



# 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

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## A Tale of a Bluebird Trail

By Carrie Krickbaum

*Readers may remember a short article in a recent newsletter about the bluebird boxes that Terry Ryan monitored at Ridgway State Park for many years. Connecting with those boxes, is another bluebird trail that winds from the Park into the town of Ridgway and six more miles south.*

I've had the privilege to get to know Joan Moyer since I started working seasonally at Ridgway State Park. She is on the board of the Friends of Ridgway State Park, which is involved in funding educational field trips for schools, a memorial garden, trash clean-up, maintenance projects, a scholarship fund, and more. She kindly agreed to give me some more background about her late husband and the blue bird trail they established in

*continued on page 4*

## Look and Listen:

### The Sandhill Cranes Will Fly In Soon

By Dian Torphy

Sandhill cranes will be making their way north again with sightings usually beginning in early March. Larger numbers will congregate as the weather warms and good weather for flying becomes common. Although BCAS will not be hosting Eckert Crane Days due to Covid-19, we do encourage

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## President's Message

As I write this, in mid-February, I can't tell if we are still in Winter, or is it Spring already?

We got 12 inches of snow a few days ago at my house south of Montrose (2/14/2021). The next day we were sitting outside enjoying the sun. The days are getting noticeably longer and the sun is higher in the sky.

I think Spring is the best time of year for birding. In fact, some birds are already starting to move northward. Male Red-winged Blackbirds have returned to their nesting territories. You might also be seeing Mountain Bluebirds and Pintail ducks, which migrate early. Great Horned Owls are already sitting on nests. Ravens, Red-Tailed Hawks, and Golden Eagles are doing their courting behaviors. Other birds are still here that we only expect to see in the Winter, like Rough-Legged Hawks and Snow Geese.

The BCAS board of directors is sorry that we are not doing very many in-person things this year, due to Covid-19. Hopefully, in a few months, we'll all have our vaccines and we can go back to normal. Our Eckert Crane Days event is canceled this year, but you can do-it-yourself. The Sandhill Cranes will probably be migrating up from New Mexico most days during March, and you can go see them for yourself at Fruitgrowers Reservoir. Watch this website for updates on sightings <http://eckertcranedays.com/where-were-counting/>.

### Help Monitor Bluebird boxes

We are looking for volunteers to monitor bluebird nest boxes this spring at Ridgway State Park and Billy Creek State Wildlife Management Area.

We are also looking for volunteers to drive injured raptors to rehab centers. Usually, the bird is in a pet kennel, and just needs a ride. Nothing hard about it.

BCAS also needs a new treasurer. See below.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Bruce Ackerman

## Volunteer Treasurer Needed!

Dian Torphy would like to retire from the volunteer treasurer position she has held for several years! Do you have a couple of hours per month to devote to this position? Call Dian if you might be interested! You can reach her at (303) 709-4386.

### Canyon Wrenderings

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#### ON THE COVER

Mountain Bluebird foraging on the ground. © Don Marsh.

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and Missy Siders (see page 3 for contact information)

Eckert Crane Days—Dian Torphy

**A note about email addresses in this newsletter: All emails have an extra space before the @ sign to discourage webcrawlers from spam activities.**



## The Amazing Gunnison Sage-grouse on the Lek

By Sallie Thoreson

The iconic image of the Gunnison Sage-grouse (*Centrocercus minimus*) is the resplendent male strutting on the lek (mating area). This happens in the Spring, usually from April to mid-May for the Gunnison Basin population of this bird.

Sage-grouse establish leks in valley bottoms, basins, and even on ridge tops. Having some sagebrush for cover from predators seems necessary, as well as sagebrush along the edges for females to watch before engaging in the action at leks. Good acoustics is probably at play, too. Leks are used from year to year, but Sage-grouse may abandon a lek or move the boundaries of a lek in response to encroachment of too much tall vegetation, frequent presence of predators, human activity, and too much human viewing pressure.

What happens at the leks? It all about sight and sound to advertise for females. The males start vocalizing before dawn. They inflate the two greenish-yellow air sacs in their neck and make plopping or “twanging glug” noises. The dance or strut is also important. The tail fans out and the head bobs forward rapidly to help inflate and quickly deflate the sacs. The males may fight each other with their wings. The display may last for around an hour after sunrise. Males will continue to visit a lek for 30 days or more, until no more females arrive.

You can see and hear lekking at <https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/on-a-lek-with-gunnison-sage-grouse/> or on various Youtube videos.

The female Sage-grouse do the choosing. It works out that one or two dominant males garner the attention of most of the females each season. When the female has mated, she establishes a nest area, generally not far from the lek. She is looking for cover with sufficient tall sagebrush and grasses to build her nest

You can see a lek at the Waunita Watchable Wildlife Site outside of Gunnison. The Sisk-a-dee group and Western Colorado University help manage the human visitors. Find out more at [www.siskadee.org](http://www.siskadee.org). ■

## Turkeys In Courtship Display

By Mary Menz

Wild Turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) have started their courtship displays on Log Hill in Ouray County and elsewhere in SW Colorado. This male was admiring his colorful self in a reflective basement window. He did not care that I was on the other side of the window. To see his engorged and reddened dewlap and caruncles up close was fascinating. His snood flapped as he gobbled and his long



feathered tassel or “beard” (not visible in this photo) was prominent. His face featured quite a few hairs and his nictitating third eyelid was active.

Male courtship displays continue through March and can be prolonged by snow or rainy weather.

Females will lay up to 18 eggs, one per day, until ready to incubate. Incubation

takes nearly a month and the nestlings will forage on their own within two days of hatching.

There is much evidence of turkeys being raised by native people in the Four Corners region. Archaeological sites, including Mesa Verde, included turkey pens. The animals were not raised for meat, as much as they were for their feathers (up to 6000 per bird). Research indicates that the ancient Pueblo people started using turkey feathers for blankets during the Basketmaker II era of 400 B.C. to 500 A.D

Read more in a recent article “Keeping the Ancients Warm: Ancestral Puebloans Created Turkey Feather Blankets in the February 13, 2021, edition of the *Durango Herald* newspaper <https://durangoherald.com/articles/364434>.

Read more about turkey anatomy at <https://www.thoughtco.com/turkey-facts-373349>. ■

## First Tuesday Field Trips

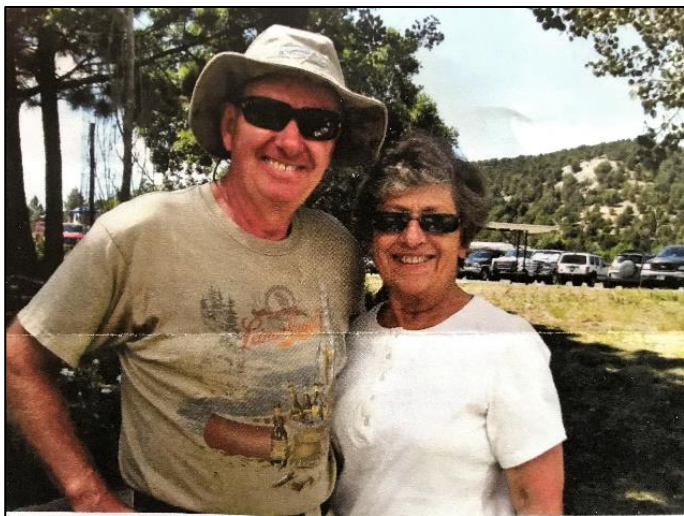
These field trips will continue as COVID-19 protocols allow: with small groups, driving separately, and wearing masks. Mark your calendars for **March 2, April 6, May 4, and June 12**. Meet at 9 AM at the northeastern corner of the Gold's Gym parking lot in Montrose (corner of Hillcrest and East Main St). All skill levels are welcome.

Bring a snack, water, binoculars, and field guides. Trips generally last until NOON. Contact Don at (209) 256-5744 or at [ridgwaybrdr@gmail.com](mailto:ridgwaybrdr@gmail.com) for more information. Bill Harris is also working on a May birding trip to the West End. ■

## Bluebird Trail continued from cover

Ridgway. Dennis passed away in 2013, and Joan has carried on with his bluebird legacy since.

Dennis and Joan Moyer raised their family in Wausau, WI, and in their 32 years there, Dennis became an avid bird watcher. He monitored the numbers and species of birds that he and Joan witnessed every year. During that time, he also became acquainted with the Bluebird Restoration Program in Wisconsin and made bluebird boxes for a five-mile bluebird trail. He monitored these houses for the program for ten years until they retired and moved to Colorado.



**Dennis and Joan Moyer. Courtesy of Joan Moyer.**

In 2002, the Moyers joined the Friends of Ridgway State Park, and Dennis became very interested in the bluebird trail Terry Ryan had established in the Park. Dennis began building houses and developed a bluebird trail from Ridgway State Park to Ponderosa Village subdivision south of Ridgway. There are 58 nest boxes on this “trail” that meanders along Hwy 550, through Dennis Weaver Park and the Ridgway River Walk, and various points six miles south on private properties. He monitored those houses faithfully and, invariably, some houses were demolished by bears, were stolen, or were removed by change of property owners.

Nineteen years later, 58 bluebird boxes still remain on the trail. They house Mountain Bluebirds, Western Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, Violet Green Swallows, and, every year, one family of Ash-throated Flycatchers. An average of 200 birds are monitored each season. You can see these houses in the park and along the bike path to Ridgway.

The boxes constructed by Dennis feature a metal predator guard on the post, unlike the ones that Terry Ryan placed along the wildlife fencing within the park boundaries. As reported in *Canyon Wreanderings* (Fall 2020), Terry’s boxes are now monitored by BCAS volunteers.

## The Colorado Bluebird Project

I also have had the privilege of meeting Kevin Corwin, chair of the Colorado Bluebird Project, based out of Denver. He is an enthusiastic person who loves sharing his knowledge of bluebirds and other birds. He remembers that the Colorado Bluebird Project originated in the Division of Wildlife circa 1990.

“From what I’ve been able to gather, the primary goal, which was apparently achieved, was to build a continuous line of nest boxes across the state—east to west—and to have volunteers monitor those boxes and report their seasonal results on paper reports to a volunteer who oversaw the whole project from DOW HQ in Denver,” said Kevin. DOW is now known as Colorado Parks and Recreation (CPW).

“That incarnation continued for about ten years; then the volunteer in charge moved out of state. Apparently, a lot of the field workers continued their work, but any reports sent to Denver were not processed. The Project had a box-building program at DOW HQ, which provided most of the boxes for the cross-state trail. There was also an arrangement between DOW HQ and Denver Audubon, whereby DOW built small numbers of box kits for Audubon to use in their program for young children to assemble and decorate. A few years after the DOW lead volunteer left and the project foundered (~2003), the Division approached Denver Audubon and asked if they wanted to take over the project. The Audubon Society gathered a small group of volunteers to study the subject and the group decided to recommend Audubon take it on. That group became the Audubon committee that continues to this day.”

Kevin also shared that the Colorado Bluebird Project Committee under Denver Audubon revamped the character of the project from a centrally-managed single-organization program to a laissez-faire program open to any person, group, or organization interested in monitoring nest boxes and reporting results to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s NestWatch. program. Now, the only role the Committee has is one of education and assistance.

“We fulfill that role primarily by delivering educational presentations to groups,” said Kevin. “The programs are adapted to the group’s knowledge and interest level. Presentations usually include a PowerPoint presentation, free literature about various aspects of nest box monitoring and management, a video that condenses the nesting cycle into 10 minutes, and open-roof nest boxes that allow people to see exactly what the nests and eggs of different species of nest box users look like.”





**Western Bluebird © Carrie Krickbaum.**

“We provide other services such as site surveys to help new groups determine if the habitat they wish to put boxes on is suitable for nest box users, and we answer individual questions on all related subjects. We also provide a data-entry service for monitors who are not able to report their results to NestWatch, and we build and sell nest boxes and nest box kits for anyone who wants to buy them.”

To learn more about bluebird nest boxes and nest sites for other species in Colorado, check out the Nestwatch website at <https://nestwatch.org/nw/public/map>. ■

## **Cranes** continued from cover

members and the public to take a trip to Fruitgrowers Reservoir to witness the annual migration of these inspiring birds and listen for their calls.

According to the National Audubon Society, 25% of the world’s population of the Greater Sandhill Crane subspecies come to Fruitgrowers Reservoir each spring. Their typical path is from the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico to Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge in Colorado, on to Eckert and finally up to Gray’s Lake National Wildlife Refuge near Pocatello Idaho. From there, lifelong mates spread out for breeding and rearing of young.

Their stop at Fruitgrowers Reservoir provides good habitat for food and for protection, a much needed overnight stop along their trip north. Their diet consists mainly of plant material such as grains, roots, berries, and seeds; but, they also rely on insects and snails. The shallow waters of the reservoir provide safety for the birds while they rest at night.

Cranes will travel 200 miles per day at speeds up to 35 miles per hour. It is a dangerous time for them and conservation of

habitat is critical for their survival. At one time, their numbers were declining due to hunting and loss of habitat. Currently Crane populations in the Rocky Mountain Corridor are on the upswing due to research, seasonal protections, ongoing studies, and improved management.

If you have seen Sandhill Cranes this winter, they are most likely from a group that winters in Delta County. Those Cranes leave as the New Mexico population starts to arrive. These wintering Cranes in Delta can typically be seen along Hwy 50 driving north out of Delta, or along G-50 Road in the Escalante State Wildlife area.

If you haven’t seen Sandhill Cranes, it is a thrill to watch them. The best time of day to catch the newly arriving Cranes is late afternoon as they fly into Hart’s Basin or mid-to late-morning when they take off. New groups arrive most days from early March to mid-April and typically only stay one night.

To get to Fruitgrowers Reservoir (or Hart’s Basin, as it’s also called), take Highway 65 to North Rd. in Eckert. Head east to the reservoir. There is a pull-off before the reservoir that is typically good for viewing. There is also a parking area near the reservoir and additional pull-offs along the roadway. Cranes are not the only birds to look for. Keep an eye out for water, shore, and song birds. The reservoir provides habitat for many species and has been designated an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society, with over 200 species sighted.

For many of us it is an annual outing. The arrival of the Sandhill Cranes is one of the great harbingers of spring. For additional information and daily counts, visit [www.eckertcranedays.com](http://www.eckertcranedays.com). Also check out [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) for a list of species sighted at the reservoir. ■



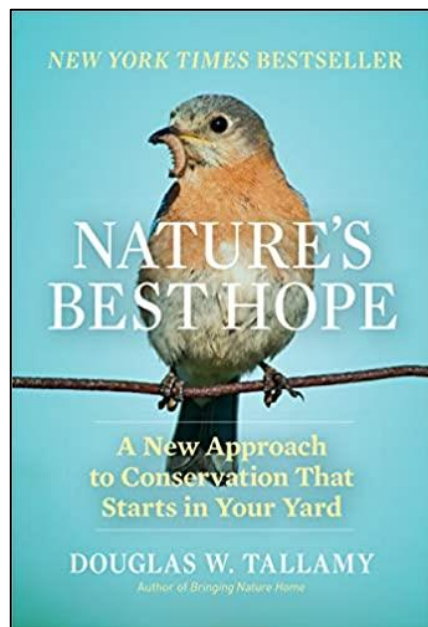
**Sandhill Cranes © Missy Siders.**

## Book Reviews

### *Nature's Best Hope*

Reviewed by Sallie Thoreson

We have heard a lot about the value of native plants for birds. Douglas Tallamy has written this book to really give us the science of plant-insect-bird connections AND to demonstrate how we can make a difference for birds on a collective scale. Dian Torphy covered this subject well in her article for the Fall 2020 issue of *Canyon Wreanderings*.



Plants try their best to avoid having their leaves eaten, by manufacturing chemicals that are distasteful to leaf eaters such as butterfly and moth larvae (caterpillars) and other insects. Caterpillars have co-evolved with the plants in their habitat and have developed ways to handle the plant defenses of a few species. But non-native trees and shrubs, commonly

found in our landscaped yards and urban areas, are not conducive to caterpillars.

Tallamy is a professor in the department of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware. His focus in this book is how we can have an impact on the more than 160-million acres of urban and rural residential land.

Tallamy tells many science stories to illustrate why caterpillars are so essential to birds. A revelation to me was the existence of carotenoids in those easy-to-digest caterpillars. As they are for humans, carotenoids are essential for a healthy bird diet. The carotenoids from caterpillars boost bird immune systems, improve color vision and sperm vitality, enhance the color quality of feathers, and provide antioxidant benefits. Native plants mean more caterpillars for birds.

The author really makes the point for the value of native plants when he relates his wife asking, in frustration, why it was so important to keep goldenrod in the garden. To condense his response: goldenrod supports 110 species of caterpillars and many species of beetles and wasps. Its flowers provide pollen for 35 native bee species. Its seeds feed wintering sparrows, juncos, and finches and are a source for their nest linings in the spring. And, its stems

house native bees and several stem-boring caterpillars. The list goes on—much to the chagrin of his wife, I'm sure.

The book also discusses the role of native bees, why grass lawns are an almost sterile environment, and how we can act to restore biodiversity. “We can save the natural world—and ourselves, for we are part of it, and it is an inextricable and essential part of us - if we stop segregating ourselves from nature and learn to live as a part of it.” We can start at home.

Check out the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Native Plants Finder ([www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder](http://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder)) for the trees, shrubs, flowers, and grasses in each zip code that provide the best feed for your caterpillar ranch. In our area, some of the best plants include native chokecherry, willows, pines, and goldenrod!

The National Audubon Society also has an excellent source of information on native plants. [www.audubon.org/native-plants](http://www.audubon.org/native-plants).

You can cross-reference both databases with Colorado State University Extension factsheets on native plants at <https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/?target=publications#native>. ■

#### Tallamy's Eight Steps to Rewild America

- 1. Shrink your lawn.**  
“Every little bit of habitat helps,” he says.
- 2. Remove invasive plants.**  
Introduced plants sustain less animal diversity than natives plants do.
- 3. Create no-mow zones.**  
It's better for caterpillars and other insects.
- 4. Equip outdoor lights with motion sensors.**  
Light blazing all night disturbs animal behavior.
- 5. Plant keystone species.**  
Find the best native trees, shrubs and other plants for your yard.
- 6. Welcome pollinators.**  
Goldenrod and other native plants support native bees.
- 7. Fight mosquitoes with bacteria.**  
Use *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) in water sources.
- 8. Avoid harsh chemicals.**  
Try environmental modifications and biological controls first. ■



## Who was that Bird Named For?

# Bullock's Oriole and Baltimore Oriole

By Susan Chandler-Reed

William Bullock (c.1773-1849) was an English goldsmith and jeweler, and was also known as a naturalist and antiquarian. In 1795, he opened the Museum of Natural Curiosities in Liverpool, where more than 32,000 items and 3,000 skins (some from James Cook's expeditions) were displayed.



In 1822, Bullock traveled to Mexico, where he speculated in silver and gold mines. While there, he also obtained artifacts from archaeological sites and collected biological specimens. The antiquities were brought back to London to the Piccadilly Egyptian Hall. Bullock sold many of his biological specimens—

including an oriole collected while visiting one of his mines near Mexico City—to his friend and ornithologist William Swainson. Swainson named the bird in Bullock's honor.

Bullock ended up in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he proposed the utopian town of Hygeia, intended to be the first "town of retirement." He also published several pamphlets on natural history during his lifetime.



The Baltimore Oriole was so named because the bird's plumage reminded the English naturalist Mark Catesby of the black and yellow livery of first Baron Baltimore George Calvert. Calvert

(c. 1580-1632) was the British Secretary of State under King James I before resigning in 1625 and converting to Catholicism. The king rewarded him by naming him the first Baron Baltimore and giving him the right to found a colony in the New World as a refuge for persecuted Catholics. After an expensive failure in Newfoundland, the king granted Lord Baltimore land north of the Potomac River in Maryland. The City of Baltimore was named after his son, Cecil, the second Baron Baltimore. The Maryland state flag contains the black and yellow fields of the barony—and the striking colors of the Baltimore Oriole!

The scientific and common names of the two orioles also reflect their appearance, the word "oriole," which means golden, from the Latin *aureus*. The family and genus names, *Icteridae* and *Icterus*, derive from the Greek word for

jaundice, or yellowing. These two species were formerly known as Northern Orioles, until studies in the 1990s revealed their distinct DNA and breeding ranges. Bullock's Orioles (*Icterus bullockii*) breed in the western U.S., whereas Baltimore Orioles (*Icterus galbula*) breed in the eastern U.S. The two species hybridize in their area of overlap on the Great Plains. Orioles eat insects, fruit, and nectar and weave

distinctive sock-like hanging nests.

Bullock's Oriole males are characterized by orange faces; a black throat, cap, and eye line; and



a larger white wing patch. Females have a whitish belly. Bullock's Orioles migrate in two stages, first laying over in the southwestern US and northern Mexico during the fall monsoons, before continuing south as far as southern Mexico for the five months of the nonbreeding season.



Baltimore Oriole males have black heads and faces, and females have orangish bellies. They migrate during the nonbreeding season to Central and South America, where they forage on orange and banana trees. Because of their preference for dark fruit, their arrival on coffee farms indicates the coffee berries are turning red and it

is time to harvest.

Oriole photographs courtesy Alan and Elaine Wilson, <http://www.naturespicsonline.com>.

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Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology

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# Generating Conservation Conversations

By Sallie Thoreson, Conservation Chair

We all know there is a lot of work to do to counteract the rollback of over 150 environmental protections for our air, water, and land. Much can (and is!) being done through the Biden administration orders, directives, and Cabinet and agency appointments. But important legislation needs to go through Congress, and that still will be difficult.

**Rejoice** On Inauguration Day, President Biden halted oil and gas leasing activities on public lands.

The Colorado's Outdoor Recreation Economy (CORE) Act has been introduced into both the U.S House and Senate, and this time there is great hope that it will pass. For one thing, Colorado Congressman Joe Neguse, who has introduced the legislation in the House for the last three years, was recently elected as Chair of the U.S. House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands. The CORE Act will help ensure that 400,000 acres of some of the most pristine places in Colorado are protected and is expected to boost Colorado's outdoor recreation economy. CORE is just one of Congressman Neguse's conservation priorities.

The National Audubon Society is leading efforts to reinstate the protections for bird under the incidental take clause of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. More good news is the passage of Proposition 114 will lead to a plan for the reintroduction of gray wolves in the state by 2023.

**Regroup** This can be a good time to go back and reread some important documents to keep your eye on conservation priorities. Addressing the decline of bird species and biodiversity are two high priorities. Here are a couple of good studies and websites to review:

Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink at <https://www.audubon.org/climate/survivalbydegrees>

Decline of the North American avifauna at <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/366/6461/120.abstract>

United Nations Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/05/1037941>.

It's also a good time to thank your legislators for the work they have done and to be sure they know your priorities.

**Refocus** Organizations are developing their list of priorities. For example, the Five Priorities for President Biden from the Environmental Defense Fund are: 1) Renew U.S. climate leadership worldwide, 2) Power up the economy, 3) Start listening to science again, 4) Protect communities from

pollution and toxic chemicals, and 5) Build climate resilience.

Governor Polis in his February 17 State of the State address specifically mentioned protecting our public lands and "continuing to invest in wildlife crossings and migration corridors."

An Executive Order from the Biden Administration committed to conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by the year 2030. Colorado has a head start with 10 percent of land, or about 6 million acres, already in protected status. It's an ambitious goal to protect at least 14 million more acres of lands and waterways by 2030. More information on Colorado's Pathways to 30x30 is available at Conservation Colorado and the Western Resources Advocates: <https://conservationco.org> or <https://westernresourceadvocates.org/lands/30x30/>

And let's not forget the importance of support for the basic environmental laws and policies. A recent study found that improved air quality as a result of federal programs to reduce ozone pollution may have saved over 1.5 billion birds during the past 40 years. Ozone pollution is harmful to small migratory birds (such as sparrows, warblers, and finches) that make up 86 percent of all North American landbird species. Ozone pollution may damage birds' respiratory system, and indirectly affects birds by harming the plants and insects the birds rely on. Human health and bird health are truly linked. *Yuanning Liang, Ivan Rudik, Eric Zou, Alison Johnston, Amanda D. Rodewald, Catherine L. Kling. Conservation Co-Benefits from Air Pollution Regulation: Evidence from Birds. PNAS, 2020 DOI:10.1073/pnas.2013568117*

**All Conservation is Local** It's often easier to get involved in big issues like supporting the CORE Act but sometimes harder to get involved in local conservation issues. Wilderness habitat can be abstract since most of us don't visit there every day. But we do walk in our neighborhoods and in our local parks and trails. I'm rediscovering how precious our river corridors are and the advantages of preserving them as natural areas or open space. This means getting involved in talking with neighbors, attending city council and county commissioner meetings, and tracking planning and development activities. But it's just as important to our mental and physical health and the health and resiliency of the environment we call home.

■



# The World is the Osprey's Oyster

By Carrie Krickbaum

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) have a worldwide distribution. The species is found in temperate and tropical regions of all continents except Antarctica. This incredible photo is what drew me to read more about Osprey.

This photographer uses a method called chronophotography, which traces its origins back in the mid-19TH century during the Victorian era. This technique captures multiple stages of movements, and each frame is then placed in one frame to display motion. It's particularly interesting when looking at how Osprey dive from the sky when fishing.

More cool facts about this raptor:

- Osprey are sometimes known as sea hawks, fish eagles, or fish hawks.
- Fish make up 99% of the Osprey's diet. Occasionally, Osprey may prey on rodents, rabbits, hares, amphibians, other birds, and small reptiles.
- Osprey typically take fish weighing 5–10 oz and about 10–14 in long. Virtually any type of fish in that size range are taken.
- Osprey are particularly well adapted for catching fish. They have reversible outer toes, sharp barb-like spicules on the underside of the toes, closable nostrils to keep out water during dives, and backwards-facing scales on the talons which act as barbs to help hold its catch.
- Osprey and owls are the only raptors whose outer toe is reversible, allowing them to grasp their prey with two toes in front and two behind.



Photos by Chen Chengguang. These photos accompanied an article dated January 2, 2020. See this link for more information. <https://mymodernmet.com/osprey-chronography-chen-chengguang/>

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## NestWatch

### Be Part of a Citizen Science Movement!

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's NestWatch is a free tool for people of all ages. Interested in watching nests nationwide? Want to report nesting activity in your yard? Put the data to work on NestWatch.

Visit <https://nestwatch.org/> for more information and download the free app!



Look for the  
NestWatch App Icon

Black Canyon Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 387  
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Due to the evolving COVID-19 restrictions,  
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