



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

Fall 2023

Volume 37 Number 3



Wilson's Warbler takes a bug back to the nest by Verlee Sanburg

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Motus Wildlife Tracking System Project

By Missy Siders (BCAS Board) and David Sinton

If you attended Scott Weidensaul's talk on July 5th, you heard some interesting information on the migration of birds, and a little bit about the Motus Wildlife Tracking System. The Black Canyon Audubon Society is interested in setting up a Motus receiving tower soon and joining the Motus System. In fact, The Black Canyon Audubon has earmarked \$3,000 to go toward the tower and installation. We are evaluating potential locations for tower placement.

What does this mean? The Motus Wildlife Tracking System (Motus) is an international collaborative research network that uses coordinated automated radio telemetry to facilitate research and education on migratory animals. Motus is a program of *Birds Canada* in partnership with collaborating researchers and organizations such as American Bird Conservancy and Bird Conservancy of the Rockies.

Go to motus.org and have a look at the map stations around the world. Then zoom in to Colorado. Motus coverage in the southwest corner of Colorado, and in much of the Southwest is extremely limited, especially compared to the eastern United States and Canada.

Motus, continued page 5

President's Message

by Bruce Ackerman

It is Fall – birds are starting to migrate! Some, like Rufous Hummingbirds have already been heading south since July. Bullock's Orioles are headed south now too. We have lots of good birding field trips and evening lectures coming up.

Thanks to everyone who attended our Annual Dinner back on June 15 at the yummy Grove Restaurant in Delta. I am pretty sure you know that I missed it! Susan cut her leg badly that afternoon, and we spent the whole evening in the Montrose Hospital Emergency Room. The Board of Directors shifted into Emergency Mode and handled everything very well without me. And thank you to our speaker Dr. Bruce Bauerle.

We also had a great time with our Super Guest Speaker Scott Weidensaul on July 5. About 300 people attended his free lecture at the Pavilion! A few of us went birding with him up on Dave Wood Road, and then went out to dinner at the Stonehouse. Kristal Stidham, BCAS Vice President, singlehandedly caused this event to happen! We sold a stack of Scott's recent books. Friends of the Montrose Library split the costs with us, which was a big stretch for both groups. The Friends of the Library brought a big stack of used bird books that went home with attendees with a donation.

By the time that you receive this newsletter, Susan and I will be on a Bucket List Trip to Australia for a 16-day guided birding trip. Starting August 26, we will be following the Australian birds on their Spring Migration, as the birds head South to cooler locations in Australia. We will be visiting the areas around Cairns, Melbourne, and Tasmania. Australia has many more bird species than North America, and many kinds that are much different – 150 kinds of parrots and parakeets, 100 kinds of honeycreepers, and many other kinds that are unique to that part of the world.

Thanks everyone for being with us this summer!



BCAS June Black Canyon National Park field trip by Pam Miller

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Conservation—Sallie Thoreson (see above)

Field Trips—Don Marsh (see above)

Membership—Missy Siders (see above)

Publicity—Susan Werner 970-688-0757

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 if it is a good fit for your skills and talents! We would love to have an at-large board member. Volunteers are always welcome.

Canyon Wrenderings

The Quarterly Journal of the Black Canyon Audubon Society, **Vol. 37 No. 3**
Managing editor: Susan Werner at
[Wrenderingseditor @gmail.com](mailto:Wrenderingseditor@gmail.com)

Volunteer Opportunities!

Black Canyon Audubon Society is looking for volunteers to help us accomplish our mission.

- **Ridgway Bird Banding:** Between the 4th and 16th of September, volunteers are needed to help with education at the Ridgway State Park bird banding station. Please contact Carrie Krickbaum at carrie.krickbaum@gmail.com.
- September 16 **Workday**, Black Canyon Audubon will join the Colorado Canyon Association and the BLM's Uncompaghre Field Office to improve Gunnison Sage-Grouse habitat near Crawford. Whit Blair, the USFWS lead for this threatened species, will be a leader. According to Whit: "Lop and scatter is where we take hedge cutters and remove sapling pinyons and junipers that are encroaching into sagebrush habitat. The trees, when they become tall enough, create potential perches for avian predators." Translation: this work is a bit physical, but not strenuous – and it's a great way for bird-lovers like us to get involved in a meaningful way!

Tools and T-shirts will be provided. Please bring a picnic lunch, beverages, and clothing appropriate for outdoor labor. The meeting place will be provided when you RSVP. It is a 75-minute drive (60 miles) from downtown Montrose. To ensure streamlined communication, participants must sign up online. Right click: [National Public Lands Day in Gunnison Gorge NCA — Community Events \(coloradocanyonsassociation.org\)](#)



Rufous Hummingbird by Verlee Sanburg

BCAS Fall 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 **8:00AM** and return in the early afternoon, unless noted in the trip description. Please RSVP with an email 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:

September 5, October 3, November 7, & December 5.

Meet at **9AM** at the public parking lot at the intersection of N. 2nd St. and N. Cascade Ave. in Montrose. **Note the time change!**

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

Saturday, September 9, 2023

Bird Banding at Ridgway State Park

Stop by and watch a professional bird bander at work anytime between 7:00AM and noon. Earlier is better. This is a drop-in, do-it-yourself opportunity and there will be no leader, but volunteers will be present to answer your questions. Birds will be banded between September 4 and September 16 at the south end of the road from the Dallas Creek entrance to Ridgway State Park.

Saturday, September 23, 2023, 7:00AM

Specie Mesa and Miramonte Reservoir

Join us as we explore the bird life along Specie Creek Road (M44 Road) on our way to Miramonte Reservoir in San Miguel County. Migrating ducks, shorebirds and raptors are regularly seen along this route. The reservoir is approximately an hour and forty-five minutes from Montrose, so we'll need an early start. You can also meet at the Ridgway Visitor Center at the southwest corner of Highway 550 and Highway 62 at 7:30AM, or at the start of Specie Creek Road near its intersection with Highway 145 northeast of Placerville just after 8:00AM. We expect to wrap up birding around 1 pm, before heading home. Be sure to dress in layers, and bring lunch, snacks, water, and a spotting scope if you have one. RSVP required! Leave a good contact number in your email so we can call you in case of any last-minute trip changes.

Wednesday, October 11, 2023, 8AM

Owl Creek Pass area (Ridgway/Ouray County)

Join us as we look for birds and enjoy the fall colors around Owl Creek Pass east of Ridgway. Possible birds include Canada Jay, Dusky Grouse and American Three-toed Woodpecker. The scenery should be spectacular at this time of year. RSVP required! For those who live south of Montrose, you can meet the trip at the Ridgway Visitor Center at the southwest corner of Highway 550 and Highway 62 at 8:30AM.

Saturday, November 18, 8AM

Confluence Park and G50 Road in Delta (Delta County)

Spot wintering waterfowl and raptors that take advantage of open water in the reservoir in Confluence Park. Hundreds of ducks, geese and other species regularly use this lake as a resting spot. After we've birded Confluence Park, we'll travel to local ranch fields and ponds that often host Sandhill Cranes and other birds. Those coming from the Delta area may wish to meet the trip at Confluence Park near the reservoir just after 8:30 AM. Be sure to dress in layers, and bring lunch, snacks, water, and a spotting scope if you have one. RSVP required!

BCAS 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 either virtual or in-person on the third Tuesday of each month at 2:00 PM. Contact Bruce Ackerman for details.

Tuesday, September 19 (in person)

The Delightful Horror of Family Birding, by Eli Knapp (2018)

In this collection of essays, author Eli Knapp, navigates the world with his college students and his children in hopes that appreciation of nature will burn intensely for generations to come, not peter out in merely a flicker. He demonstrates how birds can be a portal to deeper relationships, ecological understanding, and joy.

Tuesday, October 17 (in person)

The Secret Lives of Bats: My Adventures with the World's Most Misunderstood Mammals

by Merlin Tuttle (2015)

What better way to celebrate the arrival of Fall than to learn about bats? Sharing highlights from a lifetime of adventure and discovery, Tuttle takes us to the frontiers of bat research to show amazing new facts that frog-

eating bats can identify frogs by their calls, that some bats have social sophistication like that of higher primates, and that bats have remarkable memories.

Tuesday, November 21 (Zoom)

What an Owl Knows: The New Science of the World's Most Enigmatic Birds by Jennifer Ackerman (2023)

Jennifer Ackerman brings the rich biology and natural history of these birds alive. She shares scientific discoveries about owl brains and behavior. We now know that the hoots, squawks, and chitters of owls follow sophisticated and complex rules, allowing them to express not just their needs and desires but their individuality and identity. Learn why owls are so fascinating.

**Dr. Markus Mika, who spoke at the BCAS
May program meeting, banding a
Flammulated Owl**



*"I speak to a lot of Audubon groups and the members of BCAS are the **most engaged** and ask me the **best questions**. Please tell them I said this."* Dr. Markus Mika, University of Wisconsin La Crosse.

Photo by Joe Evans

Fall Program Meetings

By Kristal Stidham, BCAS Board member

Programs are **open to all**, and they are free. All meetings are at 7:00PM in the Summit Room of the Montrose Field House (25 Colorado Avenue in Montrose)

Thursday, September 14, 7:00PM

Tim Avery, guide, and owner of Utah's Pitta Nature Tours will tell us about his recent Himalayan Snowcock Expeditions. A small population of this introduced Asian species is resident only high in the Ruby Mountains of Nevada. It is a challenging target of Big Year listers. Tim will also speak about their other tour offerings including Mexico, Panama, the Caribbean, and Bali.

Thursday, October 12, 7:00PM

Paul Morey, Chief of Natural Resources for Mesa Verde National Park, and Yucca House National Monument will speak about recent habitat and wildlife challenges in the parks, including managing bear and wild horse populations. He will also highlight birding in the parks and the Ute Mountain Mesa Verde Birding Festival, held annually in May. Mesa Verde is a crown jewel of the National Park system, and it will surely be interesting to hear details about the park from an insider!

Thursday, November 9, 7:00PM (Lecture and potluck)

"Share and Share Alike!" Fran LeBlanc has been an outdoor enthusiast and Montrose resident for 50 years. Fran asked to share some special bird encounters throughout her life. Come ready to participate with your own best stories about birding in this area. In the spirit of sharing, let's also have a potluck and a bird-themed item swap. Please bring your favorite finger food and any birding books, knick-knacks, and home décor that you'd like to repurpose to others. Utensils and beverages will be provided.

Avian Ramblings

By Bill Harris, BCAS Board member

[Editor's Note: Bill Harris is doing a Colorado Big Year, trying to see as many bird species as possible in the state. He took a break in June to travel to Portugal with Kathy.]

Prior to late May I was spotting a nice variety of birds. By the time we traveled to Portugal I had 216 species on my Colorado list. When I returned from Europe, I resumed my search for birds but spotting a new bird species for the year became a chore. Birding in the grips of the July heatwave was a challenge! Some of that hassle was related to my success with seeing lots of species before late May.

Early morning forays to the high country provided some relief. One bonus of is the annual display of wildflowers. With the abundant snowfall from last winter the mountains were well-watered, and the display was exceptional.

Birders are increasingly using the Merlin app on their phones to help with bird ID. For me, it has been a significant improvement. My rock-concert ears make it difficult to pick up the full range of bird songs and low volume singing. It is a great tool but has its limitations. When author, Scott Weidensaul visited back in July we talked about Merlin while birding with him. Scott knows the developers of the app and said they are working regularly on improvements.

I have found the app to be about 90% accurate. Occasionally I will clearly hear birds singing, Merlin will indicate it is hearing birds, but does not ID them. There are times when I hear a bird singing, know what bird it is, but Merlin cannot ID it. A good example of this issue happened last spring. I was wandering through sagebrush looking for sagebrush sparrows. I have heard them enough that I recognize their song. I could clearly hear them singing, but Merlin would not ID the song.

Some birders use the app instead of working to identify each bird. They will turn on Merlin, then get a bird ID, but spend little time visually verifying the bird. In some cases, it is a bird they know well by song, so that may be okay; but not verifying visually provides no information about the number of birds, or their behavior. If you are submitting your observations to eBird, that is important information to document.

Another example is reporting birds on eBird based solely on Merlin ID's. In July I noted an Ouray County eBird post including 5 birds that do not range into Ouray County. The reporter noted that the bird was a Merlin ID but did not mention if they saw the bird. This makes extra work for the eBird reviewer!

For me, the audio ID component of Merlin is a tool that I use to find what birds are around me. It alerts me to the presence of birds. Face it, much as I would like to, I cannot take Mary Costello with me every time I go birding. Knowing there are birds in the vicinity, I can focus on locating them.

Motus (Continued from page 1)

Motus simultaneously tracks hundreds of individuals of numerous species of birds, bats, and insects that pass by. The system enables a community of researchers, educators, organizations, and citizens to do research and education on the ecology and conservation of migratory animals. When compared to other technologies, this automated radio telemetry allows researchers to track the smallest animals possible over the greatest distances. Each tower reaches a 12-mile radius where it can pick up signals, depending on topography. **Continued Page 6**



Piping plover with a radio transmitter from motus.org

Motus, Continued from page 5

By joining the Motus Network, Black Canyon Audubon can help to provide additional migration data to existing research projects where individual birds, bats and even insects have been tagged. In the future, we may even be able to add tagging to our bird banding efforts. We are exploring ways we can partner with Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

How much will this project cost? If the station is in an area already equipped with power and internet, the three basic pieces are the Sensor Station, the antennas, and the antennae mast. The total cost would be about \$7,500. If power and internet are not available, then solar panels, batteries, and a cellular data plan would add to the cost.

We are evaluating potential locations for tower placement. This is what each tower needs:

- Electricity – either from a host building or by solar panels
- Wi-Fi or cell (connecting to a cellular network would incur additional monthly charges)
- Good topography to allow for broad coverage.
- Potential travel corridors by migrating animals
- Join our project design group – email David (david.sinton@gmail.com) or Missy (missy.siders@gmail.com)
- Make suggestions of tower locations
- Donation to this project through GoFundMe at <https://gofund.me/f3621a2d>

Scan with your phone to donate!



Owl Adventures

By Caroline Evans, BCAS Board of Directors

The night before we met Dr. Mika at his research site near Ogden, Utah, I read Jane Yolen's "Owl Moon" to my five-year-old granddaughter Amanda. The child in the story searches for Great Horned Owls with her dad and knows, "Sometimes there's an owl and sometimes there isn't."

We are excited but prepared to be disappointed as we run/walk behind Dr. Mika and students Aubrey and Jason through wet meadows, across creeks, and beneath cottonwoods, aspen, and Douglas Fir. We are owling for Flammulated Owls nesting in boxes placed years earlier. The trees sparkle. Warbling Vireos, Yellow Warblers, and Lazuli Buntings sing after a morning thunder shower. Along the way, Dr. Mika's students point out abandoned owl boxes and explain the equipment they carry - ladder, camera mounted on a long pole to peek into nest boxes, measuring instruments, red ball cap, and computer.

"Why the red ball cap?" "Any color works." Jason answers. "But the cap is really important. We close the nest box hole with the cap, so the owls do not escape when Dr. Mika reaches the top of the box. Their natural nest is in a tree cavity, in an abandoned Northern Flicker or other woodpecker nest."

We reach a clearing and almost smash chalky owl pellets under our boots. We look up at the trunk of a gnarly fir. No owls. Dr. Mika explains that Flammulated Owls eat insects, moths, beetles, crickets, and grasshoppers. "There won't be fur or bones in their droppings." We wonder what other owl species hunt these woods.

We wait while Dr. Mika's team steps off the path and disappears to check a nest box. It is not long before Aubrey returns, smiling. "There's an owl in the box!" No one speaks as we follow Aubrey through the brush. We avoid snapping twigs beneath our feet and try not to make swishy clothing sounds as we approach the site. The nest box is three meters up an aspen. Dr. Mika positions his ladder so he can extract the Flammulated Owl from the nest. In one swift motion he reaches down and gently pulls the startled owl out of the box. He is beaming as he turns to us and says in his precise Swiss accent, "She has four eggs."

Jason helps with measurements as Aubrey records - weight 85.5 grams, wing-chord (from wrist to the end of the longest primary flight feather) 13.3 cm, tail 65.5 mm. We hear an excited gasp from Dr. Mika. "This is an owl I banded 8 years ago!" When Dr. Mika returns the owl to the nest, the team continues up the trail to check other nest boxes. (Continued Page 7)

Owl Adventures (Continued from page 6)

We have been in the presence of a Flammulated Owl - a survivor, despite local development, pine and fir logging, diminished habitat, fewer nesting cavities, and pesticides reducing available food. But, thanks to Dr. Mika's boxes - this tiny owl and her four eggs have a chance of success.

As in "Owl Moon," it is about hope, isn't it? Hope that this species will remain off the lengthening list of extinct birds. Hope that our children and grandchildren will value diversity of life. Hope that Dr. Mika, his growing group of students, their research and data will influence decisions



that protect these and other owls.

We remark in whispers about this owl's flame-like markings and notice her variegated blend of black, brown, and gray hues. We see the dark eyes of a nocturnal hunter, and respectfully stay clear of her small sharp beak. Photo of Aubrey, Amanda, Dr. Mika and Flammulated Owl taken by Joe Evans

Bluebird Houses at the County Fair

By Sandy Beranich, BCAS member

Black Canyon Audubon Society (BCAS) thanks the Montrose Woodworkers and Woodturner members for their continued support in crafting creative and attractive bluebird boxes that were sold during a silent auction.

Woodworker's members John Renzelman, Jim Norfleet, John Fox, Art Scheneman, Rusty Olson, Roger Burkepile and Dennis Murphy donated hand-crafted bluebird boxes. Thanks also to Alpine Lumber for donating the \$75, \$50, and \$25 prize money that went to the first, second, and third place winners of the judged contest. Jim Norfleet captured first and second places with his Old Man and Squirrel themed birdhouses; third place went to Rusty for his Siberian elm log cabin bird house. There were 28 bird houses entered for auction.

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The bird houses do not auction themselves. This year 20 BCAS members worked at the booth over the week to talk with fair attendees. These members included: Bruce Ackerman, Sandy Beranich, Dick Bushmaier, Carolyn and Joe Evans, Bill Harris, Gayle Johnson, Rebecca Kindred, Pete Loncar, Judith Lopez, Dennis Murphy, Carol Pierce, Melanie Rees, Diane Rollins, Verlee Sanburg, Diane Sanders, David Sinton, Sallie and Ron Thoreson, and Julie Lowther.

Minimum bids were set between \$10 and \$40 for each bird house and final bids ranged from \$20 to \$105. The bluebird house silent auction raised \$1240. In addition, thanks to Carol Pierce's contribution of wooden carved and painted birds, an additional \$140 was raised. BCAS will use the funds on education programs for youth and adults.



Bluebird Houses (Photos by Bruce Ackerman)

Board meeting Highlights

By Sallie Thoreson, Secretary

The Black Canyon Audubon Board of Directors met on July 20, 2023.

- BCAS currently has some 330 currently paid members, with some members paying both national and BCAS memberships. We send out approximately 400 newsletters each quarter by email and 24 copies by snail mail,.
 - The annual meeting on June 15 was a success, and we did not exceed our budget.
 - The Scott Weidensaul presentation at the Montrose Pavilion on July 5 was extremely successful! BCAS split costs with Friends of the Library, with the BCAS final cost of \$1612.
 - We currently have \$30,762.88 in our checking account.
 - The registration system for the birding trips, using the dedicated Gmail account black.canyon.audubon.fieldtrips@gmail.com), seems to be working well.
 - For the time being, Bruce will continue as President, even though he is serving a term past the six-year limit. The Board is revising the By-laws to clarify and update terms of office. We are looking for new Board members.
 - The National Audubon Leadership Conference is November 2–5 in Estes Park, Colorado. Bruce plans to attend and we are discussing who else might attend.
 - BCAS member Alida Franco has volunteered to coordinate Eckert Crane Days at Fruitgrowers' Reservoir for March 2024. Alida has already proposed some great ideas to make this a wider community event.
 - The Marine Road Park project is moving forward with Sandy Beranich as coordinator, Jon Horn and Bill Harris leading the on-the-ground projects. The Board approved a budget of \$3000 for landscaping and a second blind.
 - Other projects include Missy Siders and David Sinton who are heading up the Motus tower project and are looking for members to help through a small subgroup.
 - The Board discussed developing a Budget to decide on spending priorities. The Board and members can suggest projects for funding.
 - Kristal is looking for a new venue for programs because the field house will begin to close at 4:00PM. There will be a donation jar at program meetings to help with funding of speakers and the venue.
 - The **Next Board Meeting will be by Zoom on September 21**. The exact time of the meeting is TBD.
-

Happy 50th Birthday Endangered Species Act!

By Sallie Thoreson, BCAS Secretary

President Nixon signed the 50-year-old Endangered Species Act (ESA) into law on December 28th, 1973, after the legislation passed 92 to 0 in the Senate and 355 to 4 in Congress (a true bipartisan effort!). Nixon wanted a conservation legacy and said, "nothing is more priceless and more worthy of preservation than the rich array of animal life with which our country has been blessed."

The ESA has proven to be a landmark conservation tool to protect and recover birds and other wildlife and plants. Some of the species brought back from the brink include the Bald Eagle, Whooping Crane, Peregrine Falcon, California Condor, and Black-footed Ferret.

The ESA requires the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to examine and list imperiled species as either endangered or threatened based on specific criteria. Endangered means in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Threatened means a species is likely to become endangered within the near future throughout its range. All agencies (Federal, state,

and local) must consider ESA listed species in their land management activities.

Nominations for listing can come from agencies, organizations, and individuals. The listing decisions go through a strong science-based decision-making process. After listing, the FWS or NMFS must develop a recovery plan. Over the years there have been administrative changes to the recovery procedure. Now it is common to develop shorter documents, including Species Status Assessment, Critical Habitat designation and Recovery Implementation Strategy, to form the required Recovery Plan.

There are 17 federally listed endangered or threatened animal species in Colorado – including seven birds, five fish and five mammals. There are also 16 plant species in Colorado currently listed as threatened or endangered. There will always be a need for people to support the ESA and speak out for maintaining the legislation and developing appropriate and timely listings and good recovery plans.

Conservation Conversations

By Sallie Thoreson, Conservation Chair

Federal Land Management Actions

Two of the major federal land management agencies, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS)) have begun the process of considering new Public Lands Rules that guide land management decisions. Public comment periods on two major rules closed in July. The BLM proposed Public Lands Rule aims to place conservation on equal footing with other land uses such as mining, oil and gas extraction, grazing, and energy development. More than 216,000 people commented. An analysis found 92 percent of the comments encouraged BLM to adopt the Rule as written or strengthen its conservation measures.

The USFS concluded their comment period on their Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. This is the start of a rulemaking proposal to improve the climate resilience of federally managed forests, especially regarding mature and old growth forests. The agency reported that more than 495,000 comments came through their website.

Additional BLM and USFS actions include: 1) BLM recently released a proposed rule to reform the federal oil and gas leasing program. The public comment period ends September 22. 2) BLM has released proposed revisions to two Resource Management Plans for the Grand Junction and NW field offices. 3) The final Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) Forest Plan may be released soon. Please let Sallie Thoreson know if you would like more information on any of these topics.

Endangered Species Act (ESA) threats

The US House and Senate, under the Congressional Review Act, have passed joint bipartisan resolutions to overturn federal protections for the Lesser Prairie Chicken and the northern Long-eared Bat. The timber industry supports eliminating protections for this bat, and agricultural interests oppose the Prairie Chicken protections. We hope that these actions fail. The Biden administration has issued statements supporting science-based decision-making, and the President may veto both bills.

Also proposed are Federal bills to prevent the listing of the Greater Yellowstone population of Grizzly Bears as threatened; and to delist the Gray Wolf in the Lower 48 states.

Marine Road Update

By Sandy Beranich, BCAS member

Marine Road Park improvements are progressing! In June, Bill Harris, Jon Horn, and Sandy Beranich flagged the overgrown path to the north and south ponds and marked a site for a bird blind. Subsequently, Jon and Bill cleared vegetation along the trail using weed whackers and hand tools.

Later, Brandon Owens, of Montrose Parks Department, used a brush hog to clear more vegetation along the trail. He also stored piles of wood chips along the route and near the gate. Meanwhile, Jon Sullivan, of Montrose Public Works, requested volunteers from the Grace Community Church congregation. Each August, the church does a community workday, supporting many different projects in Montrose.

On August 6th, eight volunteers from the church and BCAS members Jon Horn and Bill Harris used wheelbarrows, shovels, and rakes to spread chips on the trail to the north and south ponds. Sandy Beranich coordinated with Grace ministry to assist the volunteers. The day was hot and dusty, and pushing wheelbarrows along uneven terrain is simply hard work. The volunteers from Grace church included Jim Rouse (also a BCAS member), Jonathan Salazar, Noah Harris, Adam and Yesenia Duncan, Twyla Righter, and Kurt and Patti Scriffiny. Thanks to the industrious workers who finished chipping the north trail early, work started on the south trail!



Please visit the more accessible Marine Road Park to enjoy fall migrants. Walking the mulched trail will help compact it. Read a longer story about the park with photos on the BCAS website.

Want to see the color photographs in this publication?

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 2023. Dues paid to the Black Canyon Audubon Chapter stay in the chapter and help fund activities, public outreach, and more!



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

Local Audubon chapter members may participate in all chapter activities, receive the chapter newsletter *Canyon Wrenderings*, 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.