



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

Winter 2023

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Redhead Ducks by Verlee Sanburg.

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Christmas Bird Counts

By Missy Siders (BCAS Board)

Between December 14, 2023, and January 5, 2024, local volunteers will join birders across the country to brave the weather to count birds during the 124th Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Birders and nature enthusiasts will take part in this tradition, many rising before dawn to participate in the longest-running wildlife census on the planet.

From feeder-watchers and field observers to count compilers and regional editors, everyone who takes part in the Christmas Bird Count does it for the love of birds, the excitement of friendly competition, and with the knowledge that their efforts are making a difference for science and bird conservation.

Under the direction of a Count Compiler, volunteers count birds inside Count Circles, which focus on specific geographical areas. The compiler divides the circle into manageable areas, and each area is assigned to participants at the pre-count meeting. If you are a beginning birder, you will be able to join a group that includes at least one experienced birdwatcher.

Christmas Bird Count continued Page 3

President's Message

by Bruce Ackerman

Page 2

It is Winter!! I had the pleasure of attending the National Audubon Leadership Conference November 2-5 with board member Janine Reid. National Audubon selected Estes Park, CO, for their first big meeting since Covid. There were 350 leaders from across America, at national and local levels, plus leaders from South America. It was great to meet many National and Colorado leaders. Plus, we got to go birding in wintry Rocky Mountain National Park. I met Chapter officers from many other locations including Boise, Idaho, St Petersburg, FL, and Logan, Utah, all Chapters in which I was active. Janine wrote a great summary of the conference (Page 7).

Christmas Bird Counts are coming up starting December 17. We hope you will join in on this long tradition, with one of the four counts in our area. We'll match you up with experienced birders. We will also have several other good winter field trips. Winter is a good season for birding in our area, but dress warmly! (Page 3).

Susan and I went to Australia for a 15-day guided birding trip. I will be giving our monthly evening program, on December 14 in Montrose. Australia has more bird species than North America and many kinds that are quite different. Come hear about the parrots and parakeets, honeycreepers, and many other kinds that are unique to that part of the world (Page 5).

Our Marine Road Park has finally seen our first construction this fall (city park property in Montrose). The trails are laid out and mulched. Construction on bird blinds was recently started by our volunteers. Check it out! Volunteer! Happy Holidays!

Thanks everyone for being with us this fall!

Canyon Wrenderings

The Quarterly Journal of the Black Canyon Audubon Society, **Vol. 37 No. 4**

Managing editor: Susan Werner at
Wrenderingseditor@gmail.com

Mary Menz will be our new managing editor beginning with the next edition of the newsletter. She can be reached at the same email.

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Programs— Kristal Stidham (see above)

Website Manager—Jon Horn (see above)

AD HOC COMMITTEES (ANNUAL EVENTS)

Montrose County Fair — **OPEN**

Bird Banding—Carrie Krickbaum (see above)

Christmas Bird Count Team—Arden

Anderson, Adam Petry, Amy Seglund,
and Missy Siders

Eckert Crane Days— Alida Franco

A note about email addresses in this newsletter:
All emails have an extra space before the @ sign or “[at symbol]” in the email address to discourage spam coming from web crawlers.

Would you like to volunteer? Talk to an officer to see where we need help and where your talents can be used! Volunteers are always needed and welcome.

Christmas Bird Counts (Continued from page 1)

All levels of birding experience are welcome. We will be birding most of the day.

To protect both yourself and others, participants are encouraged to be vaccinated against COVID.

Bring: warm clothes (dress for the expected weather), hats and gloves, boots, snacks and/or lunch, water, sunscreen, binoculars, spotting scope (if you have), and bird books. Clip boards are helpful.

Provided: Map of birding areas, bird checklist, and instructions.

MONTROSE: Sunday, December 17. Meet at 8:30 AM at the Centennial Room off Centennial Plaza, Downtown Montrose. We will break into teams. Each team will have a map and data sheet to complete the field count. All experience levels are welcome and encouraged. Please contact Missy Siders (missy.siders@gmail.com) at least 5 days before the count so she can inform you of any last-minute changes to the count.

GUNNISON: Sunday, December 17. This group will meet at 7:30 AM at Hurst Hall, Room 130 on the Western Colorado University campus to get organized. Dress appropriately for the weather (which can be a little chilly in Gunnison). Afterward we will have a Chili potluck to compile results. Please contact organizer Arden Anderson (arden@gunnison.com) for additional information.

DELTA: Saturday, December 23. Meet at the Delta City Market parking lot at 8:30 AM. We will break into teams, and the compiler will provide maps and data sheets. Please contact amy.seglund@state.co.us at least 5 days before the count so she can inform you of any last-minute changes to the count. To protect others, we encourage participants to vaccinate against COVID.

HOTCHKISS: Monday, January 1. Meet at the Hotchkiss City Market parking lot at 8:00 AM. All experience levels are welcome and encouraged. Andrea Robinsong is catering lunch. To sign up, please email Adam Petry at petry@westernbiology.com.

For more information about CBC participation, visit Audubon's website at [Christmas Bird Count](https://www.audubon.org/Christmas-Bird-Count).

Amy Seglund, Local Member Honored

By Laura Mah

In 2019, I authored an article for *Canyon Wrenderings* about being “a tag-along” to my birder husband, Don Marsh. Because he was on the board, I also got to tag along on the Thursday Monthly program speaker dinners. I met Amy Seglund, Species Conservation Coordinator for Colorado Parks, and Wildlife, who was giving that night's presentation on pikas. We became friends. This October, it was my great honor to be asked by Amy to attend the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies annual fundraiser to see her being presented with the Richard B. Levad Memorial Award.

The Richard Levad Award recognizes individuals who have provided distinguished service to the ornithological community, made scholarly contributions to the field of ornithology and/or enthused others about conserving birds and their habitats through sharing their personal knowledge and experience.

Amy has had a lifetime interest in wildlife conservation. She obtained her graduate degree at Humboldt State University with a focus on mammalian carnivores. She found her passion for birds while working in Guatemala as a Peace Corps volunteer. Formerly Amy worked on various bird projects with the Utah Division of Natural Resources and The Nature Conservancy. For the past 12 years, Amy has been with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and has studied alpine species including the White-tailed Ptarmigan, American Pika, and the Brown-capped Rosy-Finch. Her latest endeavor is to understand Pinyon Jay breeding biology. Besides Amy's passion for wildlife conservation, she finds much joy in working with and mentoring her technicians and graduate students, teaching them the skills needed to become professionals in the wildlife field.

Every December, Amy coordinates our Delta Christmas Bird Count. Join her on this year's count and share in this annual tradition.



Amy Seglund receiving award with Richard Levad's wife Karen at Rocky Mountain Bird Conservancy's fall fundraiser, A Night for the Birds. 10-06-2023. Photo by Laura Mah.

BCAS Volunteer Projects

Ridgway State Park Bird Banding Nets 25 Species

By Mary Menz

Since 2006, staff and volunteers at Ridgway State Park have been banding birds from Labor Day to the second Friday in September. This year, the staff captured, banded, and released 163 birds of 25 species. In 2010 the station captured, banded, and released 332 birds. The average number of birds banded each year is 130. The banding station operates in partnership with the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, and the Black Canyon Audubon Society.



Banded Sage Thrasher. Photo by Mary Menz.

Migratory bird banding stations, like the one at Ridgway State Park, provide a local look at migration. Because Western Colorado is not part of a major flyway, our local migration trends are more difficult to forecast and are often attributed to how wet or dry a year is, the quality and quantity of suitable habitat, and availability of natural food sources.

Male and female Wilson's Warblers at Ridgway Banding Station. Photo by Mary Menz.



BCAS Winter Field Trips

All trips will meet at the public parking lot at the corner of N. 2nd Street and N. Cascade Ave. in Montrose at **9:00 AM** and return in the early afternoon, unless noted in the trip description. Reservations are mandatory! Please send an email to reserve your spot to black.canyon.audubon.fieldtrips@gmail.com at **least two days before the trip** so we have an idea of the number of participants. Include a good phone number so we can notify participants of any change of plans.

First Tuesday Field Trips

First Tuesday Field Trips will be on:

December 5, January 2, & February 6. Meet at **9 AM** at the public parking lot at the intersection of N. 2nd St. and N. Cascade Ave. in Montrose.

A leader will accompany the group to a nearby birding hotspot. Return should be by about noon. Bring a snack, water, binoculars, and field guides. Please RSVP to: black.canyon.audubon.fieldtrips@gmail.com

Christmas Bird Counts

No field trips other than the First Tuesday trip are planned for December. See Page 3 to find details to participate in one of the Christmas Bird Count near you.

Saturday, January 20, 2024

Open Water Field Trip

Join us as we visit ice-free lakes, ponds, and rivers in the Montrose and Delta areas. These waters often host large numbers of waterfowl. We will also be on the lookout for hawks and other winter-resident birds. Be prepared for some walking. This trip will conclude in the early afternoon. Dress in layers, bring water and lunch or snacks, and a spotting scope if you have one.

Saturday, February 3 or Sunday, February 4 North Fork Winter Raptor Trips (Choose one day)

Join biologists Jim Lefevre and Adam Petry as they search the North Fork area of the Gunnison for winter raptors, including Eagles as well as Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks. Dress in layers, bring water, lunch or snacks, and binoculars. Leaders will have spotting scopes. Meet at the City Market in Hotchkiss at 9 AM. Trip should conclude around 2 or 3 PM. These trips are limited to 12 participants each day. To save your spot or for more information contact Jim at jimlef@paonia.com.

**Saturday, February 10 or
Sunday, February 11 (Choose one day)
Montrose Winter Raptor Trips**

Join Bruce Ackerman or Bill Harris as they search the Montrose area for winter raptors, including eagles, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks. Please plan to carpool. The trip should conclude in the early afternoon. These trips are limited to 12 participants per day. Please email black.canyon.audubon.fieldtrips@gmail.com to reserve your spot.



October Owl Creek Pass Field Trip.

BCAS Winter Book Club Selections

Looking for a way to meet new people or to expand your reading genres? Join the Audubon Book Club! Here are the next three book selections. Meetings will be held virtually on the third Tuesday of each month at 2:00 PM. Contact Bruce Ackerman for details.

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

A Sand County Almanac, by Aldo Leopold (1949)

First published in 1949, "*A Sand County Almanac*" combines some of the finest nature writing since Thoreau with an outspoken and highly ethical regard for America's relationship to the land. Aldo Leopold was the first professor of wildlife management in the U.S.

Tuesday, Jan 16, 2024

Mind of the Raven: Investigations and Adventures with Wolf-Birds, by Bernd Heinrich (1989)

Heinrich involves us in his quest to get inside the mind of the raven. He accomplishes this by adopting ravens, thereby becoming a "raven father," and observing them in their natural habitat. He studies their daily routines, painting a vivid picture of the ravens' world. At the heart of this book are Heinrich's love and respect for these

complex and engaging creatures.

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

The Darkness Manifesto: On Light Pollution, Night Ecology, and the Ancient Rhythms that Sustain Life Hardcover, by Johan Eklöf (2023)

This book explores the hidden impact of light pollution and urges us to cherish darkness for the sake of the environment, our own well-being, and all life on earth. How much light is too much light? Satellite pictures show our planet as a brightly glowing orb, and in our era of constant illumination, light pollution has become a major issue. The world's flora and fauna have evolved to operate in the natural cycle of day and night. But in the last 150 years, we have extended our day. In doing so, we have forced the inhabitants of the night to either adapt or move and disrupted the circadian rhythms necessary to sustain all living things, including ourselves.

Winter Program Meetings

By Kristal Stidham, Vice President, and Program Chair Programs are **open to all**, and they are free. All meetings are at 7 PM in the Summit Room of the Montrose Field House (25 Colorado Avenue in Montrose)

Thursday, December 14, 7 PM

Audubon president Bruce Ackerman and his partner, Susan, travelled to eastern Australia in August for a guided birding trip. Come hear about their adventures in the Land of Oz. Bruce is looking forward to showing his favorite photos of kookaburras, honeyeaters, dotterels, rosellas, galahs, wompoo fruit-doves, brolgas, and frogmouths.



Superb Fairywren. Photo by Bruce Ackerman in Tasmania.

Thursday, January 11, 2024, 7 PM

Dr. William "Sylvester" Allred is a retired professor from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff where he taught Biology to over 20,000 students for 27 years. He has also proudly served as an ecological consultant for the British Broadcasting Corporation, the Department of Energy, and

Winter Program Meetings continued from page 5 the Discovery Channel. He is the author of eight children's books and detailed natural histories about two of the Southwest's icons: ponderosa pines and Abert's squirrels. Dr. Allred will be visiting from his retirement home in Durango to enlighten us about the symbiotic relationship shared by his two favorite subjects.

Thursday, February 8, 7:00 PM

Our guest speaker will be Matthew Webb, Senior Avian Ecologist and MOTUS Wildlife Tracking System Coordinator for the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies. Matt will tell us all about his years of firsthand experience with setting up MOTUS towers in Colorado and across the Great Plains, tagging birds, and collecting research data. We hope to give him the good news that our own MOTUS tower project has been funded and is ready to be built!

Avian Ramblings

By Bill Harris, BCAS Board member

It has been an interesting birding year! Here is a wrap-up for the year! My Colorado Big Year endeavor took me to new places looking for birds. The sand hills around Wray, the Chico Basin Ranch, and the Pawnee Buttes National Grasslands were just a few venues that were new to me. Of course, there were many familiar hot spots that always produce a nice variety of birds.

On November 14, I spotted a White-winged Scoter at Highline Reservoir, my 265th species for the year. Usually, I see one or two more new species late in the year. That number was short of my goal of 275. I put myself in birdy places as often as I could. eBird alerted me to rare and uncommon bird sightings in the local four-county area. A keen eye, good birding companions, and perseverance also helped. In the end, a lot of luck played a big part in what I saw.

I added nine species to my Life List in 2023. The most memorable experience was witnessing a dozen Greater Prairie Chickens at a lek, worth the 4 AM wakeup call. I spotted all three longspur species that occur in Colorado. An extended close look at a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was a treat. At a chance encounter in La Junta, Steve, Jon, Alan, and I watched several hundred Chimney Swifts enter their night roost.

Shorebirds were well-represented – Black-bellied, Snowy, and Semipalmated Plovers, Pectoral and Stilt Sandpipers, a Sanderling, and numerous Upland Sandpipers. My count included 11 warbler species, 14 tyrant flycatcher species, and all 3 rosy-finch species (thanks, Rebecca). During a Colorado River trip near the Utah/Colorado border our CCA group documented the

presence of Lucy's Warbler, a first. On a five-day trip to S.E. Colorado, we saw 119 species, including Burrowing Owls, a Greater Roadrunner, a Northern Cardinal, and Indigo Buntings.

Some notable misses during the year included Bobolink, Swainson's Thrush, White-winged Dove, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Curve-billed Thrasher, and Northern Saw-whet Owl.

According to the eBird's Colorado's Top 100 counts for the year, I ranked number 64. I recognized the names of a few western slope birders on the list, but most birders are along the Front Range. The potential for seeing a bigger variety of birds in the eastern half of the state is greater than in western Colorado.

If I did another Colorado Big Year, I would spend more time in eastern Colorado, do more owling, and pay attention to eBird postings over a wider area. In any case, it was fun, and I learned a lot.



Yellow-breasted Chat at the Ridgway Banding Station.
Photo by Verlee Sanburg.

MOTUS Update

By David Sinton

Donations for the Motus project continue to come in and we have collected \$1,500. Thank you to everyone that has donated! We should be receiving a donation from Montrose Community Foundation. We are closing in on our goal of \$5,000. If you'd like to donate, please go to <https://gofund.me/6924c9ea> or scan the QR code below.

MOTUS Update continued from Page 6

Please let David Sinton know if you have any questions. He can be reached at 970-209-2622 or david.sinton@gmail.com.



Audubon Leadership Conference: Flying Together for Birds

By Janine Reid, Board member

Board members Bruce Ackerman and Janine Reid had the good fortune to attend this content-rich, inspiring conference. Over 300 people from Canada, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States gathered to connect, collaborate, and put into action the National Audubon Society's (NAS) ambitious 5-year strategic "Flight Plan."

The Flight Plan has four goals: habitat conservation, climate action, policy, and community building. Habitat conservation – 300 million acres of quality, connected, and climate-resilient bird habitat in the Western Hemisphere by 2028. Climate action – swift and responsible deployment of renewable energy. The metric is 30 billion tons of carbon stored in forests, wetlands, and grasslands, with additional carbon sequestered each year. Policy – government action and funding for birds and the planet. Community building – bird lovers working together to advance our shared vision. (There are at least 92 million of us in the Western Hemisphere.) Double the Audubon memberships and activate partnerships with groups that share our mission.

Keynote speeches, workshops and focus groups offered us opportunities to gain experience from others and apply what we learned to our local communities. The idea is that together we can harness the power of local action to achieve hemispheric impact. Every aspect of conference programming included equitable community-building practices, which include the conservation principles of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. It made for an extremely welcoming, friendly environment. We shared information, enthusiasm about our common goals and *fun*.

My personal favorite workshop was "Mindful Birding." We took a walk on the YMCA campus to the river. As our wonderful guide, Barb Patterson of Fort Collins, was telling us about the birds that frequent Rocky Mountain National Park, she spotted an American

Dipper! The workshop culminated in 10 minutes of "sit spotting." We sat quietly, relaxed, and engaged all our senses to experience the moment. A sit spot is simply a favorite place in nature that you visit regularly to cultivate awareness as you expand your senses and study patterns of local plants, birds, trees, and animals. This meditative practice is so inspiring! Even five minutes sitting intentionally and with awareness is all you really need to successfully connect with nature.

Take aways: programming and field trip ideas, software applications for mapping and BCAS management, conservation efforts we can discuss, and policy changes we would like to see made at our state and local levels. Good people, good content, good environment, good food, and good times. Thanks so much for supporting our attendance. It inspired us to work on "bending the bird curve," which means changing the downward avian population graph to upwards.



Wild tom turkeys displaying near Pueblo, Colorado.
Photo by Bruce Ackerman.

Wild Turkey Domestication in the Southwestern United States

By Susan M. Chandler-Reed

Wild Turkey (*Melagris gallopavo*) bones, guano, and feathers found at archaeological sites in the Southwestern U.S. provide evidence for its domestication in North America outside of Mexico. The only other domesticated bird native to the Americas is the Muscovy Duck.

From A.D. 1 to 1050, Ancestral Puebloans appear to have kept turkeys for their feathers and for ritual purposes only. Bone analysis indicates that the turkeys had a diet of maize rather than wild plants, suggesting they must have been living near the corn-farming

Wild Turkey Domestication continued from page 7 humans. The first turkeys living with the Puebloan peoples seem to have been free range, with a few documented examples of tethering. Later occupants penned turkeys near their villages.

During early Basketmaker II times (A.D. 1 to 200), turkey feather blankets began to replace rabbit fur blankets. Native Americans wove blankets from molted feathers wrapped with yucca cordage. Dr. William Lipe studied one turkey feather blanket curated at the Edge of the Cedars Museum in Blanding, Utah. The blanket measures 39 by 43 inches and contained almost 200 yards of yucca cordage and 11,550 feathers, which would have required feathers from 4 to 10 turkeys for that blanket alone.

By the Basketmaker III period (A.D. 500-750), archaeologists have also found turkey burials thought to be associated with spring crop planting as part of rituals to encourage spirits to bring rain. After A.D. 1050, turkey bones begin to show up in the archaeological record as tools and food refuse. This shift toward treating turkeys as meat animals coincides with the Pueblo II period human population growth and the decline of large game animals in the region.

Europeans took wild turkeys from Mexico to Europe in the early sixteenth century. When colonists later arrived on the Atlantic Coast, they brought domesticated turkeys back with them and were surprised to find healthy local populations of delicious wild turkeys. Overhunting caused wild turkey populations to dwindle. In the 1940s, wildlife managers transported wild birds to numerous locations in the U.S. and Canada to repopulate extirpated populations. Turkeys were reintroduced to Mesa Verde National Park in 1944, where conflicts with the human inhabitants were humorously documented by park resident, Jean M. Pinkley:

Timid at first, the turkeys soon knew where food could be found. They took over the feeding stations set out for small birds and took advantage of warm roosting places in the residential area. Despite efforts to chase them away (tossing cherry bombs and firing guns in the air), turkeys continued to congregate around park homes. It can be conjectured that the prehistoric Indians suffered likewise. When they learned that they could not drive off the turkeys, they most likely decided to corral them to protect their crops and food stores. Recognition of the value of this bird for food and artifacts was the logical next step. Domestication must have been a means for establishing order and maintaining sanity among the prehistoric Indians, who might otherwise have been driven wild by turkeys.

She concludes, "To say that the Indian domesticated the turkey is 'putting the cart before the horse.' The Indian had no choice; the turkey domesticated him."



**Group of turkeys off Solar Road, Montrose County.
Photo by Bruce Ackerman,**

Conservation Conversations

By Sallie Thoreson, Conservation Chair

In August, the Forest Service released the Revised Land Management Plan for Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests. The Plan updated the existing 40-year-old plan to address timber harvesting, the increase in recreation, and other resource issues. There were 62 objections to parts of the plan, many around parcels that were left out of wilderness or other protections, timber harvesting concerns, and protecting Species of Conservation Concern. The Forest Service will now start a 90-day administrative review, ending with their written responses to objections. Details on the objections and the process are available at

www.fs.usda.gov/main/gmug/landmanagement/planning

The 50th birthday of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is December 28. In 1973 President Nixon signed this landmark legislation to protect species. There remains a need to champion the legislation to ensure funding and prevent attempts to weaken the law. More information is available at www.fws.gov/esa50 and

www.defenders.org/50-years-of-endangered-species-act

We celebrated the first birthday of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) on August 16, 2023. The Sierra Club touts this as "the most ambitious climate change

Conservation Conversations continued from page 8
legislation in US history. Over the course of a decade, new spending and tax incentives estimated at half a trillion dollars will go toward reducing carbon emissions. The long-haul nature of the IRA is key to its potential for success.” And what is good for addressing climate change is good for birds, plants, and all life on Earth. The National Audubon Society has a great article on the benefits of the IRA (www.audubon.org/news/12-ways-inflation-reduction-act-will-benefit-birds-and-people). Look for opportunities to publicize and support IRA projects.

An important piece of upcoming (hopefully) federal legislation is the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. The RAWA would provide \$1.4 billion to states and tribes to support proactive wildlife-conservation efforts to implement State Wildlife Action Plans. This bill complements ESA work. The National Audubon Society has an Action Alert asking citizens to let their US Senators know that we support RAWA.

www.act.audubon.org/a/rawa-2023

Board Meeting Highlights

By Sallie Thoreson, Conservation Chair

These highlights cover the Board meetings in September and November. Book club meetings are going well. Future fall and winter birding trips are planned and publicized through the normal channels. Kristal has programs booked through December and into 2024.

BCAS currently has 377 paid members, with some members paying both national and BCAS memberships. The Board revised the By-laws to clarify and update terms of office. Bruce will continue as President. We are always looking for new Board members.

Two BCAS board members, Bruce Ackerman, and Janine Reid, attended the National Audubon Leadership Conference in Estes Park November 2-5. The Board approved \$200 each to help offset their costs to attend.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Local memberships expire December 31. Please pay online or by check and extend your membership through December 2024. Dues paid to the Black Canyon Audubon Chapter stay in the chapter and help fund activities, public outreach, and more! If you would rather Join National Audubon, you can do so for a minimum contribution of \$20. If you become a member of National Audubon, you are automatically a member of the Black Canyon Audubon Society.

BCAS contributes an article to the *Montrose Daily Press* every five weeks. The first two articles were birding in Australia (Bruce Ackerman) and bird banding at Ridgway State Park (Mary Menz). Bill Harris will do the next article on the Christmas Bird Count.

The Marine Road project is progressing with Sandy Beranich as coordinator, Jon, and Bill as prime movers. Construction of bird-viewing blinds started at a workday held on November 18. More workdays will follow, and volunteers are always needed. We are concerned about weeds and grasses that need to be removed, including some Russian Olive trees.

Crane Days at Eckert will be March 23-24. Alida Franco is spearheading the scheduling of events, developing promotional posters and a brochure, and educational events.

Board members Missy Siders, David Sinton and Bill Harris with member Ron Thoreson are heading up the Motus tower project. They are discussing locations for the tower and have collected \$725 in the Go Fund Me account.

At the end of August, we had \$30,762.88 in the bank. In November, the chapter had an income of \$330 from membership dues. We spent \$312.24 on Marine Road projects, \$200 to offset some of Janine's expenses to attend the National Audubon meeting, and \$860 was sent to Audubon of the Rockies to support conservation programs. The ending checkbook balance was \$28530.18.

The next Board Meeting is January 18, 2024, by Zoom.

Contact Bruce Ackerman for details.



BCAS President Bruce Ackerman lopping Pinyon Pine encroaching on Sagebrush habitat during an Audubon volunteer project in September of 2023

Help reduce the use of paper and lower BCAS expenses by receiving this publication in color via email. Send your request for electronic delivery in PDF format to blackcanyonaudubon@gmail.com.



Please remember to renew your membership!

Local memberships expire December 31. Please pay online or by check and extend your membership through December 2024. Dues paid to the Black Canyon Audubon Chapter stay in the chapter and help fund activities, public outreach, and more!

Local Audubon chapter members may participate in all chapter activities, receive the chapter newsletter *Canyon Wreanderings*, and vote on chapter issues. Annual membership dues are \$20 for individual and \$30 for family membership. These annual dues remain local. If you are a member of National Audubon, you are already a member of BCAS!

(Check one) Renewal New Member

Name:

Mailing Address:

City:

State: Zip:

Phone (Optional):

Email (Required):

Enclosed

____\$20 for individual membership

\$30 for family membership

Renew online at: www.BlackCanyonAudubon.com.
or mail your renewal to: Black Canyon Audubon Society
PO Box 387, Delta, CO 81416.