



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

Summer 2018

Volume XXXI Number 2



"Just Be that Way" White-faced Ibis and American Avocet. Photo credit to Betty Fenton.

Upcoming Events:

June

June 5, First Tuesday bird walk: Meet at 8 a.m. at the northeast corner of Gold's Gym parking lot in Montrose. We will carpool to the Black Canyon National Park. Contact leader, Bruce Ackerman at Bruceackermanaud@aol.com or call 727-858-5857.

June 7, Thursday, Come hear Dennis Murphy talk on the Galapagos: Dennis recently returned from a trip of a lifetime spent on a 60-foot catamaran touring the western-most Galapagos Islands. Dennis will provide a PowerPoint presentation with excellent photos depicting the geology, vegetation, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. The program will be given at the Montrose Field House, located at the corner of Rio Grande and Colorado Avenue (former location of the Montrose Aquatic Center) and will begin at 7 p.m.

June 9, Saturday, Field trip to Kevin Parks Wetlands: Meet us in the parking lot at the Hotchkiss City Market at 7 a.m. We will carpool to the Kevin Parks wetlands for a tour of this privately-owned riparian area. In addition to birds of prey, expect to see riparian woodland species, wetland obligates, and waterfowl. The wetlands are located near Hotchkiss. In 2017, 29 species were identified as present. The area also contains Yellow-billed Cuckoo habitat. This trip is limited to 12 participants and you must sign up. For more information, and to sign up, contact trip leader Jim LeFevre at jimlef@paonia.com or call 970 275-8200.

June 20, Wednesday, Annual Dinner: BCAS celebrates the end of their fiscal year by inviting all members to a dinner hosted at Remington's Restaurant on the Bridges Golf Course in Montrose. After dinner, Chris Parish, renowned for his work on the California Condor, will present the results of his studies and will talk about the challenges faced by re-introduced condors today. A silent auction is also part of the evening events. Join us on June 20 by filling out and returning the attached reservation form. All dinners must be reserved and prepaid by June 13 and all silent auction items must be paid for by cash or check before leaving. We cannot accept last-minute 'walk-ins' for dinner. More information on the silent auction is on page 5. Everyone is welcome.

July

July 3, First Tuesday bird walk: Meet at 8 a.m. at the northeast corner of Gold's Gym parking lot in Montrose. We will carpool to the Black Canyon National Park. Contact leader, Bruce Ackerman at Bruceackermanaud@aol.com or 727-858-5857.

July 11, Wednesday, Come hear Linda Hansen talk on Uganda: BCAS member Linda Hansen will provide a PowerPoint on her adventure trip to Uganda, which included trekking to see mountain gorillas. Meet at the Bill Heddles Recreation Center in Delta, Colorado, at 7 p.m. Linda has travelled to unique parts of the world and will share the highlights of this trip with you.

More trips and BCAS activities are on page 3

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Comings and Goings

As I write this, we're at the peak of the spring migration. I hope you get out to do some birding. Come on one of our field trips and see what's happening. The weather has been so changeable, but summer is on its way.

We have several great field trips and evening lectures coming up this summer. One of the goals the Board of Directors has set for ourselves is more field trips and an evening lecture in every month – I hope you'll join us. This is a great time to watch birds courting, nesting, and producing babies.

We are getting ready for our annual banquet on June 20th. Join us for this annual get-together. We'll have a great speaker, Chris Parish, of The Peregrine Fund, who runs the California Condor release program in Arizona, and will show us his great photos of condors. I met him when we travelled to see the condors being released a few years ago. He is a great speaker and photographer. We'll have our annual elections, and our silent auction, one of our few fundraisers in the year. Please return your dinner reservation and payment by June 13 using the inserted form in this newsletter.

The Montrose County Fair is July 23-28, 2018. The Woodworker's Guild will donate handmade bird houses to benefit the Black Canyon Audubon Society. They will be on display all week at the county fair and will be sold by silent auction ending on Saturday, July 28. This is our second big fundraiser of the year. Many of these bird houses are highly decorative, and there might be one that would spruce up your yard. I currently have Mountain Bluebirds nesting in a box that I got last year.

Have you seen any Rosy Finches? The Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies are banding some rosies for a research project. The Brown-Capped Rosy Finch is one species that lives almost only in Colorado. If you see any of these high-altitude birds, look for colored leg bands, and report your sighting to Amy Seglund at CPW in Montrose. We hope to have a lecture about these interesting pink-and-brown birds later this year.

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

Help Us Plan Birding Trips!



sj07pioneer@bresnan.net (Editor)

Are you willing to volunteer a few hours every so often? Do you have a favorite area where you like to go birding? BCAS can use some fresh ideas for trips in our seven-county-area as well as people willing to lead a trip or two. Send in trip ideas, remind us of where your favorite trips went, and whether you would be willing to lead a trip. The Black Canyon Chapter covers the following seven counties: Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, San Juan, and San Miguel. We welcome new ideas. Send your thoughts to:

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July 14, Saturday: Purple Martin field trip. The third annual Paonia Ranger District purple martin field trip will be held Saturday July 14, 2018. Participants will meet at the Paonia River Park at 8:30 a.m., and carpool up Stevens Gulch road to various sites, then out Forest Road 265 and back to Paonia on Hwy 133 (slightly less than 100 miles with various side trips). To minimize disturbance to birds, the trip is limited to 16, who must preregister with trip leader Dennis Garrison. If there is substantial additional interest, a second date will be arranged. Roads are gravel and in good shape, so most cars are fine for this trip. Carpooling is encouraged.

The trip will visit known past and present purple martin nesting sites from Windy Point to Mule Park to the West Muddy. We will be discussing aspen ecology, future Forest Service projects in the area, martin life history, nest boxes, and looking for any and all birds we can find along the way. Bring binoculars and a bird book, a lunch, maybe a folding chair, a jacket, and some good shoes. There will not be a lot of hiking but we will wander off into the woods in a few places. Expect mosquitoes. We are typically done by mid-afternoon, depending on how much we talk. Contact Dennis Garrison, trip leader, at dennisgarrison@hotmail.com or 970-985-2244 to reserve a spot.



July 21, Saturday: Gunnison Valley Field Trip. Join naturalist and photographer Arden Anderson for birding in the Gunnison Valley. We will meet at 8 a.m. at the base of the Rainbow Lake Road along Highway 50 about one mile east of the road to the Elk Creek Marina on Blue Mesa Reservoir or about 14 miles west of Gunnison. At this begin the day by driving east to Gunnison then south on including Gunnison Sage Grouse. Returning along the Wetlands and Neversink riparian area. Continuing west and other water birds. Around noon we will return to the on time to break off from the field trip. The rest of the traversing a variety of habitats as we go from 7,500 ft. to and weather permit we might have time to hike a bit into altitude birds. We should end up back at the base of the a full day so bring water, lunch, insect repellent, sunscreen and extra clothes for changing weather. The higher altitudes and cooler temperatures should be a welcome relief from the heat of summer. We hope you will join us. To ensure we all have an enjoyable experience, this trip is limited to 16 people. Please contact Arden to reserve a space by calling (970-901-5739) or emailing (arden@gunnison.com).



July 23 through July 28: Annual Bird House Silent Auction at the Montrose County Fair. The Montrose Woodworkers Guild will be donating hand-crafted bird houses to be sold by silent auction during the Montrose County Fair. All proceeds from the silent auction will be donated to the Black Canyon Audubon Society. This generous group of woodcrafters creates unique and functional Bluebird houses as a project to raise funds for the Black Canyon Audubon Society programs. All BCAS members are also invited to construct bluebird houses to be entered in the silent auction; we especially invite entries to the youth division (under age 18). All entries will be judged on Tuesday, July 24; once again, Alpine Lumber will be donating prize money to the top winners.



Bring your bird houses to the Woodworkers Guild booth on Sunday, July 22 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. or on Monday, July 23 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. The silent auction will close at noon on Saturday and all winners will be contacted and will be expected to pay for and to be present to pick up their winning bird house on Saturday, unless prior arrangements have been made. The entire fair will close on Saturday, July 28th. As an aside, in 2017, the Woodworkers Guild also took on a project for Montrose City and constructed nine bat houses that are now installed in a variety of city parks.

August

August 1, Wednesday: Come hear Amy Seglund talk on White-tailed Ptarmigans. Local wildlife biologist Amy Seglund will present information on studies she has conducted on area ptarmigans. Amy does her research through the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Department. Come join us at the Montrose Field House at 7 p.m. The Montrose field house is located on the corner of Rio Grande and Colorado.

August 7, First Tuesday Bird Walk: Meet at the northeast corner of Gold's Gym parking lot at 8 a.m. Leader and trip destination to be decided.

September

September 5, Wednesday: Come here Arden Anderson talk on his Indonesian adventures. Join us at 7 p.m. to hear local birder and naturalist, Arden Anderson, provide a PowerPoint talk on his travels through Indonesia. He will be speaking at the Montrose Field House. Arden provides well-illustrated talks on his off-the-beaten path adventures.

September 8, Saturday: Bird banding at Ridgway State Park. Meet at the Dallas Creek site to watch birds banded and released. This is the 13th year for this annual event. The Dallas Creek entrance is the southern-most park entrance and will require a park pass.

Audubon Council News

By Bruce Ackerman

The Audubon Colorado Council (ACC) represents the 11 chapters of National Audubon that are in Colorado. The chapters get together twice a year in person, and twice a year by telephone.

Chapters also work with Audubon Rockies, a section of the National Audubon Society, based in Fort Collins, which furthers Audubon programs in Colorado and Wyoming. Audubon Rockies also employs a lobbyist that works with the Colorado state legislature to promote Audubon missions.

I attended the recent meeting in Pueblo, Colorado, on April 21, 2018, representing the Black Canyon Audubon Chapter. Eight of the chapters were represented. We discussed many issues that were ongoing in different parts of Colorado, which included:

- Various proposed developments on good wildlife habitat around the state, such as new gravel pits.
- Illegal shooting on the Pawnee Grasslands.
- Downgrading of national monuments by Secretary Ryan Zinke of the Department of Interior
- Downgrading of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and reducing protection for the Greater Sage Grouse.
- Proposed oil and gas leases on the Rocky Mountain Arsenal and near the Great Sand Dunes National Park.
- Promoting use of non-lead ammunition for hunting.

The ACC voted to sign on to a lawsuit about the Yellow-billed Cuckoo with the Friends of Animals. This lawsuit will require the US Fish and Wildlife Service to complete their promised action to designate critical habitat for this imperiled bird species.

We also discussed the outcomes of the recent Colorado Legislative session -- an increase in hunting and fishing license fees by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, a boat stamp to reduce the problem of aquatic nuisance species, and some bills to strengthen conservation easements.

Daly Edmunds, the Director of Policy and Outreach for Audubon Rockies, prepared binders, for each chapter, that outlined all the different projects of the Audubon Rockies. Each chapter received two copies. These binders describe the many Audubon Rockies projects in our region.

Status of Capping Elk Fencing

As reported in the Spring issue of *Wrenderings*, BCAS Board member Marcella Fremgen continues to facilitate progress on capping steel pipes used as fence posts along a six-mile-stretch of old elk fencing on the north rim of the Black Canyon near Crawford. An estimated 550 steel ball caps are being ordered and will be paid for by BCAS as part of our conservation effort. The caps will be placed on the open pipes to prevent mortality of cavity-nesting songbirds. The pipes will be capped in August after the fence repairs are completed. If you are interested in volunteering to assist with capping the pipes, please contact Marcella Fremgen at Marcella.fremgen@co.usda.gov or call 970-964-3594

Open Pipes Project Update

By Mary Costello

With permission from the management of The Bridges Golf Course Community in Montrose, approximately 70 open pipes were recently closed to eliminate hazards to birds. Songbirds, such as bluebirds, can become fatally entrapped in open-ended pipes and succumb to starvation, dehydration, and heat.

Open pipes at The Bridges, that are used to mark the location of utilities, ranged in height and diameter, and most were located on undeveloped lots. We recommend instead the use of rebar or metal fence posts in lieu of open plastic pipes to mark utilities. Since many of these pipes are temporary, the easiest way to close them was with Gorilla Tape, which holds up in the elements much better than duct tape.



BCAS is grateful to The Bridges for their assistance in locating pipes and allowing us to quickly rectify the problem.

If you are aware of a new or existing subdivision with uncapped pipes, please notify Mary Costello at: mc.costello5@gmail.com.

Educational Activities with BCAS

Early spring is very busy for education activities and the Black Canyon Audubon Society has been involved with a number of educational festivals geared towards conservation education and getting children outdoors. The Paonia Conservation Days brought in about 400 students and teachers. Students attended stations on the importance of high-quality habitat for nesting, which increases nesting success by decreasing nest visibility to predators. The Montrose Natural Resources Festival brings in about 600 children, with BCAS providing two different stations. The stations included activities about nesting and bird identification. In addition, the education team also presented an activity on bird identification at the Family Nature Nights at both Ridgway and Paonia elementary schools; about 200 children and their families participated. Upcoming events are still being scheduled, so please check in on the BCAS website if you are interested in volunteering or attending educational events. Upcoming events will include a presentation at the Montrose Botanic Gardens and banding at Ridgway State Park on September 8, both of these activities are oriented to adult participants.

Why do Birds Matter?

The Cultural Importance of Birds

Humans and birds have a long history of interaction. From the cave paintings in France dated 16,500 years ago to present day, birds have been cultural icons, sources of food, have lived in our homes as pets, are on our walls depicted in pictures and murals, and in some cases have been featured as national symbols (bald eagle). In Guatemala, their national currency is named after the Resplendent Quetzal.

GMUG Forest Plan Update

Comment Deadline is June 2nd

The revision of the Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forest Plan is beginning with an opportunity to comment on Audubon's Rockies Mule Park Important Bird Area, near Paonia, as well as numerous other issues. The planning process is starting again after a decade-long delay. Forest Plans lay the framework for how the Forest will be managed for the next twenty or so years, which makes them critically important for wildlife and for human users of the forest. Please visit the GMUG website at www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gmug/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd500301 for more info.

The first part of the revision process is Scoping and the deadline to comment on what you want the forest to be like over the life of the plan is June 2nd. The 14-page scoping document can be found at www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd575501.pdf.

Among the parts of that document that we should support are its mention of "incorporating conservation biology principles" in the Adaptive Direction part; mention of "landscape scale" in the Ecological Sustainability part; mention of "relatively intact habitat" under Diversity of Plants and Animals; and again mentioning Conservation Biology under Best Science. We should also support GMUG's willingness to consider future climate scenarios in all aspects of planning.

It is also important that we show the Forest Service that there is broad support for designating the Mule Park Important Bird Area as a GMUG Special Interest Area. Important Bird Area (IBA) is a National Audubon Society designation for special habitats with unusually high importance for birds. Mule Park was designated an IBA in 2015. The Mule Park IBA, located north of Paonia, includes large areas with stands of pure aspens. The area is home to the largest population of Western Purple Martins, east of the Pacific Northwest coast. GMUG has shown interest in designating it in their pre-scoping Management Areas Assessment. We need to encourage them to make this designation, and to manage the area with strong protections from commercial logging, industrial energy development, and building of new roads or trails.

At this stage the FS is willing to listen to comments regarding general descriptions of how you want the forest to look in the future, what you don't want, or specific things you want to do in specific locations.

Comments can be sent by mail, email or the comment web site at <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=51806>.

By commenting at this stage you will be added to GMUG's mailing list to receive updates for future steps in the planning process

The Chatty Catbird

Like some people, he seems to give up his time to the pleasure of hearing himself talk...with lazy self-indulgence he sits by himself by the hour with relaxed muscles, and listlessly drooping wings and tail.

—Florence Merriam, *Birds Through an Opera Glass*, 1889

Annual Dinner and Silent Auction

BCAS celebrates the end of their fiscal year with an annual dinner, review of the year's accomplishments, guest speaker, and silent auction. Please join us at Remington's Restaurant in Montrose on June 20th. Use the attached form to reserve your space and let us know your food choices – there is a menu for all food needs or choices and the chef is terrific! We must receive your payment and reservation by June 13 and cannot accept walk-in guests. Chris Parish, renowned condor expert from Arizona, will provide a PowerPoint presentation on California condor reintroduction. This is also an opportunity to help raise funds for upcoming BCAS projects by participating in our silent auction. A variety of choices are available that include ski passes, golf lessons with a pro, Cuban cigars (!), a guided bird trip, art, books, and MORE! You must be able to pay for your silent auction item with a check or cash after the dinner on June 20. We look forward to seeing you!

The Big B Day, May 5, 2018

Ever wonder how many bird species could be seen in one day? Serious birders considered this question and created the "Big B Day". The challenge is to identify as many species as possible over a 24-hour period on a designated day and enter them into eBird. On May 5, 2018, close to 30,000 people from 170 countries set out individually, in teams, by vehicle, raft, or hiked into specific locations to challenge records set in 2017. And did they ever succeed! In 2017, 20,000 people participated from 150 countries and identified more than 6,500 species and submitted 53,000 checklists. In comparison in 2018, 6,931 species (about two-thirds of the world's bird species) were identified and 1.6 million bird sightings were documented in over 76,720 checklists. For the second year in a row, Columbia led with 1,546 species identified by over 1,600 birders, which included the President of Columbia and the Colombian Air Force; 5,046 checklists were submitted. Peru came in second with 1,623 checklists that identified 1,490 species, and Ecuador came in third with 220 birders who reported 1,154 species in 425 checklists. The lower 48 states in America came in 8th with a total of 44,195 checklists that identified 716 species. Texas, California, and Arizona identified the most species.

All totals were greater than what was reported in 2017. Put this event on your calendar as a 'will do' in 2019. I've enjoyed this two years in a row. (Editor)

More Than a Birding Trip

The penultimate for many birders is participating in that trip of a lifetime to bird in a unique location. Species exotic to us in Colorado are duly noted and entered into a life list. All good things! However, this article is about one BCAS member that went on a trip that included more than 'just' birding and touring. Do you remember this car and where do you think you can see it and others? Read on.



In 2017, BCAS member Janet Haw signed up to go on a birding trip to Cuba 2018. In February, 2018, Janet met up with her tour group of 13 in Cuba. Although sponsored by Sierra Club International Outings, the trip was led by White Hawk Birding, a group out of Spain. In addition to a guide provided by White Hawk, a Cuban guide also accompanied the group in their bus as they toured 1,700 miles over their ten-day stay. Along with seeing 22 of the 28 endemic birds on the island of Cuba, the group visited a school called Tunas de Zaza, located in a small fishing village on the southern coast. In

preparation for this trip, the Halifax River Audubon Chapter out of Daytona, Florida, had prepared Spanish language coloring books that depicted local birds and that they gave to the school. Crayons were also provided. The school was ready for the visit and the children welcomed the birders with a specially prepared skit.



As part of planning for the trip, participants were asked to bring any birding-related equipment or items

of birding interest they could spare that would be donated during the trip. Along with other Caribbean Islands, Cuba was hit hard by the hurricanes last fall and they are in need of everything. Two participants, including Janet, donated binoculars. Some of Janet's comments included how much the local populations care about their wildlife. In one instance, an individual who had 32 Bee Hummingbirds in his backyard noticed as Hurricane Irma was starting, that two of his Bee Hummingbirds appeared stunned on the ground. He brought them inside and found that they recovered; he then brought inside nine more of these hummingbirds before he had to stop. After the hurricane moved on, he found that including the 11 he was able to save, that of the original 32 Bee Hummingbirds in his back yard, there were only 17 left. These hummingbirds are the smallest bird in the world and endemic to Cuba. (Above is a photo of the school children

with their coloring books and tour participants; on the left is a photo of a Green Heron)

Thanks for a Great Lunch!

As part of the Eckert Crane Days festivities on March 17, the new owners and managers of the Hart's Basin Ranch invited everyone to the ranch for a meet-and-greet and a wonderful barbecue lunch. Many thanks to Mike Higuera, one of the owners of Conscience Bay Company, which recently purchased the ranch, ranch managers Mark and Polly Hill, and other ranch staff for a very nice afternoon. We very much enjoyed our visit to the ranch and finding out about their plans for sustainable ranching of the property north of the Fruitgrowers Reservoir causeway. We truly appreciate their concern about and interest in preserving the wildlife values of the ranch. Their approach to taking care of the land serves both wildlife and sustains the historic ranching culture and landscape of the area. The ranch adjoins and includes the very bird-rich wetlands habitat north of the reservoir. It is an important oasis for migratory birds, many of which we do not see elsewhere, and is vital habitat for a wide variety of wetland species. Fruitgrowers Reservoir and its adjoining wetlands are recognized as an Audubon Important Bird Area. Careful management, as is planned by the new owners, is incredibly necessary for it to

remain viable bird and wildlife habitat and the premier birding area of Delta County as well as a large part of western Colorado. In addition to the lunch, the Conscience Bay Company donated \$1,000 to BCAS.

Bird Festivals in the Four-Corners Area

June 13-14: Potholes and Prairie Birding Festival, Carrington, N.D. 701 652-2524 (Laurie Dietz)

July 27-29: Sedona Hummingbird Festival, Sedona, AZ. info@hummingbirdsociety.org 800 529-3699

August 1-4: 27th Southwest Wings Birding and Nature Festival, Sierra Vista, AZ. admin@swwings.org 520 266-0149

August 8-12: Southwest Arizona Birding Festival Tucson, AZ. Register tucsonaudubon.org/festival; more information: Luke Safford: lsafford@tucsonaudubon.org

August 30 – September 2: Yampa Valley Crane Festival, Steamboat Springs and Hayden, CO. coloradocranes@gmail.com <http://coloradocranes.org/>

Who Was That Bird Named For?

Steller's Jay

By Susan Chandler-Reed

Many of the western birds that have been featured in previous columns were named for nineteenth-century naturalists, several of whom were Philadelphia Quakers. In contrast, this month's bird, Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*), is the namesake of Georg Wilhelm Steller, an eighteenth century naturalist and explorer. Steller was born in Germany, worked and died in Russia, and never actually set foot in the United States.

Georg Steller (1709-1746) discovered a passion for the natural sciences while studying medicine at the University of Wittenberg and the University of Halle in Germany. He enlisted as a physician in the Russian Army from 1731-1734 and subsequently obtained a research position at the Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg. Steller accompanied Vitus Bering on his second expedition to Alaska from 1738 to 1742. The expedition landed on Kayak Island, Alaska in 1741. Though there for only one day, Steller's observation of a dark blue jay with physiological similarities to the blue jay led him to conclude that they had successfully reached North America. He also recorded the now-extinct Steller's flightless cormorant and the now-extinct marine mammal known as Steller's sea cow. Other species named after Steller are Steller's Eider (*Polysticta stelleri*), Steller's Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*), the Steller's sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*), hoary mugwort (*Artemisia stelleriana*), and gumboot chiton (*Cryptochiton stelleri*).



Bering's expedition came to a disastrous end when his ship was wrecked on a desolate island, now named Bering Island. Although Bering himself did not survive, the remaining crew was able to live through the harsh winter in crude huts, thanks in part, to Steller's medical expertise. After nine months, a boat was constructed from the ship's wreckage and the survivors sailed to Kamchatka.

Steller was an avid conservationist and was also vocal in his protests against mistreatment of native tribes, for which the Russians jailed him for a short time. After his release, he attempted to return to St. Petersburg, but contracted a fever and died in Siberia at the age of 35. His journals and notes, including the published book, *Journal of a Voyage with Bering 1741-1742*, proved useful to subsequent explorers of the northwest coast of North America, including Captain James Cook.

Sources:

Melissa Mantz, *Who Is Steller? Georg Wilhelm Steller Biography*, 2017. <https://www.thespruce.com/who-is-steller-4031227> (accessed May 2, 2018).

Bo Beolens, Michael Watkins, and Michael Grayson, *The Eponym Dictionary of Birds*, 2004. Bloomsbury Publishing.

Photograph courtesy of Alan and Elaine Wilson, www.naturespicsonline.com

Birds As They Affect Our Economy

Birders Spend Money!

- Between 60 and 81 million people in the U.S. enjoy birding; this is expected to increase to 108 million people by 2030.
- Birding is international in scope – reread the numbers in the Big B Day article on page 5.
- Birders make many purchases that result in positive direct and indirect economic impacts to local, national, and international economies.
- Purchases include equipment needed 'to bird', such as binoculars, scopes, tripods, cameras, all with upgrades as needed; clothes, packs, hiking boots, hats; field guides; cell phones to use the many bird Apps and GPS features; out-of-town expenses such as lodging, gas, misc. (e.g. batteries), food; money to pay guides; bird seed, bird feeders, bird houses, bird baths; misc. bird arcana (jewelry, ceramics, sculptures, art, etc.); bird gardening plants, catalogs, books of all kinds.

- Birders who participate in Christmas Bird Counts, conduct bird surveys on "Big B Day", or conduct surveys to establish a state or bird year-record will have expenditures that often contribute to local economies.
- Ecotourism often specializes in attracting birders who will be spending money in local economies.
- Private financial support of non-profit organizations that work to improve bird habitat or to create conservation areas, directly and indirectly, benefits local economies and often results in local employment.
- Advertising for trips, bird counts, and the results of these activities are other expenditures that would not occur if people did not want to view birds.
- How much does this affect our economy? A 2011 survey found that bird watchers spend an estimated **\$41 BILLION** annually.
- In 2011, 666,000 jobs were created as a result of bird watching expenditures.

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<http://www.blackcanyonaudubon.org>

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**Black Canyon Audubon Society (NAS Chapter D14)
Chapter Membership Form**

Members may participate in all chapter activities, receive our chapter newsletter, *Canyon Wrenderings*, and vote on chapter issues. Annual Chapter membership dues are \$20 for individual and \$30 for family membership. Dues remain local.

(Check one) Renewal ☐ New Member ☐

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (Optional): _____

Email (Required): _____

Enclosed

☐ \$20 for individual membership

☐ \$30 for family membership

Mail your renewal to:

Black Canyon Audubon Society, PO Box 387, Delta, CO 81416.