

Audubon Colorado Council
Fall Meeting
1755 Harding Rd., Paonia
Saturday, Oct 1, 2016

- I) Welcome from Jane McGarry (hostess), Jon Horn (Black Canyon Audubon Society President) and ACC President Becky Herman.
- II) Chapter Roll Call:
 - a) Present: Aiken (Linda Hodges), Arkansas Valley (Peg Rooney), Black Canyon (Jane McGarry), Boulder County (Phil McNichols), Ft. Collins (Bill Miller), Greater Denver (Bob Stocker), Weminuche (John Porco).
 - b) Absent: Evergreen, Grand Junction, (Roaring Fork currently inactive)
- III) Chapter Reports are to be posted on CO-GENERAL by each chapter rep attending the meeting. General discussion during these reports included the following:
 - a) Having other ACC chapters write letters can be crucial for individual chapters fighting for or against actions of corporations or governmental agencies.
 - b) If you have an issue with an action of Audubon Rockies, talk to Alison Holloran. She's very approachable. Other staff are also often knowledgeable and helpful.
 - c) It could be very useful to get articles into local newspapers about the problems caused by lead bullets.
 - d) Lake Pueblo State Park cut trees during bird nesting times and mowed grass in area with sensitive plants despite pleas from a local Audubon member to stop. The first is in violation of the International Migratory Bird Treaty Act, a federal law. Such things are generally done by people who don't understand the laws. Getting people higher in the hierarchy can change the discussion, as can involving Audubon Rockies. Sometimes this cannot be accomplished before damage is done, but it can often avoid a repeat.
- IV) The following Chapter Requests were made during chapter reports:
 - a) Speaking for Aiken Audubon, Linda requested that our chapters write letters opposing the 400 acre granite quarry proposed for the Hitch Rack Ranch, adjacent The Nature Conservancy's Aiken Canyon Preserve. The Aiken Canyon Preserve has a wide diversity of nesting and resident shrub land birds and a tall grass prairie butterfly community. She emailed ACC members with details of where to send comments. She believes commenting is worthwhile, even though the official comment period has ended.
 - b) The Weminuche Audubon requested help with ideas such as places to apply for grants and ways of fundraising, as the Hershey Foundation is unable to continue supporting them as generously as in the past. Suggestions included locating and watching a California Audubon video about fundraising, insisting those that want newsletters be members, and soliciting local membership when people join National Audubon. After much discussion, it was suggested that there be information on the ACC website, possibly in a password-protected location, that gave information on how chapters raise funds.
 - 1. Bill Day requested other chapters support the Black Canyon chapter by weighing in on the BLM Resource Management Plan for the Uncompahgre Field Office. He

will send out his letter on the subject and asks that we utilize pieces of it for information, so that our letters support his rather than copying it.

A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: ACC will use Bill's outline to write a comment letter to the BLM on the Resource Management Plan for the Uncompahgre area.

- V) Additions/Changes to the agenda: Birds and fishing line were moved to the Conservation Committee discussion.
- VI) Secretary's Report (Nancy Stocker); Hearing there were no objections, the President accepted the minutes from the last meeting, which were posted on CO-General recently.
- VII) Treasurer's Report (Ron Harden):
- a) There has been \$.04 interest added since the last report, bringing the ACC total to \$849.75.
 - b) It was mentioned that chapters wishing to host quarterly ACC meetings, but short of funds, can request funding help from the ACC treasury.
 - c) Ron mentioned that there was a credit card for the ACC account that is in his name. It can be used as necessary for ACC. He is the person holding it because he has managed the account when there was no treasurer, and he is located physically close to the bank.
- VIII) Vice President's Report (Peg Rooney):
- a) Our website is at www.auduboncoloradocouncil.com . We have paid also for www.auduboncoloradocouncil.org and want to make that our primary address for the website. Becky will check into this.
 - b) Reps discussed whether we should purchase our name with .biz, .edu, and .net, as they could also be misused by someone wanting to capitalize on confusion with our organization. The cost of maintaining ownership of all possible addresses that could be confused with ours, particularly as more categories are likely to be added, made the group decide not to purchase more.
 - c) Please send Chapter news, updates and fundraising ideas to Peg at drpeg@bresnan.net for the website.
 - d) We also have an email address auduboncoloradocouncil@gmail.com
 - e) Audubon Colorado Council has a facebook page too. Don't forget to "like" it.

Committee Reports

IX) Chapter Relations Committee Report (Bill Miller):

- a) Some ACC reps have been able to sign up for and receive reports from CO-GENERAL. Others have not been receiving reports after signing up. Bill stated that he has recently learned why, and will send directions to the Wide Distribution List explaining how to start receiving ACC emails.
- b) Bill will also send the information from the Executive Committee for chapters hosting an ACC face-to-face meeting through the Wide Distribution List. This should include the information about availability of funds for chapters needing financial help with hosting.

X) Conservation Committee Report (Peg Rooney):

- a) The Yellowstone grizzly is being considered by the Fish and Wildlife Service for delisting as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Members and chapters are encouraged to comment on this to Fish and Wildlife Service, Go to www.regulations.org, enter FWS-R6-ES-2016-0042 in the search box, click on Comment. Deadline 10/7/16.

- b) Proposed Research to increase mule deer populations:
 - i) Colorado Parks and Wildlife has proposed a research project to increase the mule deer population in the Upper Arkansas Basin by allowing hunters to kill 50% of the cougars in 2 areas for nine (9) years in each area. The number of cougars in these areas is uncertain, so it's possible the species could be wiped out during this project.
 - ii) In the Piceance Basin, CPW has proposed using contractors to kill cougars and bears so Colorado Constitutional protection of wildlife that includes no spring bear hunts and relatively humane trapping methods will not apply. The plan involves killing 15 more lions and 25 more black bears every year for 3 years. Some research has shown that bears rarely kill fawns, although they often steal fawns and deer that other predators have killed. Both female cougars and bears will have young that will starve in May and June when the killing is to occur.
 - iii) A number of peer-reviewed research papers, including some recent ones in Colorado, have concluded that a variety of human-caused factors such as development and habitat fragmentation rather than predation is what limits mule deer populations.
 - iv) Comments can be made at dnr_cpwcommission@state.co.us before 11/17/16.

MOTION MADE, SECONDED AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: The ACC Conservation Chair will write a letter opposing the CPW Piceance Basin Predator Management Plan and the Upper Arkansas River Predator Management Plan research projects.

- v) Discussion of abandoned fishing line, often hanging from trees, ensnaring and killing birds concluded with chapters planning to educate/remind fishermen to remove all fishing line before leaving an area. Arkansas Valley chapter will share a visual developed and used for this purpose.

XI) Water Taskforce Report – Ken Neubecker absent. No report

XII) Public Policy Committee (PPC) Report – Ron Harden

- a) Ron explained that birds were Audubon's initial focus, but natural history education for youth and adults and habitat conservation are increasingly major foci. This is necessary to develop awareness among young people and all Americans, in order that there continue to be wildlife including birds for future generations to enjoy.
- b) In about 2 months, the PPC will meet to look ahead to issues coming up in the 2017 Colorado legislative session, and to develop strategies for dealing with them.
- c) Each chapter will be getting a letter toward the end of the year from ACC asking for contributions to the Audubon Rockies Conservation Fund. Ron explained this practice at some length; anyone with questions is encouraged to contact him at hardenrr@msn.com
- d) Any chapter currently without an active PPC member is invited to have one. The person must be able to participate in meetings in person or by phone. Anyone can get legislative reports during the legislative session. Reports generally come out every two weeks. They are emailed from a list of those who have requested the reports rather than through CO-General. PPC meets at the Daniels fund building. Telephone attendance is through the Audubon Rockies conference call line.

XIII) Old Business

- a) Our contact list needs post office or street addresses for everyone. Becky will send out the old form for updates.
- b) Ron recently sent out a copy of the updated ACC Bylaws.
- c) Bill Day from the Black Canyon chapter reported on the Thompson/Muddy Divide issue. At the moment, there is an unofficial agreement to start no new drilling or other work in

the area where the purple martins nest until after the new relevant forest service plan is issued. However, this plan is many years away (5+), and unofficial agreements can fall apart, depending on oil prices and possibly a pipeline in the area. The area has been declared an Important Bird Area by National Audubon. Signs are needed to post that information.

- d) Several other chapters mentioned needing signs for their IBAs as well.
- e) Ron reminded all chapters are expected to maintain an alert phone tree that can respond quickly to urgent requests to contact a legislator if needed during the legislative session.

XIV) New Business

- a) All chapters requested the recipe for the chocolate zucchini bread served at this meeting.
- b) Thanks to the Black Canyon chapter for hosting this meeting

XV) **Next meeting: Conference call on January 7, 2017**

XVI) Adjournment