they venture off Gunnison Island. Please alert UDWR of your sightings to help them track pelican movements both locally and regionally. Contact John Neill, Avian Biologist with UDWR, directly to report your sightings by including date, place, tag code/color, and by

whom. Photos are always appreciated. Report your sightings at reportband.gov, though this site may not always be available, or contact John Neill at (801) 985-3700 (office).

Gunnison Island pelicans have a tag on each wing that is green with white writing. The tags have a three character, alphanumeric code in large type. You may also see red or black wing tags on the right wing only. These pelicans were banded in Idaho at Minidoka NWR and Blackfoot Reservoir respectively. There are also a few pelicans with light blue tags with black writing. These were trapped and banded at Strawberry Reservoir. In addition, they also have an orange-colored band to go along with their standard aluminum band.

To learn more about the banding and satellite tracking projects, visit the Wildlife blog on the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources website. <http://wildlife.utah.gov/blog/2015/the-low-speed-stamped/>

Thanks to Jason Beason for passing on the above information.

The annual **Yampa Valley Crane Festival** will take place between September 8 -11 in Steamboat Springs and Hayden, CO. Most talks and activities are free and family-friendly. Guided viewing, crane yard art, children's activities, owls of the world, birding by pontoon boat, and wildlife photography are just some of the many activities to enjoy. For information: www.coloradocranes.net

For other upcoming birding festivals: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/birding-festivals/>



Owl Prowl and Grouse Eggs

By Sheryl Radovich

From an owl prowling at Ridgway State Park (RSP) to hunting painted sage grouse eggs in Gunnison, this has been an action-packed summer for the BCAS Education Team. Over the past few months, our volunteers have provided programs for students and visitors from places near and far such as Crested Butte, Delta, Montrose, Telluride, and Ouray.

The Crested Butte and Gunnison groups came with *Roots and Shoots* to learn more about habits and habitats of Gunnison Sage Grouse. Roots and Shoots is a non-profit summer camp aimed at increasing awareness and appreciation for natural resources. BCAS member, Marcella Fremgen, guided Partners, a youth mentoring group, on a bird identification walk along the Uncompahgre River, and new BCAS member, Carrie Krickbaum, gave a variety of programs at Ridgway Library where children learned about bird basics and attempted to weave and test nests made with natural materials. The biggest “hoot,” however, was a moonlight hike at the park looking for a family of Saw-whet Owls with a reputation for late night wake-up calls and Great Horned Owls fledged from a tree in Dakota Terraces late last spring.

Once again this fall, Black Canyon Audubon will partner with Ridgway State Park to present a ten-day program called, *STREAMS: The Science of Migration*, with a full venue of activity stations for students from 4th through 8th grade at the Dallas Creek Banding Station. Weekdays, September 8 to September 16, busloads of students from surrounding counties will take part in a Citizen Science program monitoring the migration of birds along the Uncompahgre River. Activities including Habitat Inventory and Restoration, Bird Adaptations and Identification, Migration Simulation, and Banding will be offered.

On Saturday, September 17th, BCAS members will be participating in a Project Wild Teacher Workshop in Delta with a lesson called



Migration Headaches that explores the many hazards birds must overcome to successfully reach their winter destinations. The following week, our education team will be back at Pa-Co-Chu-Puk in RSP for *Cycling Through the Seasons* in which students explore a variety

of circular patterns in nature from rock cycles, to the life cycles of insects, birds, and trees. In the bird station, children will be assembling Bluebird houses provided by BCAS to be placed on a Bluebird Trail.

Connecting children with the natural world is one of the most rewarding experiences for our members, so join us by volunteering for a station, a day, or a week and pass on your enthusiasm and appreciation for Colorado birds to the next generation.

Photo provided by Bill Day showing Sheryl Radovich with students

So You Think You Know Your Birds

By Sheryl Radovich

A three-day Migration Celebration takes flight on Friday, September 9th, 7:00 to 8:00 P.M., at Ridgway State Park Visitor Center (VC) with a program by Coen Dexter and Brenda Wright entitled, *So You Think You Know Your Birds*. This presentation takes the audience on a guided view of the rich variety of species seen along the Uncompahgre River during the fall season and how to identify birds in Western Colorado.

On Saturday, September 10th, and again on the 11th, participants are invited to gather at 8:00 a.m. in the VC parking area for the annual Ouray County Bird Count. Coen and Brenda will be leading birders of all abilities on a route from Colona to Ironton with stops at key migration sites like Billy Creek, the Banding Station at Dallas Creek, the Hummingbird House in Ridgway, Box Canyon, and Crystal Lake in Ironton. For those looking for a challenge, Coen has a bird list available with a game that rewards points for species each player predicts they will see and deletes points for missing or incorrect predictions. So bring a sack lunch and join the group for part of a day or the full tour.

In addition to the bird count, the public is invited to Dallas Creek Banding Station at Ridgway State Park on Saturday, September 10. For the past 10 years, birds have been mist-netted, recorded, banded, and released from this site in cooperation with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, and Black Canyon Audubon Society. Data collected over a two-week period is then used to better understand migration routes and to assess the health of bird population and habitat areas.

So whether you decide to attend the program, join the bird count, or just stop at the Public Banding Station, there's something for everyone at Migration Celebration.

Gunnison sage-grouse Management Plan Released

BLM recently released its Gunnison sage-grouse range-wide management plan for a 90-day review period that began on August 12, 2016.

In the Draft Plan, the BLM examines the adequacy of current conservation measures for Gunnison sage-grouse and considers additional measures on a landscape scale. The plan could amend up to 11 existing Resource Management Plans in Colorado and Utah to create a single, consistent strategy for managing public lands across the range of the species. This strategy will build upon and solidify actions the BLM has already outlined through national and local agreements, policies, and planning efforts.

To review the documents, go to www.bit.ly/gunnison_sage-grouse. Comments related to the Gunnison Sage-Grouse Rangewide Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS should be submitted by Nov. 12, 2016, using the comment form at: <http://1.usa.gov/1Uusw8C>, via email to gusg_amend@blm.gov, via fax at 303-239-3699 or via mail to Gunnison Sage-Grouse EIS, Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield St., Lakewood, CO 80215.

CONSERVATION NEWS

By Bill Day

I know most of you are familiar with the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) by now. We want to make sure that all of our members realize that the only real opportunity to comment to the BLM about the RMP must be done by November 1st. The RMP will decide how almost a million acres of BLM land and federally owned minerals in our area are managed for the next ten to twenty years. This plan includes most of the BLM land from McClure Pass and Cerro Summit to the east, out to the Utah line. The plan does not include the Gunnison Gorge and Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation areas. The reader should note that the decisions reflected in the final plan will affect management decisions for the next 20 years or so.

Everything about the plan can be found at

http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo/uncompahgre_rmp.html.

Like all Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), the RMP includes a range of alternatives. Almost anyone with an interest in wildlife



will prefer Alternative B or B1; however, the BLM preferred Alternative is D. The good news is that Alternative D can be improved by adding parts of Alternative B to it.

For our members who are willing to write comments to the BLM, but don't have time to read the 2,000-page document, we want to suggest a few areas that need to be commented on. We

believe the following special designations are especially important, and need to be improved:

- Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC). Click Appendix F and Appendix A (figures) from the above website. The BLM admits that seven areas with 42,000 acres deserve to be managed to preserve wilderness character in Alternative B, but proposes to only manage three of the seven areas totaling 18,000 acres under the preferred alternative. In your comments, ask them to manage all of the seven areas that qualify to preserve those wilderness characteristics, and specifically mention why, for any of them with which you are familiar.
- Ecological Emphasis Areas (EEA). These are also shown in Appendix A and Appendix D. The BLM's own discussion of these areas in Appendix D is excellent. They provide opportunity for wildlife to move higher or lower along the few remaining corridors on UFO land. The only problems are that oil and gas drilling is still allowed in

these areas, despite lots of literature showing the damage it does to migrating deer and elk, and that many of the areas identified in Alternative B are not carried forward in Alternative D. Ask the BLM to include all of the EEAs shown in Alternative B in their preferred alternative; to put No Surface Occupancy (NSO) stipulations on them; and to include the prairie dog (and kit fox and burrowing owl) habitat along Hwy 50 in the Adobe EEA.

- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Shown in Appendices O and A. ACECs have to go through a rigorous evaluation to make sure they fit the BLM relevance and importance criteria. Fifteen areas were deemed outstanding enough in Alternative B, but the BLM is only proposing eight in the preferred alternative. Please ask that most or all of the 15 that qualify be included in the final RMP. Be sure and specifically mention those areas you are familiar with. La Sal Creek, Salt Desert Shrub, and Tabeguache Pueblo and Tabeguache Caves seem especially deserving.
- Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA). Appendices A and J. The BLM has emphasized different types of recreation in some large SRMAs. Take a look at any that you're familiar with, including Jumbo Mountain, Dry Creek, and Kinikin Hills, and make sure the rec zones have appropriate management. For instance, Zone 2 in Jumbo should probably have non-motorized travel only.

In addition to the special designations, the RMP will decide which areas are open for additional oil and gas leasing, and what stipulations will be applied to any future leases. Alternative B1 makes much of the North Fork Valley unavailable for leasing, and we support it. The others leave most of the UFO available for future leasing. ACECs and LWCs are all no lease or NSO. We think all of the EEAs should have NSO stipulations as well.

Lastly, I hope everyone reads the *Dear Reader* letter on the same website. It explains how the BLM advises us to comment on the plan. They ask for substantive comments that are as specific as possible, which means that you should provide a specific reason for why they should do something in a specific place, and, how it will better protect the resource. It helps them (and you getting a reasoned response back from the UFO) to mention a page or section number. If you have any questions regarding the RMP, please email or call Robin Nicholoff (970) 527-3997, robgreg@tds.net or Bill Day (970) 872-3216 billday@paonia.com. Comments may be emailed to uformp@blm.gov by November 1, 2016

New Birding Trail in Rifle

Arthur Dahl reported on WSBN that the town of Rifle has a new birding trail, called the Morrow Gulch Trail. It is about 0.5 mile in length and contains a flowing creek with cattails, deciduous forest with a few juniper and Russian olive trees, seeps, springs, and tall sagebrush. Directions: from I-70, exit 90, proceed north on Hwy 13 to Railroad Avenue, north on Railroad Avenue to 9th St., east on 9th St for 3 blocks to Munro St; turn right on Munro St. and park.

Neotropic Cormorant: Pioneer, Explorer, New Resident?

By Sandy Beranich

An unexpected tropical bird began appearing in two Montrose area parks this year. First identified and observed by BCAS members Coen Dexter and Betty Fenton at Chipeta Lake State



Wildlife Area in March, the Neotropic Cormorant (NC) was subsequently found to also utilize Ute Park. In Ute Park, the bird is typically observed sitting on branches, as shown in the photo. The

NC is similar to the more common Double-crested Cormorant – but with differences. The NC is a smaller dark grey to black bird. The main difference is that the NC has a white border to the gular pouch, whereas a DC has a bright orange gular pouch. Both cormorants swim with their heads tilted skyward. Both cormorants spread their wings to dry. The NC diet is diverse and includes marine and freshwater fish, crustaceans, frogs, tadpoles, and insects.



Although widespread in most of the western hemisphere, in the United States, the Neotropic Cormorant is typically found along the Gulf coastal areas. Observations in the four corner

area, however, belie its need for a tropical location. Range maps on eBird show reported observations from northeast of Duluth, MN to west of Yellowstone National Park. In New Mexico, numerous observations follow the Rio Grande River corridor and in Arizona, most observations occur south to central within the state. Colorado observations follow the I-25 and I-76 corridors but



isolated observations have been noted on Sweitzer Lake in Delta County (1985) and outside of Cortez (2014). There have been 19 separate reporting's in Colorado since 1899 (Adams County). It is listed as a rare bird in Colorado.

In the photo to the left, you can see the white border noted in

the description. The NC was last observed on August 28 in Ute Park.

All photos taken by Sandy Beranich.

Results of the 2016 Montrose County Fair

By Sandy Beranich

The Black Canyon Audubon Society (BCAS) thanks the Woodworkers Guild of Western Colorado for their generous time and financial contributions used to construct 23 bird houses, 2 nest boxes, and 10 bird house kits that were sold at a silent auction to benefit BCAS during the recent Montrose County Fair. Guild members used a variety of woodworking skills, craftsmanship, and creative designs in turning bluebird house



plans into imaginative abodes for our bluebird and other bird friends. President John Renzelman and Guild members Jim Norfleet, Rusty Olson, Roger Burkpile, Glen Ahlberg, Jack Ditlove, Les Gifford, Niles Riese, and Len Johnson participated by constructing the houses, nest boxes, and kits. BCAS member Jon Horn also submitted two bird houses for the silent auction. Generous donations by community members and visitors resulted in the sales of all entries during a silent auction; a net of \$875.35 was raised from the sales. In addition, this year the Woodworkers Guild matched the results of the silent auction for a total donation to BCAS of \$1750.70. As part of the fair activities, all bird houses were judged in one of three categories and then those winners were judged to determine a single 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner. The final three winners were awarded prize money that was donated by Alpine Lumber. First and second place winners were

the Indian and cowboy (left) made by Jim Norfleet.



The Woodworkers Guild members select a non-profit organization to support through use of their craft. The Woodworkers Guild

welcomes new members and meets once a month. Contact John Renzelman for more information: atjo40ren@gmail.com.

Money raised from the silent auction was given to BCAS to be used for local Audubon education programs.

BCAS members who volunteered are thanked for their time.

Guild President John Renzelman presents BCAS President Jon Horn with donation check.



Black Canyon Audubon Society
P.O. Box 387
Delta, CO 81416



<http://www.blackcanyonaudubon.org>



*Printed on recycled paper
Please recycle*



Your expiration date is shown on your mailing label. BCAS on the label means you are a local member only. Labels with an ID number indicate national membership. If your membership has expired, please renew using the form at right. National renewals should follow the instructions at the bottom of the form.

To help reduce our use of paper and postage and to receive photos in color, send an e-mail to:
blackcanyonaudubon@gmail.com

Black Canyon Audubon Society (NAS chapter D14)
Membership Renewal and Application Form

Members may participate in all chapter activities, receive the *Canyon Wrenderings* newsletter and vote on chapter issues. Annual local membership dues are \$10 if newsletter is received electronically, \$15 if newsletter is mailed. Dues remain locally.

(Check one) Renewal (see mailing label for expiration date) _____
New Member _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (optional): _____

Enc: _____ \$10 for email newsletter.
Email address: _____
_____ \$15 for U.S. mail/print subscribers.

Mail your renewal to:
Black Canyon Audubon Society, PO Box 387, Delta, CO 81416.

If you would like to join or donate to National Audubon Society and receive Audubon magazine, please send a check for \$20 to National Audubon Society, Inc., 225 Varick Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10014, Attn: Chance Mueleck. Please use this form and list Black Canyon Audubon Society/D14 on your check so that BCAS can receive membership recruitment funds.