

The Journal of the Black Canyon Audubon Society

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

Fall 2017 Volume XXX Number 3



Upcoming Fall Events:

September

September 9: Adult bird banding at Ridgway State Park. Meet at the Dallas Creek bird banding station in Ridgway State Park (furthest south entrance). Banding will be conducted between 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. For over ten 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. See also article on page 4 of this issue.

September 9 and 10: Annual Ouray County Bird Survey. Meet at the Ridgway State Park Visitor Center at 8 a.m. We will bird the visitor center area down to the reservoir overlook. After leaving the park, we will car pool to bird areas between Colona and Ironton with stops at key migration sites such as Billy Creek State Wildlife Area, Buckhorn Lakes Road, the Hummingbird house in Ridgway, Box Canyon in Ouray, and Crystal Lake in Ironton. Other areas along the way will also be birded. While in the Ridgway area, we will end up at the Ridgway City Park for lunch. Join us to bird as much as you like on either day; the areas birded will be similar or the same on each day. Bring a picnic lunch. Birders of all abilities are welcome. Co-led by Bruce Ackerman and either Jon Horn or Geoff Tischbein. Contact Bruce for more information: (727)-858-5857 or bruceackermanaud@aol.com. If you do not have a park pass, let the ranger know that you are there with Audubon and will be at the Visitor's Center for only a short time.

September 28: Come hear Tony Apa talk about his research on **Sharp-tailed Grouse** found in Colorado. Tony works with the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife. The Program will be held at the Bill Heddles Recreation Center in Delta, starting at 7 p.m. For more information contact Susan at 970 688-0757 or <u>susanw @springsips.com</u>

October

October 14: Let's travel to **Connected Lakes State Park** outside of Grand Junction and look for waterfowl and other birds. Trip will be led by Grand Valley birder Van Graham. Reservations are required. We will meet at the northwest side of the Delta City Market parking lot to carpool at 8 a.m. For more information, contact Susan at 970 688-0757 or susanw@springsips.com

November

November 16: Dr. David Inouye retired professor of biology will speak on *Pollination, Wildflowers, and Climate* Change at the Bill Heddles Recreation Center in Delta. Dr. Inouye conducts research during the summer at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory outside of Gothic, CO. His presentation will begin at 7 p.m. Contact Sandy for more information: 970 497-0376 or sig07pioneer @bresnan.net..

December

December 2: Join us as we look for fall ducks and other birds around **Blue Mesa Reservoir**. We will be interested in locating Barrow's Goldeneye, but this is not an official Barrow's Goldeneye survey. Meet at the Lake Fork Marina and boat ramp (near the dam) at 10 a.m. Trip size is limited and you need to sign up to reserve a place. Bring a picnic lunch. Contact trip leader Bruce Ackerman (727-858-5857) or bruceackermanaud @ aol.com for directions, more information, and to sign up.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Comings and Goings

I'm the new chapter president, as of June 22. I would like to introduce myself because a lot of people don't know me yet. I am looking forward to meeting all of you.



First, I would like to thank Jon Horn for his great service as chapter president for the past 6 years. Also five others who were on our board of directors and are now stepping down after years of service: Bill Harris, Chris Lazo, Robin Nicholoff, Sheryl Radovich, and Carole Scott. I greatly appreciate their service in recent years. This leaves a few openings on the board, and if anyone is interested in getting more involved, please get in touch with me.

My partner, Susan Werner, and I moved to Montrose in June 2016. We built a house just south of town, west on Solar Road, where there are lots of great birds. We lived most recently in Boise, Idaho. Susan worked here in Montrose in 1978-82, but then she worked in other parts of Colorado for 25 years. She is

constantly meeting people that she knew around here from way back when. But I have never lived in Colorado before, and so I am meeting new friends and learning great new places to go. We are both avid birders and I enjoy wildlife photography. We are both retired wildlife biologists. Susan worked for Colorado Parks and Wildlife for 25 years, and I had similar jobs in Idaho and Florida. I have been an Audubon chapter president previously in Florida and Idaho, and served on the Board of Directors 10 years in each place. I should get a prize for being president in three states! Susan has also been on the board of Audubon chapters in Idaho and Evergreen, Colorado.

Sue Hirshman offered a trip to see the Black Swifts in Ouray Box Canyon, in the BCAS Silent Auction at the annual banquet June 22, and we won the bidding! We went with Sue to see them on July 28. Sue Hirshman has been monitoring and watching over the black swifts in Ouray for over 20 years, and is famous for her studies. Sue showed us about 10 active nests, each with a swift sitting on an egg. It is hard to see them, and we really appreciated Sue's help pointing them out. Then she treated us to lunch in Ouray, and took us to her home to see dozens and dozens of hummingbirds visiting her feeders. What a treat! Ouray must be the best place anywhere to view nesting black swifts, because they almost all nest behind inaccessible waterfalls high in the mountains. It's not too early to be thinking of a trip you could lead or a service you could provide as an item for the silent auction in June 2018.

The Montrose Woodworking Guild built and donated 32 fantastic and fanciful bird houses, and donated them to be auctioned at the Montrose County Fair. Jon Horn organized a bunch of Audubon volunteers to staff the booth at the Montrose County Fairgrounds, July 22 to 29. For more information, see article on page 5.

Some of my goals as President -

- -- More widely advertising our activities.
- --I will be sending out an email listing upcoming activities on a monthly basis. If you haven't received one yet, let me have your email address, or anyone else who would like to be included as well.
- --More regularly scheduled lectures about birds and nature.
- --More regularly scheduled bird walks. Some on weekends, some on weekdays.
- --Adding to our web page, such as more great places to see birds in our area under the "Places to Birdwatch" tab.

I would like to have any suggestions from you, favorite places to go, speakers you would like to hear, etc. What could we be doing better? I'm looking forward to meeting all of you.

Bruce Ackerman,
BCAS President
BruceAckermanAUD @aol.com
727-858-5857

OFFICERS

(727) 858-5857
Bruceackermanaud @aol.com
Vice President – OPEN
Secretary – Marcella Fremgen Montrose
(970) 249-8407
marcella.fremgen @co.usda.gov
Treasurer – Dian Torphy Cedaredge
(303) 709-4386
dtorphy @gmail.com

President - Bruce Ackerman Montrose

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sandy Beranich Montrose (970) 497-0376 sj07pioneer @bresnan.net Maureen Briggs Montrose (970) 240-4108 skelligmichael@charter.net Jane McGarry Paonia (970) 433-0482 westelk @tds.net Geoff Tischbein Montrose (970) 615-7329 geofftischbein @gmail.com Marilyn Westerdahl Montrose (970) 249-8571 fmsimon66 @hotmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Audubon CO Council – Jane McGarry 433-0482 westelk @tds.net

Education –

Marcella Fremgen 249-8407 marcella.fremgen @co.usda.gov Sheryl Radovich 240-3788 canyon.creek @bresnan.net

Conservation -

Bill Day 872-3216 billday @paonia.com Robin Nicholoff Hotchkiss (970) 527-3997 robgret @tds.net

Field Trips – OPEN

Membership – Marilyn Westerdahl 249-8571 fmsimon66 @hotmail.com

Publicity – Geoff Tischbein 615-7329 geofftischbein @gmail.com

Programs - OPEN

Newsletter Editor –Sandy Beranich 497-0376 sj07pioneer @bresnan.net

Eckert Crane Days -

Chris Lazo (424-3309) 2006clazo @gmail.com Carole Scott (640-8711)

carolesscottphoto @hotmail.com

Website Manager – Jon Horn 249-6761 ext. 14 jon_horn @alpinearchaeology.com

Lewis' Woodpecker Study

Cornell University to record old-growth cottonwood habitat usage by Lewis's woodpeckers. We are asking for your help to record as many sightings as possible. Through this data gathering and research we aim to conserve old-growth cottonwood habitat and Lewis's woodpecker populations throughout our six-county service area (Chaffee, Lake, Fremont, Saguache, Gunnison, and Park). We are interested in all sightings, whether they occur in a cottonwood habitat, ponderosa, pinyon-juniper, aspen, or at your bird feeder. We are asking for individuals to submit sightings into Cornell's



eBird.org and are asking for involved surveys.

In Central Colorado, old-growth cottonwood provides needed nesting components for Lewis's woodpeckers. habitat also This provides many necessary components for numerous other species of wildlife. Little or no data collection has occurred in this region related to Lewis's woodpeckers. Lewis's woodpecker populations

have declined across the west by 67 percent (Partners in Flight). This species is listed on the Intermountain West Joint Venture priority species list, Partners in Flight, as a species of continental concern, and as a species of greatest conservation concern on the Colorado State Wildlife Action Plan. In addition, in the lower Arkansas River, cottonwood stands have declined by 31 percent and by nine percent along the South Platte River.

Please record your sighting in Cornell University's eBird database. Printed forms are also available. For more information on recording, contact Cindy Lawrence mainrange21@yahoo.com or 719-221-0511 or visit the Central Colorado Conservancy website for instruction on how to enter your sightings into eBird. www.CentralColoradoConsevancy.org.

Watch for a metallic greenish-black head, back, wings, and tail. The collar and breast are gray and the belly is pinkish-red. The face is dark red framed in greenish-black. Male and females look alike. Juveniles are more brownish-black on back, lacking extensive gray, red, and pink coloration of adults, but colorings can be highly variable.

Dennis Garrison has previously reported sightings of Lewis' Woodpecker in the Muddy Creek area of the GMUG and includes these sightings in his regular reporting on the Western Slope Birding Network.

Results of Annual Dinner Silent Auction

The Central Colorado Conservancy has been awarded a grant from Sixty-six BCAS members and guests came to the BCAS Annual Dinner last June. World traveler and past president of Grand Valley Audubon, Nic Korte, was the featured speaker. In addition to wonderful food and an interesting and informative presentation by Nic, BCAS was able to offer over 30 items for bid in a Silent Auction. All items were generously donated by area businesses and members. In addition, a personal library of 30 birding books was donated on behalf of recently deceased birder Jim Berry. These books were available for sale or donation as a part of the silent auction. Proceeds from the silent auction came to approximately \$1,000. The money will be used for future programs and support of volunteers to help with slightly more BCAS. The BCAS Board and Officers would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their donation (s):

Businesses

Buckskin Booksellers – two books on birding

Camelot Gardens - picture

Coffee Trader – one pound of premium coffee

Colorado Cellars Winery - basket with a bottle of wine, glasses, wine bottle opener, and mints

Fabula – tea towel with matching cup and jar opener

Gold's Gym – gift certificate for a one-month gym membership and a one-month group training

High Country News – three, one-year subscriptions

Murdock's Ranch and Home - two bird feeders with two kinds of hird seed

Wild Birds Unlimited – basket with bird feeder and bird seed

Individuals

Bruce Ackerman – guided birding trip for two with lunch

Joy Baird – sandwich maker

Maureen Briggs – birding book and three carved ducks

Marcella Fremgen – basket with one pound coffee, 2 coffee mugs, biscotti, and shortbread

Penny Heuscher – 10 photographic note cards

Sue Hillhouse – Charley Harper wildlife poster

Sue Hirshman - guided trip to view Black Swifts with lunch, sugar bowl, and butter bark

Ken Jewell – four collectible coins

Roxanne Koehler – painting of Lazuli Bunting

Jane McGarry – framed picture by Louis Agassiz

Geoff Tischbein – two large framed paintings

Dian Torphy – two birding books

Susan Werner – cookie jar with home-made cookies

Christmas Bird Count

The BCAS annual Christmas Bird Count, which covers Montrose, Delta, Gunnison, and the North Fork areas, will again take place this year. Dates of each count TBD.

Education Events With Black Canyon Audubon

By Marcella Fremgen

The education team is gearing up for a busy fall, with some traditional events and new events. The annual bird banding event will occur at Ridgway State Park in early September. Saturday, September 9th, is reserved for public participation. Come to the banding site at Dallas Creek (farthest South entrance) between 8:30 and 11 a.m. The other banding days are only open to schools, with several hundred students coming to the banding site to learn about bird monitoring, migration, adaptations, and habitat. This event is hosted by BCAS, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), and Bird Conservancy of the Rockies. Entrance to the park is \$7 per car for a day. If you would like to volunteer with the school groups, please contact Sheryl Radovich (970-318-0849), as we are looking for consistent, reliable volunteers (Sept 5 to 15)!

During October and November, education committee member Marcella Fremgen will be visiting schools throughout the range of the Gunnison Sage-Grouse to discuss grouse habitat needs and also to give posters to the schools that depict sage-grouse habitat. This project is expected to reach several hundred students in fourth and fifth grade, with the goal of teaching students what habitat is, what kind of habitat sage-grouse need,



and a little sagegrouse biology. Students will learn about what good sage-grouse habitat looks like and how restore poor habitat to better conditions. Several efforts restoration were completed in collaboration

Black Canyon Audubon Society; BCAS has helped fund local working groups that coordinate efforts and educate landowners about possible ways to improve habitat. Additionally, Marcella is working with Natural Resources Conservation Service to host a public field day in Gunnison to teach ranchers about rangeland health, and will provide some information on how to ensure rangelands are healthy habitat for birds.

<u>History of the Bird Banding Program</u> (taken from a summary provided by Cheryl Day)

The Ridgway Educational Bird Banding Station was started in 2006 as a collaborative effort between Ridgway State Park, CPW, and BCAS. The group had an initial goal to reach every fourth grader in the Montrose School District. During the first year, the program reached 392 school children. By 2008, the Montrose School District goal was realized and exceeded by including 3rd to 5th grade students in Ridgway and a group of homeschoolers. Nearly

700 students were involved in the programs. included three stations: Beaks and Feathers (to be run by Ridgway State Park using the BCAS bird skin collection), Habitat (to be run by CPW), and the Banding Station (to be run by BCAS). These efforts continue today along with the addition of a dedicated day (September 9) when adults are encouraged to come and watch how birds are caught and basic information obtained and recorded.

GMUG Planning is Finally Here!

By Bill Day

The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forest has kicked off their process to revise the 34-year-old forest plan. The current plan was written in 1983 and the accompanying Oil and Gas EIS are badly outdated and are unable to address our current conditions and issues. According to the GMUG planning website

https://www.fs.usda.gov/deta il/gmug/landmanagement/pla nning/?cid=fseprd506688, the process is expected to take at least three years. The website also has a link to the planning newsletter. We encourage our members to look at the newsletter and to click on the link to receive future issues.



One very important part of this planning process is the fact that it will be carried out using the 2012 Forest Planning Rule. This newer rule has some components that are new to those of us who have worked on these efforts before, and many of them sound very positive. Some new parts include sections on ecosystems and wildlife, and emphasis on best available science, climate change, and adaptive management. More info on the new rules can be found at

https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gmug/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd500704 and

http://wilderness.org/article/national-forest-planning-rule.

Some of the issues BCAS and our allies have been discussing include planning for future climate conditions, landscape level conservation that considers migratory corridors and connectivity, and wilderness. It will also be important to see how GMUG goes about updating the Oil and Gas parts of the plan. It is expected to be dealt with as a separate EIS.

GMUG's open houses have already occurred but that doesn't mean that you can't stay involved. The planning process is lengthy and will require many future public meetings and chances to provide input. The importance of the planning process to us, as birders, relates to establishing healthy ecosystems for all wildlife.

Montrose County Fair Results of the Birdhouse Silent Auction

For the third consecutive year, members of the Woodworkers Guild of Montrose outdid themselves in using a variety of techniques and types of wood to creatively design and construct birdhouse. They were displayed during the Montrose County Fair in July and available for bid during a silent auction Ten to twelve Guild members and BCAS member, Jon Horn, participated this year. In addition to 32 constructed bird houses, 21 bird house kits were packaged for the do-it-yourselfer, potential gift, or use as a pattern for future bird houses.

Guild member and participant, Rusty Olson, donated some of the wood used in the houses, including beetle-killed wood that was used in several houses.

This year bird houses were placed in one of two categories for judging: character or architectural; there were no junior entries. Within each category, judges evaluated the entry based on use of wood, technique, creative use of materials, and workmanship. In addition to awarding a first, second, and third place ribbon for bird houses entered in each category, money was awarded for the



overall best first (\$75), second (\$50), and third (\$25) place entries. Alpine Lumber donated all prize money.

The silent auction resulted in

\$1,115 donated through the sale of the bird houses and kits. This money was provided to BCAS to support our programs. Once again, thanks and appreciation is extended to John Renzelman, President of the Woodworkers Guild, and to Guild members in recognition of their creativity and generosity. Appreciation is also extended to Alpine Lumber and Rusty Olson. The photo of 2017 bird houses was taken by Jon Horn.

New Field Trip Opportunities

President Bruce Ackerman has initiated informal monthly field trips. On the first Tuesday of each month, meet at 8 a.m. at the northeast corner of the Gold's Gym parking lot in Montrose – destination to be determined! Contact Bruce for more information: (727)-858-5857 or bruceackermanaud @aol.com

Of Birds, Audubon, and 435 People

By Maureen Briggs

Wonderful things happen when Audubon Society board members from across North America get together to discuss how to secure a brighter future for birds and a healthier environment for our kids.

In July, I had the great fortune to attend the bi-annual National Audubon Society convention in Park City, Utah, thanks to the help of Black Canyon Audubon and National Audubon. The convention offered three intense days of lectures and workshops on a wide range of topics. They were all fascinating and I wish I could have attended them all. A small sample of what was offered included:



- Water and Birds in the Arid West: Preparing for Action
- Using Native Plants in Gardens to Protect Birds
- Setting Your Chapter's Vision, Mission and Goals.
- Board Building and Governance
- Setting Your Chapter's Vision, Mission and Goals

The lecture sessions ran from dawn to dusk. My agenda was completely full, so I was rushing from one venue to another. It was non-stop go, go, go.

Being a new board member for Black Canyon Audubon, I knew it would prove valuable to learn more about the mission and goals of the National Audubon Society. Understanding what Audubon expects of its many chapters would be very beneficial as well. National Audubon calls itself America's most effective conservation network.

There were 435 people in attendance, mostly chapter board members. They came from every corner of Canada, the U.S. and Central America. I met many attendees, learning of their issues and successes. Topics ranged widely depending on the location of the chapter, but changing climate, habitat loss and building public support were challenges for many.

I had many opportunities to explain what "Black Canyon" referred to in our chapter's name, since it was prominently displayed on the large name tag I wore around my neck every day.

The big guest star for the convention was the famous birder, conservationist, and author, Kenn Kaufman, noted for his field guides and the popular memoir Kingbird Highway.

"YOU ARE WHAT HOPE LOOKS LIKE TO A BIRD!"

Winterizing Your Chimney for Birds

The following is excerpted from a 2016 Western Slope Birding Network post.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife took a call from a lady in Grand Junction who had an owl fluttering in her fireplace. The bird was contained behind glass doors of the gas fireplace, which, fortunately, was not in use at the time. After a bit of a chase around the ceramic logs, the owl was caught and freed with no ill effects.

That was the third time in 2015 that a person had rescued an owl that had fallen down fireplace/wood stove chimneys. Two were Western Screech-Owls and one was a juvenile Great Horned Owl. Open chimneys without wire mesh caps is the problem that seems to catch these birds. A simple piece of metal hardware cloth clamped over the opening would prevent entry.

This lesson was learned years ago when a Starling made its way down a fireplace chimney. When the damper was opened the bird flew out and around the chain curtain, then bounced off the white walls and curtains - covering every window with its black sootladen feathers. A few years later the lesson was re-learned when a pine squirrel slid down a sewer vent pipe to get caught in a sewer trap. The dining room wall had to be cut open and the plastic pipe had to be cut to free the squirrel.

Gizzard

The gizzard, a muscular section of the stomach lined with horny plates or ridges, may be characterized as the teeth and jaws of some birds. It is there that grains, acorns, nuts, mussels, and similar hard-shelled materials that have been swallowed whole are rotated two to three times a minute and crushed. The gizzard can be extraordinarily effective; objects that require more than 400 pounds of pressure per square inch to crush have been flattened within 24 hours when experimentally fed to a turkey. The grinding action of the gizzard is often aided by swallowed sand, grit, or pebbles. In Ostriches, the grit may include stones up to an inch in diameter. When grinding aids are scarce, others may be substituted; when stones are unavailable, the indigestible heads of beetles, hard seeds, or fruit pits help to crush subsequent meals. (taken from The Birder's Handbook – A Field Guide to North American Birds, 1988)



Federal Duck Stamps

Also known as the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, the Federal Duck Stamp was conceived in 1934, when Congress passed and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act (later amended to the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Act).

The cost is \$25 and the benefits are many. Here are seven reasons



to purchase the 2017-2018 Federal Duck Stamp.

1. Since 1934, over \$900 million has been raised for conservation and counting. By law, the funds raised go directly to habitat acquisition in the lower 48 states.

Stamp sales have helped to protect 6.5 million acres of wetland and grassland habitat.

- A 79-year tradition of beautiful wildlife art. The Migratory Bird Stamp is a beautiful collectible and a great artistic tradition. Since 1949, the design of each year's duck stamp has been chosen in an open art contest.
- 3. Ninety-eight cents of each dollar spent on a stamp goes directly to land acquisition (and immediate related expenses) for the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- 4. Besides waterfowl, the funds benefit scores of other bird species, including shorebirds, herons, raptors, and songbirds.
- 5. Save wetlands, save grasslands. Wetlands acquired with Duck Stamp dollars help purify water, aid in flood control, reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities. Since 1958, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has used stamp revenues to protect "waterfowl production areas"—over 3 million acres—within the critical Prairie Pothole Region. The same program also protects declining prairie-nesting birds in the face of increasing loss of grasslands. As a result, refuges are among the best places to find grassland specialties such as Bobolinks, Grasshopper Sparrows, Clay-colored Sparrows, Sedge Wrens, and others
- 6. Some of the most diverse and wildlife-rich refuges across the Lower 48 have been acquired with stamp funds.
- 7. It's your free pass to refuges. A migratory bird stamp is a free pass for an entire year to all refuges that charge for admission.

You can purchase the stamp at many U.S. Post Offices, National Wildlife Refuges, and sporting-goods stores. You can also order the stamp online at the USPS store and from the stamp's printer, Amplex (both stores add a charge for shipping).

https://www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp.php

By Susan Chandler-Reed

Thomas Say was a self-taught naturalist known as the "father of descriptive entomology in the United States." Although known for discovering over 1,400 species of beetles and other insects, birders know of him because of the *tyrant flycatchers* that bear his name.



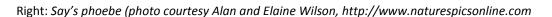
Left: Portrait of Thomas Say wearing the uniform of the Long Expedition (painted in 1818 by Charles Wilson Peale).

Born in Philadelphia in 1787 to a prominent Quaker family, Say helped found the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. He accompanied Major Stephen Harriman Long on the first scientific exploration up the Platte River to the Rocky Mountains from 1819-1820. As the expedition's chief zoologist, Say first described the coyote, swift fox, western kingbird, bandtailed pigeon, rock wren, Say's phoebe, lesser goldfinch, lark sparrow, lazuli bunting, orange-crowned warbler, checkered whiptail lizard, collared lizard, ground skink, western rat snake, and western ribbon snake

In January 1826, Thomas Say was one of a number of scientists and educators from Philadelphia who sailed to New Harmony, Indiana on the famous "Boatload of Knowledge." Even though their experiment in forming

utopian society failed shortly thereafter, Say remained in New Harmony until his death in 1834.

In 1854, French scientist Charles Lucien Bonaparte decided to honor his friend and colleague Thomas Say by naming the phoebe after him. The genus name Sayornis carried by the Say's phoebe (Sayornia saya), eastern phoebe (Sayornis phoebe), and black phoebe (Sayornis nigricans) is constructed from the specific part of Bonaparte's original published name for Say's phoebe, Muscicapa saya, and the ancient Greek word for bird, "ornis."





What is a Tyrant flycatcher?

By Sandy Beranich, information below from Encyclopedia Britannica

<u>Tyrant (Oxford dictionary)</u>: a person exercising power or control in a cruel, unreasonable, or arbitrary way.

<u>Tyrant flycatcher: Mid-18th century:</u> so named because of its aggressive behavior toward other birds approaching its nest. Of the 429 or so tyrannids, there are more species of Tyrant Flycatchers than in any other family of birds in the world, yet, the Eastern Kingbird has earned the title of **tyrant of tyrants**!

Tyrant flycatchers are passerine birds found throughout North and South America. They are considered the largest family of birds and are comprised of more than 400 species. Most of the tyrant flycatchers are entirely insectivorous – though not necessarily specialized in flies! These birds are often opportunistic feeders and will catch any flying or arboreal insect they encounter. Depending on the species, food choices can vary and some species, such as the Great Kiskadee, will choose fruit or small vertebrates (e.g. frogs).











Tyrant flycatchers are typically plain-colored in shades of brown, gray, or olive above, and tan, white, or yellow below. Some may have striking color patterns. In size they range from 3-16 inches long and some species are known for their greatly elongated tail feathers.

Audubon Images above represent five of the 37 species of flycatchers found in North American and also found in our seven county area of Colorado, in order: Western Kingbird, Western Wood-Pewee, Black Phoebe, Cordilleran Flycatcher, and Ash-throated Flycatcher.

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



http://www.blackcanyonaudubon.org



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



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.

Black Canyon Audubon Society (NAS chapter D14) Membership Renewal and Application Form To may participate in all chapter activities, receive the Canyon War.

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.