

# Canyon Wrenderings

*The Journal of the Black Canyon Audubon Society*

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

Fall 2012

Volume XXIV Number 4

## Mark Your Calendar

### September

Bird of the Month—Wilson's Warbler

• **Mon. the 10<sup>th</sup> - Tue. the 18<sup>th</sup>**

#### Bird Banding at Ridgway State Park

The banding station at the Dallas Creek Day Area will be operating, with visits by local school groups throughout the school week and a public day on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup>. Amber Carver will be manning the station again this year. For more information about the schedule, contact Amber at: [caramb22@gmail.com](mailto:caramb22@gmail.com)

• **Sun. the 16<sup>th</sup>-Wed. the 19<sup>th</sup>**

#### Yampa Valley Crane Festival

Head North this fall and rendezvous with the Sandhill Cranes as they head South. For the first time, a crane festival will be held in Hayden and Steamboat Springs. For more information, visit: [www.steamboatlibrary.org/events/yampa-valley-crane-festival-sunday](http://www.steamboatlibrary.org/events/yampa-valley-crane-festival-sunday)

### October

Bird of the Month—Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch

### November

Bird of the Month—White-tailed Ptarmigan

• **Monday the 5<sup>th</sup>**

#### Pasta Dinner

Kids' Pasta Project will be hosting a benefit dinner for BCAS at the Scenic Mesa Ranch. For more information on KPP, for details on the event, and to make a reservation, visit: [www.kidspastaproject.org](http://www.kidspastaproject.org)

**CHECK OUT OUR NEW FACEBOOK PAGE. IN ADDITION TO THE LATEST BCAS NEWS AND EVENT UPDATES, WE WILL BE POSTING PHOTOS FROM THIS FALL'S BANDING SEASON.**  
[www.facebook.com/BlackCanyonAudubon](http://www.facebook.com/BlackCanyonAudubon)

## That time of year again



Over the past few years, Wilson's Warblers have outnumbered most other species at the Ridgway banding station. *Photo by Amber Carver*

The days get shorter. Storms appear from the wrong direction. Back-to-School Sales come and go. It must be bird-banding season again.

Actually, banding can happen any time of year. It is usually performed during spring or fall migration, but some stations even choose to do it in the dead of winter. It all depends on what the station has as its mission.

The Black Canyon Audubon Society, the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, and Colorado Parks & Wildlife team up in the fall to do their banding. Not only is this one of the best times to capture a variety of bird species, but it is also the best time to reach children.

Each fall, groups from local schools schedule a visit to Ridgway State Park's Dallas Creek Day Use Area, where BCAS holds a set of educational workshops. Included is a visit to the banding station. Students learn about bird migration and about what it takes to capture and band them.

The BCAS banding session runs for a little over a week. There is an open public day on Saturday, when anyone can stop by to chat with the bander and see what's hitting the nets. *For this year's banding dates, see the calendar at left.*

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Programs: OPEN		
Newsletter Editor: Amber Carver	(310) 483-5721	caramb22@gmail.com

**BCAS Hosts Information Table at ECD 2013****By Chris Lazo**

Once again the Black Canyon Audubon Society is taking the lead in hosting information tables during Eckert Crane Days. In 2013 Eckert Crane Days will be on March 15, 16 and 17. Friday March 15<sup>th</sup> will be focused on field trips originating in local communities. Saturday and Sunday mornings will once again offer handouts, free hot drinks and spotting scope viewing to the public. Teaming up with BCAS will be the volunteers of Colorado Parks & Wildlife. On all three days viewing is expected to start at about nine thirty and will end after "lift off" which usually occurs between eleven and eleven thirty.

The BCAS board invites the membership to lend a hand for a few hours one morning of the weekend. We'd like to have three BCASers each morning. Best of all this is a one time commitment. This is an excellent opportunity to meet other local birders, share a cup of coffee, help the chapter and experience the spectacle of hundreds of Sandhill Cranes taking to the air in unison. The chorus of flight calls is truly unforgettable.

If you would like to join us please contact Chris Lazo at:  
2006clazo@myway.com.

**Richard G Levad Memorial Fund****By Jason Beason**

In his final days, Rich and his family worked to establish the Richard G. Levad Memorial Fund at the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. This fund is dedicated to continuing research projects initiated by Rich related to the MCB special species program. Money from this fund is to be used for special species projects that cannot be monitored by more traditional means.

Anyone wishing to donate to this fund can send a check to:

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory  
ATTN: Jim Pauley  
P.O. Box 1232  
Brighton, CO 80601-1232

Please write "Levad Memorial Fund" in the memo line of any checks.

Donations to the Grand Valley Audubon Society Building Fund is another option:

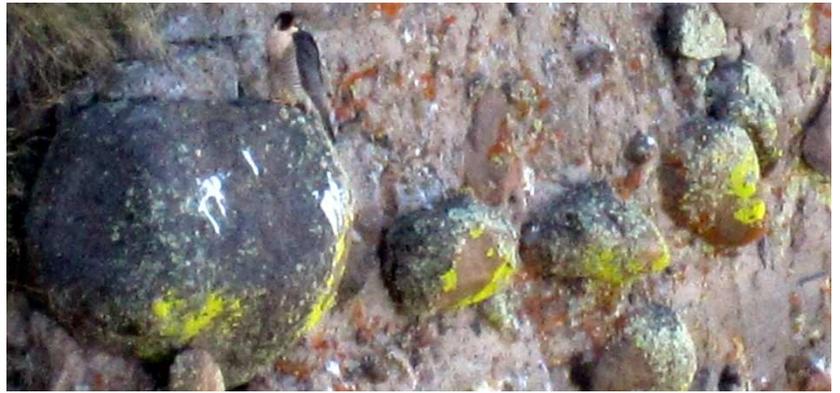
Grand Valley Audubon Society Building Fund, P.O.  
Box 1211, Grand Junction, CO  
81502-1211.

# A Peak at the Peregrines

## First outing proves fruitful

By Theresa Childers

Four Audubon members met up for the first annual Peregrine Falcon nest viewing field trip in Curecanti National Recreation Area this June. This field trip was thrown together at the last minute and not well advertised to BCAS members (only those with email addresses on file were alerted), so the turn-out was small. However, the trip was a resounding success, so we'll plan on making it an annual event and advertising it well ahead of time in the BCAS summer newsletter.



This individual was spotted by Amber Carver on a hiking trip near Storm King Mountain.

Marti Isler, Sheryl Radovich, Chris Lazo and Theresa Childers traveled to Beaver Creek picnic site to watch the three Peregrine chicks on a nest ledge just across the river. We then traveled up CO-92 to a Morrow Point Reservoir overlook to search for another Peregrine nest ledge. We found the ledge and were a bit disappointed: it looked empty! Luckily we saw an adult fly in to deliver food and found that the chicks were there, after all! All of the peregrine chicks were about 30 to 35 days old and successfully fledged within the next two weeks. Also at the Morrow Point Reservoir overlook, we watched a Red-Tailed Hawk nest with two large chicks.

All in all, the trip was successful and a lot of fun. We even got to share our observations with two groups of tourists to the area. The couple from St. Louis was very excited to see the nests, but I'm not quite sure if the couple from France understood why we wanted to show them our spotting scopes!

Please stay tuned for information about next summer's peregrine nest field trip and join us!

## BCAS strengthens ties to community

By Chris Lazo

The Black Canyon Audubon Society is two for two. On Saturday June second, BCAS participated in the second Delta Outdoor Heritage Day at Confluence Park. While the weather was less than cooperative, the event was well attended and our exhibit was almost always busy. Sheryl Radovich deserves all the credit for coordinating with the event organizers, creating the activities and rounding up volunteers to staff the exhibit. Visitors to the booth had a choice of three activities. They were offered a chance at a game of Choose that Bird, a game of Migration Frisbee Golf or they could see and touch specimens from the BCAS mount and skin collection.

Once again BCAS board members offered their time and talents to further the cause of wildlife in western Colorado. Board members Sheryl, Jon, Jan and Chris spent the morning attending the booth. Many thanks also to Sheryl's husband and Jon's daughter for their time. Maybe the most gratifying element of the morning was the diversity of the families visiting the booth and participating. We were able to interact with families from different socio-economic backgrounds and different ethnic backgrounds. The enthusiasm of the kids was reward enough for our efforts.

When the wind and thunderstorms encouraged us to pack it in an hour before the event was supposed to end, we didn't argue. Most of the attendees were scurrying for cover or enjoying the free lunch. The BCAS crew quickly folded up the exhibits and headed to a local sub shop for a pleasant luncheon.

## Are Sage-Grouse feeling effects of climate change?

By Amber Carver

The Gunnison Sage-Grouse may have bred earlier than usual this year—and males may have moved around more—according to a report released by Colorado Parks & Wildlife. The authors suggest that this could have something to do with the abnormally warm, dry winter.

The report, titled "2012 Gunnison Basin Gunnison Sage-Grouse Lek Count Summary and Population Estimate," outlines the results of last season's survey and compares them to data from previous years. This year there was a slight increase in the number of males observed at leks, and a decrease in the number of females seen at those same locations.

This survey was initiated in 1995 and is a collaborative effort by local agencies, businesses, non-profits, and individuals. The purpose of the survey to track long-term population trends so that policy-makers can gauge the impact of land-use choices in the region.



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To save paper and postage and to receive photos in color, send an email to: blackcanyonaudubon@gmail.com

**Black Canyon Audubon Society (NAS chapter C9ZD140Z)  
 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, 14967 Rolling Hills Drive, Montrose, CO 81403.

*If you would like to join or donate to National Audubon Society and receive Audubon magazine, please call 1-800-274-4201 or send \$20 to NAS Chapter Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 51001, Boulder, CO 80322-1001. Please use this form and list Black Canyon Audubon Society/C9ZD140Z on your check so that BCAS can receive membership recruitment funds.*