



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 2023

Volume 37 Number 2



Spotted Sandpiper in breeding plumage by Verlee Sanburg

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Save the Dates!!

The Black Canyon Board of Directors would like to cordially invite you to participate in two exciting upcoming events!! Put them on your calendar!

Annual Gathering & Election

Thursday, June 15, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

The Grove in Delta

Details on Page 11, 12 & 13

Speaker Scott Weidensaul

Wednesday, July 5, 7:00 – 9:00PM

Montrose Pavilion

Details on Page 10

President's Message by Bruce Ackerman

It is finally Spring and now suddenly Summer! Lots of birds have been migrating through. We have great Audubon events planned for this summer, 3 to 4 events per month. Please read about our upcoming major events and join us in some or all of them!

Our annual gathering will be Thursday June 15, 2023, at The Grove restaurant in Delta. I think this is one of the best restaurants in our area. Dr. Bruce Bauerle will be our guest speaker. We will hold elections for the officers and board members.

Our biggest event of the summer will be a guest lecture by well-known birding author Scott Weidensaul on Wednesday July 5, 2023, at the Montrose Pavilion. He has written about 20 books, including many about birds. We have read two of them in our Audubon Book Club ("A World on the Wing" and "Of a Feather"). <http://www.scottweidensaul.com/> Two of his books will be available for sale at the event ("A Warbler's Journey" and "A World on the Wing"). Scott will sign books after the lecture. We are delighted to partner with the Montrose Library Board to sponsor this lecture. Tickets are available now at the Montrose Library and from Board Members. Tickets are free, but you must get them in advance. I am really looking forward to it!

I am so grateful to our dedicated board members who volunteer for these events. They plan and lead field trips, meetings, and all the other events. I so much appreciate having their help.



Yellow Warbler by Verlee Sanburg

Volunteer Opportunities!

By Missy Siders

Black Canyon Audubon Society is looking for volunteers to help us accomplish our mission. At our June gathering, new Board members will be elected. Please consider serving on the Board to help guide our club into the future! Volunteers are needed to work at the Montrose County Fair to encourage bidding on bluebird boxes. Projects on the Marine Road property later this year will need volunteers. Please reach out to any Board member if you have time to help!! If you have ideas for activities, contact Bruce Ackerman (BruceAckermanAUD@aol.com; 727-858-5857).

BLACK CANYON AUDUBON SOCIETY

OFFICERS

President—Bruce Ackerman (Montrose)
727- 858-5857

BruceAckermanAUD@aol.com

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Treasurer—Gayle Johnson (Montrose)
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kristal Stidham (Montrose) 580-919-5987
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Bill Harris (Montrose) 970-901-4022
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Carrie Krickbaum (Ridgway) 970-209-3703
carrie.krickbaum@gmail.com

Don Marsh (Ridgway) 209-256-5744
ridgwaybrdr@gmail.com

Melissa (Missy) Siders (Montrose)
970-275-6639

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Audubon CO Council rep.—**OPEN**

Education—Carrie Krickbaum (see above)

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—**Open**

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.

See an OPEN position? 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 2.

Managing editor Susan Werner at wrenderingseditor@gmail.com

BCAS Summer 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 **8:00 am** 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 and can notify participants of any change of plans.

Thursday, June 1, 2023, 8AM

Black Canyon National Park

Early summer is a great time to visit this park east of Montrose. Join Missy Siders to look for falcons, flycatchers and a variety of warblers while taking in majestic views of the canyon. We will minimize entrance fee expenses by carpooling to ensure each vehicle includes someone with a park pass. We should be back in Montrose in the early afternoon. **RSVP required.**

Mon – Sat, June 5 - 10, 2023

100 Bird Species Challenge

This year BCAS is trying something a little different and is challenging interested members to spot 100 bird species in a day. The rules are simple. Look for as many species from midnight, Monday, June 5 until midnight, Saturday, June 10. A team can pick any 24-hour period, midnight to midnight, to bird. Members are encouraged to form teams of 3-4 people, then plan out a route. A wrap-up is planned for Sunday, June 11 at 4:00 PM. To sign up for your team and for more information, contact Bill Harris, TRLGPA48@gmail.com.

Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 8AM

Uncompahgre Plateau

Federal lands on the Uncompahgre Plateau offer a variety of habitats that house a wide array of birds including Red Crossbills, woodpeckers, and warblers. Bill Harris will lead the exploration of the wetland area around the Silesca Ranger Station before heading farther into the forest. We will wrap up and head for home in the early afternoon. **RSVP required.**

Saturday, July 1, 2023, 8AM

Little Cimarron Valley

Join leader Don Marsh to explore this watershed east of Cerro Summit. The resident high-elevation breeders (Evening Grosbeak, Canada Jays, Wilson Warblers, Fox sparrows, etc.) should be in full song. Temperatures may be cool in the morning, so dress in layers, bring drinks, snacks, and lunch. **RSVP required.**

Tuesday, July 11, 2023, 8AM

Grand Mesa (Delta/Mesa)

The Grand Mesa has a wonderful array of birds during the summer that include Lincoln's Sparrow, Swainson's Hawk, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Hermit Thrush, Pine Grosbeak, and Red Crossbill. Leader Bill Harris will stop along Highway 65 at several points to lead short hikes to view birds. Hiking distance will be around 3-4 miles total. This will be an all-day trip, so bring lunch, snacks, water, and clothing to deal with inclement weather. Group limited to 10 people. **RSVP required!**

July 19-23, 2023

CFO-WFO Joint Convention – Copper Mtn

Although not affiliated with BCAS, both the Colorado Field Ornithologists and the Western Field Ornithologists host this convention. It offers a variety of higher elevation field trips. Single day registration is available. For more information about this convention go to <https://cobirds.org/conventions/>

First Tuesday Field Trips

Mark your calendars for **June 6, July 11, and August 8 (note that July is the second Tuesday to avoid the 4th of July holiday)**

The First Tuesday Field Trips continue! Meet at **8:00 AM at the public parking lot at the intersection of N. 2nd Street and N. Cascade Ave. in Montrose**. Carpool if you would like. A leader will accompany the group to a nearby birding hotspot. Return about noon.

Contact Bruce Ackerman at (727) 858-5857 or bruceackermanAUD@aol.com or Don Marsh at (209) 256-5744 or ridgwaybrdr@gmail.com for more information and to RSVP.

Bring a snack, water, binoculars, and field guides.

Saturday, July 15, 2023, 8AM

Ouray area including Box Canyon

Black Swifts that nest at Box Canyon are one of the target birds for this trip. Box Canyon also hosts grosbeaks, finches, and a variety of hummingbirds. Don Marsh will also lead the trip to "the Amphitheatre" area to look for Peregrine Falcons. Plan to head home in the early afternoon. **RSVP required!**

Field trips, continued next page

Field trips (continued from page 3)

Tuesday, August 29, 2023, 8AM at

Ridgway State Park

Join leader Don Marsh at Ridgway State Park which can host a variety of migrating shorebirds and post breeding songbirds. The state park charges a \$10.00 day use fee, but we will meet at the Visitor Center near the Dutch Charlie entrance at 8 am to carpool with annual pass holders. We will wrap up around noon. Dress in layers, bring water and lunch or snacks, and a spotting scope if you have one. **RSVP required!**

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. This is a drop-in opportunity and there will be no leader, but volunteers will be present to answer your questions. More details will be in the fall newsletter.



Ash-throated Flycatcher by Verlee Sanburg

Birding Etiquette

By Susan Chandler-Reed

Birding etiquette tells us how birders should interact with other birders in the group as well as with other people who may be recreating in the same area. Of course, the fundamental rule is to bird in an ethical manner (See article in March 2023 issue of *Wrenderings*). People who are new to birding may need to be patiently taught these ethical guidelines. If you are participating in an outing, please keep the following tips in mind:

- RSVP for group trips. Be at the rendezvous point on time and be prepared with everything you might need for the day: binoculars, field guide, water, snack or lunch, sunscreen, etc.
- Have the required permit for all properties you visit. For example, all Colorado State Wildlife

Areas require a hunting or fishing license, or a State Wildlife Area pass.

- Leave your dog at home. Besides potential disruption when encountering other people or dogs on the trail, dogs are likely to scare birds, who identify them as predators.
- Wear neutral or dark clothing. Avoid bright or white colors that may frighten birds.
- Keep groups small and carpool whenever possible.
- Silence your phone. Walk quietly and talk softly so that you can listen to bird calls and hear what the group leader is telling you.
- Try to stay engaged and pay attention to the guide. Let others in the group take a turn at being in the front of the line, particularly if you are on a narrow trail.
- Do not wander away from the group. Stop when others stop.
- Stay on established trails to reduce habitat disturbance. According to the Audubon Society, resident birds become accustomed to activity on a trail but will be alarmed by people going off trail. In addition, you may destroy vegetation, inadvertently step on a ground-nesting bird's nest, or create a scent trail that leads mammalian predators to eggs or nestlings.
- Do step aside to give other trail users space to get around you, especially if your group has stopped to look at a bird.
- Let others in the group know when you have sighted a bird and help them get on the bird. If using a laser pointer, be careful not to shine it directly at the bird.
- If the bird is difficult to see because of dense vegetation, etc., move aside once you have had a look to let others have a chance. If you are the one struggling to find a vantage point, move behind the other birders when repositioning yourself rather than stepping in front of them and potentially blocking their view.
- Take your turn when viewing the bird through a spotting scope. Your first view should be brief so that everyone in the group has a chance to see the bird through the scope. You can then return later for a longer view.
- Do not be embarrassed if you publicly misidentify a bird. Everyone does it!

Birding Etiquette continued next page

Birding Etiquette continued from page 4

- Be patient with new birders. Do not be rude if they ask “dumb” questions or misidentify birds. Help them learn.
- Limit your use of audio calls, particularly in heavily birded areas. Always warn your fellow birders before playing a call so they know it is you and not an actual bird. Taped recordings can be perceived as intruders, drawing birds out of cover or even off their nests and making them vulnerable to predators, so use them sparingly.
- When encountering nonbirders who want to engage you in conversation, answer their questions politely.
- If you are a photographer, WAIT to take photographs until everyone else has seen the bird. You should then ask if anyone minds if you get closer for a photo. If you do approach a bird, move slowly, and watch the bird’s behavior. If the bird reacts to you, you are too close. Stop -- do not scare the bird. Avoid flash photography.
- Do not use your binoculars to spy on other people or their homes.
- Use good judgment when posting bird sightings on social media. Never share the exact locations of nesting birds with the public.

BCAS Book Club Selections

Looking for a way to meet new people or to expand your reading genres? Consider joining the Audubon Book Club! Here are the next three club 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, June 20

"Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder" by Kenn Kaufman (2006)

This book chronicles Kenn’s birding trip around the nation, hitchhiking, when he was 16. He birded back and forth from the Pacific to the Atlantic, making money by picking fruit or doing other odd jobs. He set a record for the number of species seen in one year in the US.

Tuesday, July 18

The Audubon Ark: A History of the National Audubon Society by Frank Graham and Carl W. Buchheister (1992)

A lively, often irreverent, authorized history of the Audubon Society. Frank Graham, Jr., takes readers through Audubon's first century, from its beginnings in 1886 to the highly visible, politically sophisticated, globally minded organization of the present.

Tuesday, August 15

Halcyon Journey: In search of the Belted Kingfisher

by Marina Richie (Author), Ram Papish (Illustrator) (2022)

More than one hundred species of kingfishers brighten every continent but Antarctica. They range in size from the African Dwarf Kingfisher to the Laughing Kookaburra of Australia. This book features North America’s Belted Kingfisher, also known as the Halcyon Bird, which is linked to a state of happiness that the author hopes to find outside her back door in Missoula, Montana and farther away.

Summer Program Meetings

By Kristal Stidham, BCAS Board member

Programs are **open to all**, and regular program meetings are free.

Thursday, June 15 - Our June program meeting is the Annual Gathering at The Grove Restaurant in Delta. See pages 11 through 13 for details.

Wednesday, July 5 – Scott Weidensaul will be speaking at the Montrose Pavilion. See page 10 for details.

Thursday, August 10, 7:00PM – Whit Blair, Gunnison Sage Grouse expert from the USFWS, will speak about the recovery status of these threatened birds. He will also talk about sagebrush habitat conservation and will update us about the exciting new projects he has started with funding secured from last year’s federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). This meeting will be in the Summit Room of the Montrose Field House (25 Colorado Avenue in Montrose).



Ruddy Duck by Verlee Sanburg

Avian Ramblings

By Bill Harris, BCAS Board member

The spring migration is off and running, although my annual list was in good shape before the usual suspects started arriving. By the end of March my 2023 state list was at 129 species, most of them wintering birds. Encouraged by that number, I decided to see how many Colorado birds I could spot in 2023. To augment that number, I am traveling around the state to areas that have species that usually are not seen in western Colorado.

In late April, I joined Steve Dike, Jon Horn, and Alan and Susan Chandler Reed on a birding foray to N.E. Colorado. Our targeted species were the Greater Prairie Chicken, Mountain Plover, longspurs, and shorebirds. Our first stop was a Greater Prairie Chicken lek. There aren't many reasons to get up at 4 AM, but visiting a lek is one of them. The lek is on the property of the Stults Family Farm, northwest of Wray, CO. I contacted Chris Stults through the Wray Chamber of Commerce to set up the visit. The morning was chilly and cloudy, but fortunately it did not rain. Chris had set up a couple of vehicles at a good vantage point where we sat waiting for dawn. With dawn came the cackles, clucks, and booming of a dozen males. The two dominant males were the focus. They faced each other, danced, inflated their yellow neck sacs, raised their feather head tufts, and jumped up - quite the show. The other males postured and clucked around the periphery of the lek, but rarely engaged another male. We saw only one female at the lek.

We spent three full days birding the plains of Colorado including a day visiting the Pawnee Grasslands west of Sterling, CO. Despite the incessant wind, we got some good looks at Chestnut-collared and Thick-billed Longspurs, as well as several Swainson's Hawks. We spotted a total of 91 species, and I added 20 to my list.

A few weeks later I joined the Colorado Canyons Association on a 3-day raft trip on the Colorado River. It was the fifth year for this event with stunning scenery and some excellent birding. The most unusual part of this year was the river flows of 30,000 CFS, four times the normal flow. We spotted 51 species including a Lucy's Warbler, eight raptor species, and several Black-throated Sparrows. Cary Atwood, a veteran birder from the Grand Valley, served as an additional guide. My annual list mushroomed to 200 species.

Then, I led a trip to the "West End" of Montrose County. BCAS has sponsored this trip since 2015, although other Audubon members had explored it years ago. As Coen Dexter and Brenda Wright have shown us over the years, the West End is a birding hotspot. Our group of 11 tallied 75 species over the two-day excursion.

We observed a Grace's Warbler, 19 White-faced Ibis, Bullock's Orioles, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Black-throated Sparrows, and five warbler species. We had a potluck dinner the evening we stayed in Naturita to add to the social aspect of the trip. My 2023 Colorado bird list as of May 11 stands at 208 species. I am waiting for the snow to melt in the high country.



Black-billed Magpie by Verlee Sanburg

Audubon Education

By Carrie Krickbaum, BCAS Board member

What a terrific way to celebrate the week of Earth Day ...hanging Bluebird boxes with first graders on the river trail. Jon Horn put in many hours to create 20 Bluebird house kits for students. Black Canyon Audubon Society paid for the materials. For each kit, Jon assembled the house to make sure the pieces fit, took them apart, then put pieces in a Ziplock bag with screws. The Ridgway school's outdoor education teacher, Krista Javoronok, took me up on the offer to do the project. Twenty-one first graders paired up, screwdrivers in hand, and put the boxes together with great teamwork! The following week, we all gathered at the river walk just north of the old railroad bridge to hang the houses. Mary Menz and school counselor Sharon Brown also helped. Third grade teacher Meghan Russo of Ouray schools also had her class of 20 students assemble five boxes. The boxes will be placed along the river walk in Ouray. This was an amazing first-hand and educational activity. They all learned some things about Western and Mountain Bluebirds and why we put up houses!

Ridgway Students with bluebird houses

Photos by Carrie Krickbaum



Audubon Initiatives: Dark Skies

By Steve Manis (edited from International Dark Skies website)

For millions of years, life has relied on Earth's predictable rhythm of day and night. It is encoded in the DNA of all plants and animals. Plants and animals depend on Earth's daily cycle of light and dark rhythm to govern life-sustaining behaviors, such as reproduction, nourishment, sleep, and protection from predators. Humans have radically disrupted this cycle by artificially lighting the night.

Scientific evidence suggests that artificial light at night has negative and deadly effects on many amphibians, birds, mammals, insects, and plants. Nocturnal animals sleep during the day and are active at night. Light pollution radically alters their nighttime environment by turning night into day. Glare from artificial lights can also impact wetland habitats that are home to amphibians, such as frogs whose nighttime croaking is a key part of breeding. Artificial lights disrupt this nocturnal activity, interfering with reproduction and reducing populations.

Birds that migrate or hunt at night navigate by moon and star light. Artificial light can cause them to wander toward the dangerous nighttime landscapes in cities. Every year, millions of birds die colliding with needlessly illuminated buildings and towers. Migratory birds depend on cues from properly timed seasonal schedules. Artificial lights can cause them to migrate too early or too late and miss ideal climate conditions for nesting, foraging and other behaviors.

Many insects are drawn to light, but artificial lights can create a fatal attraction. Declining insect populations negatively impact all species that rely on insects for food or pollination. Some predators exploit this attraction to their advantage, affecting food webs in unanticipated ways.

It is estimated that at least 30 percent of all outdoor lighting in the U.S. alone is wasted, mostly by lights that are not shielded and shine into the sky. Environmental responsibility requires energy efficiency and conservation.

- Installing quality outdoor lighting could cut energy use by 60–70 percent
- Outdoor lighting should be fully shielded and direct light down where it is needed, not into the sky.
- Fully shielded fixtures can provide the same level of illumination on the ground as unshielded ones, but with less energy and cost.

See *Dark Skies* continued next page

Dark Skies continued from page 7

- Unnecessary indoor lighting should be turned off.
- LEDs and compact fluorescents (CFLs) can help reduce energy use and protect the environment but use only warm-white bulbs.
- Dimmers, motion sensors and timers can help to reduce average illumination levels. Statistics show that most property crime occurs in the light of the day. And some crimes, like vandalism and graffiti, thrive on night lighting. A dark sky does not necessarily mean a dark yard. Smart lighting that directs light where it is needed creates a balance between safety and starlight. Here are some steps you can take:
- **Assess the lighting around your residence.** Poor lighting not only creates glare and light pollution but also wastes enormous amounts of energy and money. Take a few moments to inspect your property for inefficient, poorly installed, and unnecessary outdoor lighting.
- **Use dark sky-friendly lighting at your home and business.** Look for the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) Fixture Seal of Approval on any outdoor lighting you purchase.
- **Talk to your friends, family, and neighbors.** You can be a powerful dark sky advocate for your neighborhood, your city, and even your state and country. Solving the light pollution problem involves raising awareness so that people are empowered to make better decisions as consumers, voters, and community members.
- **Become a community scientist.** Be part of a global community that is helping scientists measure and study light pollution.
- **Advocate for a lighting ordinance in your town.** Local lighting ordinances ensure that your municipality is addressing artificial light.

Board Meeting Highlights

By Sallie Thoreson, Board Secretary

The Board met twice, once in March and again in May. Membership is 343 with 167 members from National Audubon Society and 176 local members. We are in the process of contacting lapsed members.

The nominations committee is working to expand Board membership, and recruit a new president, as

Bruce Ackerman is approaching his term limit. We recruited two new Board candidates: Caroline Evans, Montrose, and Janine Reid, Paonia. We are looking at creative ways to divide up duties for the officers to take the pressure off the President position. The election will be held at the annual meeting. Biographies of candidates appear on Page 12 of this newsletter and the election will be held at the annual gathering. Anyone wishing to serve on the Board may contact Bruce.

After a lengthy discussion of field trip etiquette, the Board also developed new field trip sign-up procedures and is shifting to one field trip email:

black.canyon.audubon.fieldtrips@gmail.com.

Kristal has coordinated great speakers for our in-person programs. We are finalizing details for the annual meeting and Board of Directors election on June 15 at The Grove in Delta, and the featured Scott Weidensaul presentation on July 5 at the Montrose Pavilion.

Other projects include:

- 1) Exploring ways to advocate for Dark Skies.
- 2) Laying out the future trail at the Marine Road property.
- 3) Discussing details of sponsoring a Motus tower in our area. This would include fundraising.
- 4) Funding the construction of 20 bluebird house kits for education efforts and for replacement of worn-out boxes at Ridgway State Park and Billy Creek SWA.

From treasurer Gayle Johnson: In the past three months, BCAS spent \$911.94 for five years of website domain, birdhouse supplies and educational materials. The balance as of this writing is \$31,884.21,

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 20 from 5-7 PM. Please contact Bruce Ackerman if you would like to attend.

Montrose County Fair: July 25 - 29

Save these dates! It is time for the Montrose County Fair! The Montrose Woodworkers Guild and Montrose Area Woodturners generously donate some highly creative birdhouses. Black Canyon Audubon then uses them to raise funds through a silent auction for its activities. Come bid on a bird house or two! And consider donating a few hours to talk birds and encourage others to bid on these incredible houses. Contact Bruce Ackerman to volunteer!



Conservation Conversations

By Sallie Thoreson, BCAS Board Secretary

Colorado Legislation Updates

The state legislative session concluded on May 9, 2023. Several bills passed regarding climate resiliency, water and air quality, and wildlife concerns. Details may be found at <https://leg.colorado.gov/>. Here are some highlights:

Climate Resiliency: **SB23-16** creates a state income tax credit for new electric-powered lawn equipment.

HB23-1161 establishes water and energy efficiency standards for certain appliances and fixtures.

HB23-1272 has many provisions to advance decarbonization through tax credits.

Wildlife: **HB23-1274** appropriates \$5 million from the species conservation trust fund for projects to conserve native species that state or federal law lists as threatened, endangered, or candidate species.

HB23-1265 creates a "Born to Be Wild" special license plate to raise funds for nonlethal means of mitigating conflict with gray wolves. **SB23-255** provides for compensation to people who suffer damages because of gray wolf depredation.

Other Conservation Activities

Pinyon Jays

The BCAS submitted comments on the BLM *Jumbo Mountain Special Recreation Management Area, Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management Plan* in the Paonia area. BCAS supported trail closures for all recreation users to protect pinyon jays during nesting and asked for continued monitoring of the existing pinyon jay colony.

Federal issues

BLM Public Lands Rule

On March 30, 2023, The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) launched a 75-day comment period (deadline June 20, 2023) to gather feedback about a proposed rule that clarifies that conservation is a use on par with other uses of the public lands under [BLM's] multiple-use and sustained-yield framework." This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to help shape the future for BLM-managed public lands, our communities, and biodiversity." More details on this important opportunity to influence this rule making are available at <https://www.blm.gov/public-lands-rule> and <https://actnowforpubliclands.org/> You can also contact Sallie Thoreson for more information.

Forest Service Rulemaking for Climate Resilience

On April 20, the Forest Service announced an Advanced Notice of Public Rulemaking which kicks off a 60-day public comment period (deadline June 20, 2023). The Forest Service (FS) is seeking input on how to develop policies to improve their ability to foster climate resilience throughout the national forests and grasslands. More details are available from <https://www.climate-forests.org/take-action>

Endangered Species Actions

The US Senate voted May 3 (50-48) to use the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to rescind the November 2022 decision by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to list the Lesser Prairie-Chicken. "The science is clear — the Lesser Prairie-Chicken will disappear from our grasslands without these protections," said the National Audubon Society. The Senate, with pressure from the timber industry, also voted to strip protections for Northern Long-eared Bats.

Sallie's conservation report contains more details. To access that information, please visit this link to a detailed google document: [Summer Conservation Conversations](#)



Marbled Godwit by Verlee Sanburg

Black Canyon Audubon Society and the Friends of the Montrose Library
are proud to present author Scott Weidensaul, speaking about his latest book:

“A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds”

Even as scientists make astounding discoveries about the navigational and physiological feats that enable migratory birds to cross immense oceans or fly above the highest mountains, to go weeks without sleep, or remain in unbroken flight for months at a stretch, humans have brought many migrants to the brink. Based on his bestselling new book "A World on the Wing," author and researcher Scott Weidensaul takes you around the globe – with researchers in the lab probing the limits of what migrating birds can do, to the shores of the Yellow Sea in China, the remote mountains of northeastern India where tribal villagers saved the greatest gathering of falcons on the planet, and the Mediterranean where activists and police are battling bird poachers – to learn how people are fighting to understand and save the world's great bird migrations.

Scott Weidensaul is the author of more than two dozen books on natural history, including the Pulitzer Prize finalist "Living on the Wind" and his latest, the New York Times bestseller "A World on the Wing." Weidensaul is a contributing editor for Audubon and writes for a variety of other publications, including Living Bird. He is a Fellow of the American Ornithological Society and an active field researcher, studying saw-whet owl migration for more than two decades, as well as winter hummingbirds, bird migration in Alaska, and the winter movements of snowy owls through Project SNOWstorm, which he co-founded. He lives in New Hampshire.



WEDNESDAY, JULY 5th, 2023, in the Montrose Pavilion Auditorium, 7-9PM

Tickets are **free** but limited and are **available** at the Montrose Library after June 1st. If you can't get to the library to pick up tickets, contact Kristal at Black.Canyon.Audubon.events@gmail.com to be put on the will-call list.

There will be a book signing after the presentation. Books will be for sale on site.
Donations received at the event will be split between the library and BCAS.

Annual Gathering

Thursday, June 15, 6:00-9:00 PM

We are pleased to announce that this year's gathering will be held at The Grove Restaurant, 1970 S. Main Street in Delta. This working plant nursery is also a fantastic new farm-to-table restaurant. Come early to mingle and explore the grounds!

For dinner, the chef will be preparing a "*Small Bites Smorgasbord*" featuring a wide variety of both vegetarian and non-vegetarian appetizers. The options will include pork and Kobe beef sliders, teriyaki beef and chicken skewers, smoked salmon, shrimp cocktail, quesadillas, jalapeno poppers, charcuterie, hummus and crudites, and fresh fruits. Cake and a selection of non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. A cash bar will be open for beer, wine, and specialty cocktails.

The Grove has ample parking, and the event space can be accessed from any part of the property – park on the north, and enter through the gift shop, or park on the south, and enter via the patio.

At approximately 7:30, our president, Dr. Bruce Ackerman, will conduct a short business meeting reviewing the past year and previewing the next. We will also vote on new members of the Board of Directors. He will then give the stage to our good friend Dr. Bruce Bauerle for the rest of the evening. Dr. Bauerle is a Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction. His life has included an amazing array of professional achievements and personal adventures, among which was working as a naturalist and lecturer for thirteen different cruise lines. This evening, Dr. Bauerle will regale us with his stories and delight our eyes with a slide show featuring the *Highlights of Alaska's Ports of Call*. He has already indicated the presentation's content will be heavy on his favorite and ours: wildlife.



Dr. Bruce Bauerle on a cruise ship

The night will conclude with a door prize drawing. There will not be a silent auction this year. However, the Friends of the Montrose Library have contributed a diverse collection of used bird-related books that you can select and take home (cash donations gratefully accepted).

Black Canyon Audubon BOD election – June 15, 2023

These candidates are running for election to fill slots on the Board of Directors for the 2023-2024 year. Ballots will be provided to paid members at the annual meeting on June 15 at The Grove in Delta, Colorado.

Current Board members eligible for re-election

Bruce Ackerman, President 6 years. Bruce worked as a wildlife biologist for 40 years. He conducted research on manatees in Florida, mule deer in Idaho, mountain lions in Utah, and human hunters in Idaho. Bruce teaches Environmental Science at Colorado Mesa University in Montrose. His personal interests include birding, hiking, camping, kayaking, rafting, downhill skiing, and traveling.

Kristal Stidham, Vice President, Board member 4 years, Program Chair. She became a birder suddenly in 2007 when she moved from Arizona to Big Bend National Park in Texas and discovered new birds. At BBNP, she started listing and doing the Christmas Bird Count, which is now her favorite day of the year. Kristal's goals include developing the City's Marine Road property as a wildlife-viewing park, improving her birding skills, and adding to her Life List.

Sallie Thoreson, Secretary 4 years, Conservation Chair. Sallie worked as an Epidemiologist for CO Department of Public Health and Environment in Grand Junction for 30+ years. In addition to improving her birding skills, Sallie is interested in providing educational programs for children and families and advocacy work to influence legislation and policies to protect bird populations and improve habitats.

Carrie Krickbaum, Board member 4 years. She has degrees in Special Education and Wildlife Ecology. In addition to teaching, she has worked for various agencies including the U.S. Forest Service and the CO State Forest Service. For the past 6 years, she was the seasonal educator at Ridgway State Park and loves doing programs for all ages while substitute teaching in the off-season.

Don Marsh, Board member 4 years, Field Trip Chair. He studied Wildlife Management and worked in Information Technology. Don is also on the board of the CO Field Ornithologists. He is the eBird reviewer for five Colorado counties and one in California and does the Breeding Bird Survey, and Christmas Bird Counts. He volunteers at Ridgway State Park with Raptor and Bluebird box monitoring, and educational opportunities for local schools.

Melissa (Missy) Siders, Board member 4 years, Membership Chair. She has organized the Montrose Christmas Bird Count since 2010. Missy became interested in birds hiking with her father as a child. She worked 29 years in wildlife conservation with the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management in the Southwest. She helped manage the habitat for sensitive species, including northern goshawk, California condor, desert bighorn, American bison, Greater and Gunnison sage-grouse, and numerous bat species. She has been an advocate for birds and wildlife for many years.

New Boards members presented for election

Caroline Evans has been a BCAS member since 2015 when she attended Crane Days with her family. Caroline taught elementary school for 15 years in Estes Park and a year in Australia. Prior to teaching, she was an interpretive ranger in six national parks. Caroline has kept a life list since her mom gave her binoculars in 1974. She is most interested in encouraging others to enjoy birding and to become advocates for preserving open space and habitats.

Janine Reid began serious birding in 2018. Janine retired after 42 years in libraries. When she moved from Greeley to Hotchkiss in 2022, she immediately joined BCAS. She grew up in Denver, received her MLS at U. Maryland, then worked at libraries in the Washington, D.C. area. She looks forward to bringing her administrative skills to the Board, improving her birding skills, and keeping abreast of environmental legislation that affects their habitat.

Gayle Johnson (Treasurer), Bill Harris (At-Large), and Jon Horn (Past President; Webmaster) are not up for re-election in this cycle.

Black Canyon Audubon Society

Annual Gathering

Thursday, June 15, 6:00 PM.

We will be gathering at the lovely Grove Restaurant in Delta. The dinner will be a collection of delicious appetizers, including vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free selections, served starting at 6:00 PM.

The 7:30PM program will be by Dr. Bruce Bauerle, retired CMU professor. Dr Bauerle is always an entertaining presenter and will give a slide talk about his side career as a naturalist to Alaskan ports on cruise ships. Lots of wildlife!

This year, we will be exploring a delicious new restaurant in our area. The Grove Restaurant in Delta is a lovely restaurant with delicious food, within a beautiful garden and plant nursery. The dinner fee covers the small bites smorgasbord. Soft drinks will be provided, and a cash bar will be available. The location is situated for ease of travel for our members in Delta and Montrose counties. The restaurant specializes in local Farm-to-Table dishes.

Directions: The Grove Restaurant is at 1970 S. Main Street in Delta, 2 miles south of the center of Delta on the eastern side of U.S. Highway 50. It is just north of the Value Lodge Inn and the US Forest Service office. Check The Grove Restaurant web site <https://grovedelta.com/>.

Please join us for a fun and relaxing evening! It is not necessary to be a BCAS member to participate. Please invite anyone you think would enjoy the evening to join us!

Dinner Reservations:

_____ Total number of reservations, **at \$35 each.**

Guest name(s) _____

Phone# _____ Email address _____

Please mail your check written to *Black Canyon Audubon Society* or *BCAS* to arrive by **June 7 to:**

BCAS, P.O. Box 387, Delta, CO 81416

OR you can pay online by credit card at our web site.

www.blackcanyonaudubon.org/homepage

If you have any questions, please contact:

Kristal Stidham (580) 919-5987 nationalparkfan1@yahoo.com

Bruce Ackerman (727) 858-5857 bruceackermanAUD@aol.com

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.