

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

Spring 2026

Volume 41 Number 1



Roadrunner in Bostwick Park by Todd Miller

Eckert Crane Days!!

This highly anticipated annual event is right around the corner! Activities begin on Thursday March 19 and through Sunday, March 22.

Join Dr. Jenn Lodi-Smith on Thursday, **March 19 at 6:00PM** at the Delta Public Library. She will speak on ***The Spark Bird Project***, a community science initiative designed to gather, share, and study the stories of people's passion for birds while gaining scientific insights into a critical piece in the ecology of birds: birders themselves. A *spark bird* is a term that describes the bird, exact moment, or experience that hooks a person into his or her passion for birding.

This will be an interactive session, and you will have the opportunity to share your story along with your thoughts on the benefits, barriers, resources, and opportunities in birding, while exercising your art skills! If we can get folks excited about birds, then conservation has hope.

And for an opportunity to see migrating Sandhill Cranes and other birds, join Black Canyon Audubon at Fruitgrowers Reservoir for guided bird watching on March 21 and March 22. The most likely time to see Sandhill Cranes is in the morning between 9 and 11:30.

The Western States Ranch free public BBQ is scheduled for Saturday at noon. **Please join BCAS for one or more of these activities!**

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Presidents' Message

Christopher Preston, keynote speaker at our March 5th Annual Dinner, and author of *Tenacious Beasts, Wildlife Recoveries That Change How We Think About Animals* writes, "Animal populations are not out of danger. Their outlook remains dire. But there are reasons to examine the fragments of good news. The first is to provide hope." Preston chronicles several tenacious species which, despite being on the brink of extinction, have made a comeback and suggests ways we can learn from their recoveries. He concludes, "The work we do now, will be a bridge to a world we can only dream of." As I reflect on Preston's words, I think about our Black Canyon Audubon Society and say, "Let's continue to do good work!"

Of interest this month, trip leaders and members have spotted a not-so-common Common Loon, a rare, Yellow-billed Loon, a notable Boreal owl, a dark phase Rough-legged Hawk, Juniper Titmice, elusive Bewick's Wrens, and one-north-of-range Greater Roadrunner. Join us and invite a friend or a child on one of our scheduled bird walks or field trips as birds return from southern climes.

On the program docket there will be no regular BCAS program on March 11. **Nic Korte** will speak **April 9th** about adaptations of "*Boobies, Vampires*" observed during his trip to the Galapagos. And **Scott Rashid** will introduce us to "Small Mountain Owls," **May 14**. (See page 7 for more information)

We will see you there!
Caroline Evans, Co-President



Two pictures of Snow Geese by Verlee Sanburg

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AD HOC COMMITTEES (ANNUAL EVENTS)

Montrose County Fair Bluebird boxes auction
— Bruce Ackerman
Christmas Bird Count Team—Missy Siders
Eckert Crane Days— Alida Franco

Would you like to volunteer? Talk to an officer to see where we need help and where your talents can be used! We always need and welcome volunteers.

Local Christmas Bird Count Results

By Missy Siders

Long-term data from North America are used by researchers, conservation groups, and wildlife agencies to guide bird conservation efforts locally and nationally. It also promotes public involvement in science, encouraging people of all ages to learn about birds and conservation. In Colorado, Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) have been held for over a century and take place annually between December 14th and January 5th.

This year's Bird Count was organized by the Black Canyon Audubon Society and conducted in Gunnison, Montrose, Delta, and Hotchkiss. All levels of birding experience were encouraged to participate.

Results for this year are:

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Bird Species</i>	<i>Individual Birds</i>	<i>Birding Volunteers</i>	<i>Collecting Data Since</i>
Gunnison	Dec 14, 2025	44	3,203	19 (4 feeders)	1957
Montrose	Dec 20, 2025	82	14,354	34 (2 feeders)	1994
Delta	Dec 27, 2025	71	8,098	17	1999
Hotchkiss	Jan 3, 2026	66	4,390	26	1956

Thanks to all volunteers conducting the CBC surveys. Special Thanks to Arden Anderson, Bill Harris, Adam Petry and David Sinton for organizing the local counts and coordinating data. Next fall, watch for announcements about how you can join in the fun. Get a little exercise, and sunshine; see old friends and make new ones; see beautiful birds and share what you find with others.



One of many American Kestrels seen on the Christmas Bird Count, photo by Verlee Sanburg

Spring 2026 Field Trips

By Missy Siders

All Montrose trips meet at the public parking lot at the corner of N. 2nd Street and N. Cascade Ave. in Montrose unless noted in the trip description. Bring snacks, water, binoculars, and a field guide. Please RSVP at black.canyon.audubon.fieldtrips@gmail.com and specify which trip(s) you are interested in attending.

March

Montrose 1st Tuesday

Date: Tuesday **March 3, 2026**, 9:00 AM

Bruce Ackerman will accompany the group to a nearby birding hot spot. Return should be about noon.

Delta 3rd Tuesday

Date: Tuesday, **March 17, 2026**, 9:00 AM

Meet Dian Torphy at Fruitgrowers Reservoir in Eckert. Dian will explore the area for two to three hours looking for birds in the area.

Eckert Crane Days – Fruitgrowers Reservoir

Date: Saturday and Sunday, **March 21 & 22**

BCAS Guides will assist attendees with locating cranes and other residents and migrants between 9:00AM and noon. Free catered BBQ lunch on Saturday.

Monte Vista Crane Festival

<https://mvcranefest.org/festival/>

March 6-8, 2026



April

Montrose 1st Tuesday

Date: Tuesday, **April 7, 2026**, 9:00 AM

Bruce Ackerman will accompany the group to a nearby birding hot spot. Return should be about noon.

Fruitgrowers Reservoir

Date: Saturday, **April 18, 2026**, 8:00 AM

In April, ducks and shorebirds should show up at the reservoir near Eckert. Join leader Don Marsh as he searches for Lewis Woodpeckers and early migrants. Those who are not meeting the group in Montrose may meet in the parking area at the reservoir on North Road at 8:45AM.

Delta 3rd Tuesday

Date: Tuesday **April 21, 2026**, 9:00 AM

Thanks to partnering with Colorado West Land Trust, Bruce Ackerman will be leading a field trip on private property near Delta, by special arrangement. We will have access to a conservation property along the Uncompahgre River near Delta. Details about where to meet and park will be announced before the trip.

Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP

Date: Saturday, **April 25, 2026**, 8AM

Bill Harris will lead this half-day trip to the south rim of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and look for Peregrine Falcons, White-throated Swifts, and some early warblers, such as Virginia's and Black-throated Gray Warblers. Dusky Grouse is another possibility.

May

Montrose 1st Tuesday

Date: Tuesday **May 5, 2026**, 9:00 AM

Bruce Ackerman will accompany the group to a nearby birding hot spot. Return should be about noon.

Ute Mountain Mesa Verde Birding Festival

Date: **May 6-10, 2026**

Not BCAS-related, but this is the only annual birding festival in southwestern Colorado. The festival offers a variety of field trips in the areas around Cortez, Colorado. The proceeds benefit the Cortez Cultural Center. See their website for more information and registration at <https://utemountainmesaverdebirdingfestival.com/>

Please see Page 5 for more field trips

West End of Montrose County Field Trip

Date: Sunday and Monday, **May 17-18, 2026.**

Black Canyon Audubon will sponsor a field trip led by Bill Harris to Paradox Valley and other West End hot spots for a spring birding adventure. The opportunity to see over 70 species is extremely high. Expect several short walks to access bird habitat. The Paradox Valley and West End areas have a great mix of habitats ranging from desert scrub to classic alpine to riparian, allowing for a rich mix of birds during the spring migration. Expect to see a variety of waterfowl, Black-throated Sparrow, Vireos, Yellow-breasted Chat, Grace's Warbler, Black Phoebe, and a host of migrants. We have arranged accommodation at the Vestal House. It is a nice B&B at 420 Main St. in Nucla. Send a text to (970) 428-7750 to make a reservation at Vestal House by May 1, 2026. Tell them you are with Audubon. The field trip is limited to 10 participants. Sign up at TRLGPA48@gmail.com.

Delta 3rd Tuesday

Date: Tuesday, **May 19, 2026, 9:00 AM**

Join leader Dian Torphy to explore an area along South River Road in the Gunnison Conservation Area for two to three hours. Information on the meeting time and place will be provided at sign-up.

Colorado Canyons Association Birding Raft Trip,

Date: **May 22-24, 2026**

Colorado Canyons Association will do their annual birding raft trip on the Ruby/Horsethief section of the Colorado River. The combination of great birding and rafting the Colorado River makes for a fantastic experience. Check their website coloradocanyonsassociation.org for details and to sign up. Bill Harris and Cary Atwood - bird guides.

Kinikin Road

Date: Saturday, **May 23, 2026, 8 AM**

Join Don Marsh for a trip along Kinikin Road southeast of Montrose. This section of road can be very birdy in the spring if the winter has been wet. Birds we have a good chance to see and hear are Brewer's Sparrow, Sage Thrashers, Yellow-breasted Chat, Lazuli Bunting, and Blue Grosbeak. Raptors are commonly seen.

Plant Natives for Birds and Bees

By Dian Torphy

During the COVID summer of 2020 and thanks to the newish Zoom offerings, I volunteered to participate in Native Bee Watch, an on-going citizen science project offered via CSU Extension/Arapahoe County. Besides learning to differentiate among Sweat Bees, Cuckoo Bees, Honeybees and other species of wasps and flies, I learned that my backyard was grievously lacking pollinators. As a lifelong gardener and nature enthusiast, I was alarmed and determined to change that void.

Native plants were the answer for me. They could adapt to the adobe soil, the hot climate and they require much less water than conventional garden plants. Natives would also attract insects and hence, birds. As a rule, during spring nesting season, birds need 70% of their diet in protein which the larva of insects provide in quantity. Natives would replace habitats which are rapidly disappearing as we build more homes. Natives would also satisfy my desire to learn more about the plants and ecology of my current home.

I have poured through numerous websites, books, and catalogs to collect a list of great plants for our area. These plants have high value for pollinators and/or wildlife and are adapted to the Western Slope high deserts. I chose plants for diversity: differing bloom times, varying heights, evergreens and deciduous. And I group like-minded plants with one another: sun-loving vs. shade, water needs from high to low.

Here are 12 favorites I have chosen for their ease of growing, attractive habit/color and which are readily available.

- Native Beebalm (*Monarda fistulosa*) is great for all sorts of pollinators and has tall lavender flowers.
- Sulfur or James Buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum* or *jamesii*) attracts many insects and provides year-round color.
- Mexican Hat Coneflower (*Ratibida columnifera*) attracts abundant insects and can be started from seed, reseeds too.



Rubber Rabbitbrush and Western Aster by Dian Torphy

- Showy Goldeneye (*Heliomeris multiflora*) grows easily from seed and has a long flower season.
- Curlleaf Mountain Mahogany (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*) is an evergreen which provides bird and small mammal habitat and browse.
- Gambel Oak (*Quercus gambelii*) is a food source for birds and other wildlife, and for butterfly larva.
- Firecracker or Rocky Mountain Penstemon (*Penstemon eatonii* or *strictus*) attract bumble bees, other bees, and hummingbirds. The Rocky Mountain variety can live in the shade.
- Rubber Rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*) is a great late bloomer which is important for pollinators and wildlife.
- Woods Rose (*Rosa woodsia*) benefits many insects and other wildlife species. This species spreads with suckers and is extremely hardy.
- Three-leaf Sumac (*Rhus trilobata*) provides habitat for insects, bird nesting, and adds great fall color.

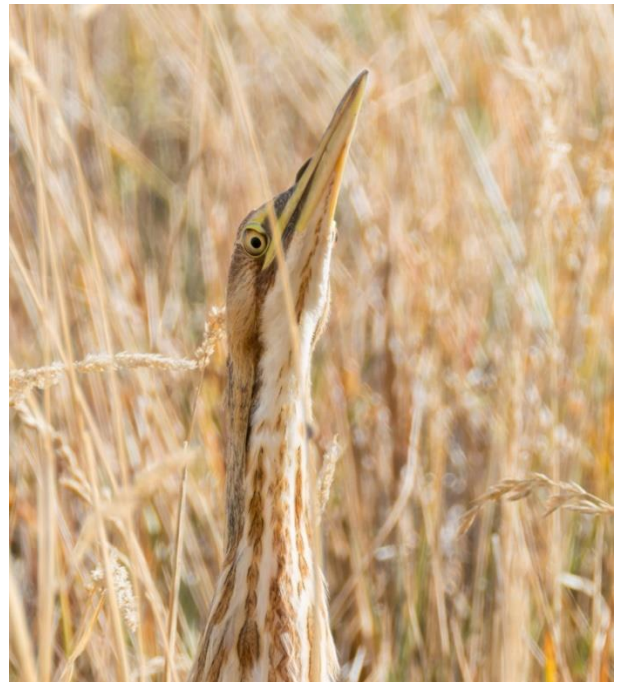
This summer I think I will join in on the Native Bee Watch to see how my yard is doing. I recommend it. It was a great learning experience and easy to participate in. Here are websites that I found helpful. I have been inspired by Doug Tallamy's books and webinars and his vision of a 'Homegrown National Park.' I love the idea that we can all contribute to conservation in our backyards.

- Gardening with Native Plants: www.conps.org
- Native Bee Watch and Creating Pollinator Habitat: www.extension.colorado.edu
- List for Seed and On-line sources: www.wildones.org

- Doug Tallamy's site: www.homegrownationalpark.org
 - Plant ID and habitat information: www.swcoloradowildflowers.com
 - Native Plant lists by region: www.xerces.org
-

BCAS Short notes:

- Long-time BCAS member Fred Simon passed away on December 5, 2025. He and his wife Marilyn Westerdahl traveled the world in search of new birds. Marilyn was a long-time BCAS Board member. There is a great tribute to his life in the Montrose Daily Press: [Fred Simon tribute](#). The Heirlooms for Hospice staff donated \$340 in honor of Fred to BCAS.
 - The BCAS Board of Directors voted to purchase a spotting scope and tripod to use on field trips and other club events. Any BCAS member may check out the scope by texting Todd Miller at 720-257-3819.
-



American Bittern by Verlee Sanburg

BCAS Monthly Meetings

Thursday, April 9, 7 PM, Montrose Field House Summit Room, 25 Colorado Ave

“Boobies and Vampires” by Nic Korte

Many of us know Nic Korte from programs he has presented to us about owls, and because of the work he has done to protect and grow the Grand Valley Western Screech-owl population. Last year, he received a Lifetime Achievement award from the Colorado Field Ornithologists for his initiatives that support bird conservation, community education, and habitat protection. In addition, he has connected with youth in the Grand Valley and has motivated many to continue their interest in nature and wildlife. Nic will speak about his trip to the Galapagos Islands, and about the evolutionary development and history of species there.

Thursday, May 14, 7:00PM, Montrose Field House Summit Room, 25 Colorado Ave.

“Small Mountain Owls” by Scott Rashid

Scott Rashid has lived in Estes Park for more than 30 years and is Director of the Colorado Avian Research and Rehabilitation Institute (CARRI). His first book, *Small Mountain Owls* describes the natural history of Northern Pygmy, Northern Saw-whet, Flammulated, and Boreal Owls that nest and live in and around Rocky Mountain National Park. Scott has worked with and rehabilitated these owls as well as documented habitat, nests, courtship behavior and feeding and growth of the young. Scott and CARRI researchers also trap and band small mountain owls to document and learn about the owls' travels.



Scott Rashid photographed this Boreal Owl in Rocky Mountain National Park.

And as a teaser for the June program, on **Thursday, June 11**, Sue Riffe will present “A Different Way of Learning Bird Sounds.” She will also lead a field trip to Billy Creek State Wildlife Area the following morning.

Conservation Conversations

By Sallie Thoreson

Some Conservation News by the Numbers

- 0** The number of vehicle emission standards that will remain since the Endangerment Finding from the Clean Air Act was eliminated. [EPA's Endangerment Finding Repeal, Explained | World Resources Institute](#)
- 2** The number of times that the US has withdrawn from the Paris climate Agreement.
- 6** The number of states impacted by using the Congressional Rules Act (CRA) to alter or eliminate major public land decisions. Congress has used the CRA to overturn BLM Resource Management Plans in Montana, Alaska, North Dakota, and Wyoming. Those plans guide decisions on oil and gas leasing, renewable energy, grazing, and habitat protection. [Use of Congressional Review Act on BLM Plans Could Impact State Plans Under Other Agencies - Inside Climate News](#). Now Congress is looking at using the CRA to overturn a 20-year mining ban in the Superior National Forest bordering the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota. And Utah's congressional delegation is moving to use the CRA to eliminate Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument's management plan. [Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument under Attack from Utah Members of Congress - 1.22.26](#)
- 12** The number of proposed bills in the 2026 Colorado legislature that have environmental or conservation impacts. BCAS is part of the Audubon Councils of Colorado tracking new legislation. One important bill addresses the fact that eating **ONE** neonicotinoid-treated corn seed can kill a small songbird. <https://seedweneedcolorado.org/>
- 59 million** the number of Forest Service acres that could be open to more road building and industrial logging if the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule is rescinded. [Protecting the Roadless Rule Safeguards More Than Just Forests | Audubon](#)

Conservation conversations Continued Page 8

Local Communities & Bird Habitat Act (H.R. 3276)

- **3 billion** the number of birds that North America has lost since 1970.
- **\$1 million** The amount that could be available EACH YEAR for grant funding to tribal, state and local governments, and academic institutions for community-focused bird and habitat conservation efforts. Currently only \$180,000 is available under the Urban Bird Treaty program.
- **83** The percentage of Americans living in urban areas – the target for funding through the Local Communities & Bird Habitat Act (H.R. 3276).

Black Canyon Audubon Society is participating with chapters across the US to have local members sign postcards to our US congresspeople about our support of the Act. National Audubon folks will deliver the postcards directly to our delegation. You can find more at BCAS website blackcanyonaudubon.org and [Action Center | Audubon](#)

Upcoming Book Club Selections

By Sallie Thoreson

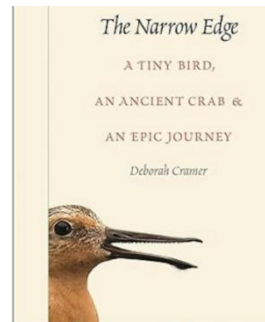
The **Black Canyon Audubon Book Club** meets the second Wednesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. Meetings are virtual (usually in the fall and winter) or in-person in Montrose (usually in spring and summer). In 2026, we will also experiment with hybrid meetings. Please join us, even if you have not read the book yet. Contact Bruce Ackerman at bruceackermanaud@aol.com to get the in-person location and/or the Zoom link. The full list of books for 2026 is on the BCAS website at blackcanyonaudubon.org



Eared Grebe, photo by Verlee Sanburg

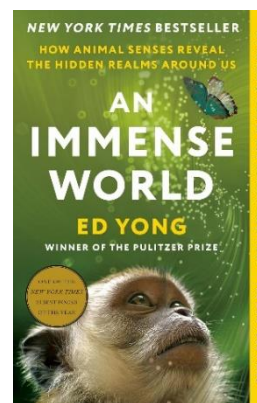
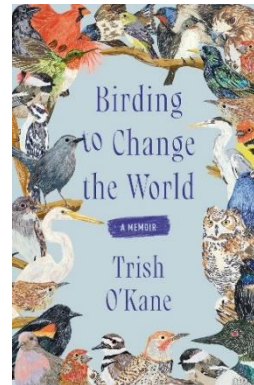
March 11. *The Narrow Edge: A Tiny Bird, an Ancient Crab & an "Epic Journey"* by Deborah Cramer (2015).

A thoroughly researched, but highly readable account, of an amazing bird, and its intricate connection to the horseshoe crab. Cramer follows the Red Knot, on its migratory route, from the tip of South America to the expanses of Arctic tundra. Observe the changing scenes of different latitudes, as these tiny birds make their annual 20,000-mile flight.



April 8. *Birding to Change the World: A Memoir* by Trish O'Kane (2024).

In this memoir, O'Kane, a natural sciences lecturer at the University of Vermont, elegantly weaves personal and natural history as she details how her fascination with birds compelled her to quit her journalism career, return to school at age 45 to earn a PhD in environmental studies, and become an ardent conservationist.



May 13. *An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us* by Ed Yong (2021).

A “thrilling” (The New York Times), “dazzling” (The Wall Street Journal) tour of the different ways that animals perceive the world that will fill you with wonder and forever alter your perspective, by a Pulitzer Prize-winning science journalist.

BCAS Board Meeting Highlights

By Alison Brody, Secretary

Treasurer Todd Miller reported that we now have general liability insurance. However, we will be requiring participants to sign legal waivers on field trips from now on. Todd also reported that income and expenditures are within the approved budget. Major expenses include the purchase of liability insurance, the acquisition of a spotting scope and tripod for use on field trips and expenses for monthly speakers including dinners and meeting room rental.

Sallie Thoreson and Carole Howe are hosting a Bird Migration Education Program at the Montrose Public Library on February 28th. Carole has agreed to Co-Chair the Education committee with Sheryl Radovich. Thank you to Carole, Sheryl, Sallie, and others for their energy and efforts!

January 13 was the day for the 1st Gentleman's monthly Speaker Series at the Governor's residence in Denver. John Shenot from the Northern Bird Alliance in Fort Collins organized a panel to talk about reducing bird-window collisions. You can see the presentation on Facebook

here: <https://www.facebook.com/FirstGentlemanMarlonReis/videos/1120189600076865/>

Audubon Rockies is excited to invite 2-4 leaders from each of our affiliated chapters to come together for an in-person July 20 and 21, 2026 gathering in Fort Collins, CO. Please contact Sallie or Caroline if you are interested in attending.

Caroline and Sallie gave virtual comments to Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Water Quality Control Commission on wetlands protection (Reg 87).

Crane Days, March 2026 – Alida Franco is chairing our efforts. It will be on Saturday and Sunday, March 21 and 22.

Publicity Committee – Anne Janik is managing publicity for monthly programs on the major media. Caroline and Sallie are assisting right now. If you have programs you would like to see announced, contact Anne, Caroline, or Sallie.

Annual Meeting Details – March 5, 2026

The annual meeting will be on March 5. Reservations were due before the publication of this newsletter. Election of Board members will be that evening. Here are new board member candidate biographical sketches:

Jackie Corday is a land and water conservation attorney who moved to Colorado from Montana in 2013 to work for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. She moved to Montrose in 2019 to open her own consulting business and to be closer to all the beautiful public lands where she loves to hike and backpack. She works with Audubon and other nonprofits to increase the pace and scale of stream and wetlands restoration throughout Colorado, to improve watershed health, critical wildlife habitat, and ecosystem services. She is the co-founder and co-chair of the Colorado Healthy Headwaters Working Group and the Riverscape Restoration Network (with over 370 members from the Western States).

Cassie Wolfanger became a bird nerd while working as a conservation fellow for the National Audubon Society in Vermont after receiving an MS in ecology. She now lives in Montrose and is currently a habitat restoration biologist for Colorado Parks and Wildlife at the native seed warehouse in Delta. Previously, Cassie served as a biologist for Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The inspiration, joy, and wonder that she finds in wildlife and wild places drives her passion and commitment to land stewardship and ecological integrity. She is delighted to be part of the BCAS community where she can continue learning and sharing.

The membership will also be asked to vote for Secretary. Currently Alison Brody is running for that position.



Horned Lark, photo by Verlee Sanburg

AUDUBON COLORADO COUNCIL REPORT

By Janine Reid, BCAS representative to ACC

Now, most discussions and activity with ACC concern the Colorado General Assembly legislative issues. Things move fast. We are sending out Action Alerts to BCAS Membership when we are supporting or opposing bills that would benefit from BCAS membership involvement.

We have had the opportunity to sign on to letters of support or opposition to proposed legislation. Recent signings have included:

SB26-065 Seed Act. We urged the Colorado Senate and House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committees to SUPPORT this act which would eliminate unnecessary use of harmful insecticides (i.e., neonics).

H.R. 1897, the “ESA Amendments Act of 2025”. Urges Congress to vote NO on proposed amendments to the Endangered Species Act, which would eliminate many protections currently in place to protect biodiversity and prevent extinction of vulnerable animals, fish, and plants.

We are keeping our eyes on Colorado River issues, native plants on state-managed lands, practices to support pollinators, expanding the capacity of Colorado Parks and Wildlife to coordinate and implement outdoor recreation, among other issues, and anything else that may come up of interest to Audubon during this legislative session.

ACC’s next meeting will be April 11, 2026.

More Conservation by the Numbers

The Perils of Domestic Cats

Susan Werner, Editor, Wrenderings

This is the spring issue of Wrenderings. It is time to think about what your cat is doing outside! By the numbers:

Globally, domestic cats have contributed to the extinction of at least **63** species!

In the United States, domestic cats kill an estimated **2.4 billion** birds and **12.3 billion** small mammals a year. There is no data available for the number of amphibians and reptiles that are also killed.

If numbers do not express the importance of curbing free-ranging domestic cats, consider that cats are a significant vector of *Toxoplasmosis*, a parasite that infects humans and wildlife, sometimes fatally. This protozoon has been found in both Manatees and Nene,

federally protected species. Domestic cats also carry other diseases that negatively impact other species.

Here is a link to more facts from The Wildlife Society: [Impacts of Domestic Cats](#)

What can you do? If you own a cat, keep it indoors! Do not support “Trap, Neuter and Release” programs! Encourage local municipalities to enact and enforce cat leash ordinances. And educate your friends and neighbors about the impact their cat(s) has on birds and other wildlife.

Homemade Bird Suet

Susan Chandler-Reed

After several years of putting store-bought suet cakes in our suet feeder and getting almost no interest from birds, we have been making it from scratch, using a recipe found on the internet. We figure that it costs only about \$1/block to make ourselves, compared to \$2.50/block at the store. But now instead of putting out one or two suet cakes each winter, we are feeding a cake every day or two!

The internet has numerous variations of this recipe. We have been using lard from the grocery store (in the same aisle as the Crisco), but you can also start with melted beef or pork fat. The suet cakes are too gooey to manage and can become rancid if kept at room temperature, so be sure to keep them in a cool place.

Bird Suet Cake Recipe

2 cups chunky peanut butter (the hydrogenated cheap stuff) about 1 pound
2 cups of lard, about 1 pound
1 cup oatmeal
1 cup of cornmeal
1 cup flour
1 cup bird seed
1/2 cup of sugar

Melt lard and peanut butter in large saucepan on stovetop. Remove from heat, cool slightly, and stir in all the other ingredients. Mix well and pour into a 9x13” pan lined with parchment paper (for easy removal). Cool until solid and cut into six pieces (or to fit your feeder). Refrigerate or freeze extra blocks until needed.

Black Canyon Audubon Society
2520 Bridges Circle
Montrose, CO 81401



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 2026. 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!

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone (Optional): _____

Email address (Required): _____

Enclosed: ____\$20 for individual membership, ____\$30 for family membership
____ \$10 for printed/mailed copies of newsletter.

Renew online at: www.BlackCanyonAudubon.com.

or mail your renewal to: Black Canyon Audubon Society
2520 Bridges Circle, Montrose, CO 81401

